



Green Party Seniors Newsletter

September 2022

Green Party Seniors Annual General Meeting Friday 23 September 2022, 7.00 pm by Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88260342831?pwd=OUpYN3o5clcvQzB4cmVDWno2VTN6UT09>

Meeting ID: 882 6034 2831
Passcode: 642825

Agenda

Reports: Co-Chairs
 Membership
 Social Media

Election of Officers

If you wish to stand for the Committee of Green Party Seniors,
please inform Sarah Bingham, Electoral Returning Officer, on

Greenseniors2022@gmail.com

Committee Roles:

Co-Chairs convening meetings, reporting to Regional Council, attending meetings to represent Seniors, chairing meetings

Membership Maintaining a list of current members and their email addresses

Social Media Maintaining Seniors facebook, twitter and website presence

Other roles taken on by Committee members when capacity allows:

Newsletter Events

Audience with the Leadership (Adrian Ramsay)

Carla Denyer was unavailable, so our Audience was with Adrian. There were about 12 Seniors on the Zoom call - other groups sent only their Co-Chairs, it would appear.

Freda asked the questions, which you had sent us in advance. Topics were wide-ranging:

- Perceived preferential treatment of the Young Greens
- Seniors feeling that our long experience is not valued by the Party
- Core Green values not getting enough prominence
- Funding needed for Special Interest Groups, especially Disability Greens
- Nationalisation and support for Trade Unions
- The polarised and angry level of debate, especially around gender ideology

While Adrian was always polite and listened, I think the overall impression we received was that he doesn't realise the scale of the challenges he faces. He stressed the "soft power" of the Leadership and that there are limits to what he can say. Our response was that Carla doesn't seem to feel the same restraint and we would like to see a stronger core Green message coming from him.

Political Committee (PolCom)

Freda and Nicola are invited to attend as Co-Chairs of Seniors (along with all the other Co-Chairs of Special Interest Groups and various movers and shakers in GPEW).

On 14 September, the meeting received a presentation on the work which GPEW had commissioned from a polling company. The question they were asked was "if we could only choose one group of potential voters to target, what group would that be?" Their answer was "Centre Left" voters. GPEW then asked the pollsters to put together focus groups in that category.

Seniors will be interested to note that the people chosen for the focus groups were university-educated, between 25 and 40. Leaving aside the education, I am at a loss to understand the cut off at 40. Rest assured that I made this point on behalf of Seniors.

RESULTS: The focus groups were:

Interested in fairness

Wanting us to state our solutions - not blame others

Not politically knowledgeable

Wanting policies expressed in terms that made sense to them

Wanting something "now" not general promises for the future

Interested to know "what was in it for them"

Fairness, positive proposals and talking sense were old Green values and I thought to myself that these people would vote for the GPEW which I joined in the 1980s.

It's just a pity that Seniors were not round those tables giving their input as well. Diversity never seems to include Seniors, I find.

Conference

Harrogate - 30 September-2 October

Workshops on Conference motions will take place in the week leading up to Conference by Zoom. Conference will be hybrid, meaning that members can attend in person or online.

Seniors will have a stall and we look forward to meeting you there.

The final Conference agenda is available now:

Go to the GPEW members' website:

<https://members.greenparty.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/2022-GPEW-Autumn-Conference-Final-Agenda%20-%202%20column%20for%20DIGITAL.pdf>

Make contact

Green Party Seniors website

<https://seniors.greenparty.org.uk/>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/seniors_uk

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartySeniors>

Google group

<https://groups.google.com/u/0/g/green-seniors>

The best way to contact the Committee is through the Google Group.

NOTE: There is also a Green Party Seniors stream on the Green Spaces section of the national website. It is not easy to find this space and it is not well used. But it can be a good place to have a discussion - and this avoids clogging up our emails if we are not interested in a particular topic. Here is the link.

<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/green-seniors/>