



Green Party Seniors Newsletter

July 2023

ELECTION SPECIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This newsletter gives information on the candidates standing for the Green Party Policy Development Committee. This is the Committee which supports the Policy Development Co-ordinator on the National Executive.

The Committee does important work assisting Policy Working Groups and individual members who want to bring motions to Conference to ensure that the motions are as well-written as possible.

More information on PDC Committee can be found on the members' part of the national Green Party website. <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/90>

Policy Development Committee Candidates

Vix Lowthion
Anne Gayfer
Martin Blake
Robbie Spence
Daisy Goodall
William Mountford
Micheal Herron
Adrian Spurrell

There are 8 candidates for 5 Committee places.

Voting will be by Single Transferable Vote. and takes place during August. You will receive an email.

Rank the candidates in order of preference from 1 to 5.

You do not need to vote for all 5 places.

RON stands for Reopen Nominations. Once you have voted for all the candidates who you would be happy to see elected, you can vote RON.

Hustings

You should have received an email from Ani Stafford Townsend, the Electoral Returning Officer for these elections, giving details of the online hustings which have been arranged. Sign up for one if you want to see the candidates and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Policy Development Committee - Candidates' Statements

Vix Lowthion

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vixlowthion>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VixL>

The work of Policy Development Committee is central to the success of our party. Without strong, robust, progressive policies and ideas to tackle the challenges facing our society and the climate, the Green Party will struggle to attract support from voters and sponsors. But, just as importantly, our party needs an engaged policy community to increase active participation of members at a local and national level, to drive and direct our energies, and to utilise the democratic mandate on which our policy is determined.



For the last 3 years I have been a member of the Policy Development Committee and I wish to continue this work - to support policy working groups and the wider membership to bring excellent policies to conference. In particular I wish to see the growth of free policy events such as the successful online Policy Fest which increase engagement and grow our pool of ideas! I also would like PDC to work more closely with the leadership and communications teams in identifying important policy gaps, and with our growing numbers of elected councillors to put our policies into practice.

PDC work as a team, everyone playing their part, and I would bring enthusiasm, knowledge and some practical experience to the team at an exciting time for our party - with the new manifesto and General Election successes a particular focus in 2024. I hope that you can support the work of PDC in our party, and that I can be a part of it

Anne Gayfer



I have been supporting the current Policy Development Coordinator via my role as GPRC Friend (all GPRC members are critical Friends and support for other committees etc in the Party). I have therefore learned a lot about how the Policy Development Committee works. I have supported Vix in drawing up standing orders for the Committee and I have supported her in getting the role up and running again after a gap during which no-one was in post.

In GPRC, I have convened the group that manages policy approval between conferences.

I am also the convenor of the Land Use policy working group, and recently guided a Voting Paper through conference, so I have practical experience of policy development.

I am well organised and I understand the structure of the Party (having served it in various roles at local, regional and national levels) and the ways in which they link together in the policy context.

I enjoy working in a group and I am confident that I could make a valuable contribution to the Committee.

Martin Blake

I've been a member of Policy Development Committee (PDC) since the end of 2021, initially as a co-optee, and since last summer as an elected member. During this time I've worked closely with half a dozen very varied Policy Working Groups (PWGs), from getting them off the ground in the initial stages to supporting them in taking policy papers to Conference.



Apart from this hands-on work with PWGs, I've been involved in the accreditation of Conference policy motions (those which become C motions on the agenda), and for a time was a member of the manifesto working group looking towards the next general election. I've also been closely involved in the organisation of Policy Fest events, including supporting PWGs in preparing their presentations, and chairing and providing technical support for sessions. As a PDC member I also attend national Conference, giving policy advice as required, and on the odd occasion proposing a motion.

The role of PDC member entails absorbing a large amount of detailed procedural knowledge, and a sound overview of both the existing policy website and of what's coming down the track. Although I've been doing the job for a while, I acknowledge that there is always more to learn, and I'll continue working to increase my level of knowledge.

In a past life I was a city councillor in Cambridge, during my misguided youth as a Labour Party member. I joined the Green Party nearly 20 years ago, and became actively involved some 13 years ago. As well as being on PDC, I am currently joint co-ordinator of my local party, South Lincolnshire, and of my regional party, East Midlands, and believe I've played a part in helping both to grow and develop

Robbie Spence

I believe that I am an ideal candidate to be on the Policy Development Committee because of my extensive background in social policy and law.

:: 35-year career in legal and welfare rights, including at national charities, Working Families, Disability Rights UK and Child Poverty Action Group and in local government, including Colchester Borough Council Housing Department Supporting People Project, Essex County Council Social Services and London Borough of Newham Social Regeneration Unit.

:: law degree (MA, Hons) from Cambridge University and wide knowledge of social security, disability benefits, employment and discrimination law

:: BBC Radio 4 Moneybox occasional guest speaker on social security benefits

:: worked part-time with many years as a stay-at-home dad. I count my years looking after children, dealing with schools, family holidays and family healthcare, as relevant life experience for understanding social policy issues.

:: member of Colchester Green Party in Essex since 2004, coordinator in 2013 and election agent 2016 to 2019, which was when we elected our first councillor in Colchester, Mark Goacher.

I have a thorough understanding of the Green Party's values and policies and procedures. I now work part-time and am able and willing to commit the necessary time and energy to Policy Development Committee.

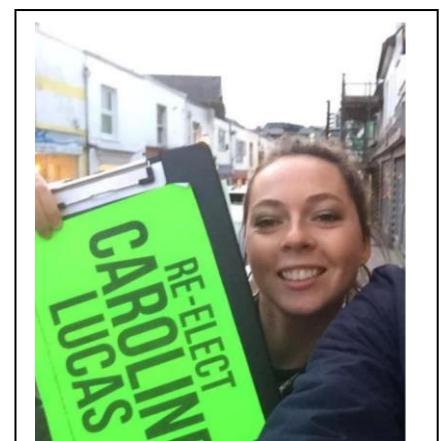
Robbie Spence, Colchester Green Party.



Daisy Goodall

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/daisygoodall>

I took up a volunteering position at the Brighton & Hove Green Party in 2018 and have been involved ever since. I have worked for the Brighton & Hove Green Party, in membership support and campaigns, and the national Green Party. I currently work for a trade union, and in local government, supporting Green Party councillors with a variety of tasks including research, consultation responses and speechwriting. I recently completed some paid and voluntary work as part of Caroline Lucas's constituency and parliamentary teams. Due to holding two part-time positions,



I have a four-day week, and would like to dedicate my time to volunteering for the Green Party again.

I am familiar with analysing and developing policy at local and national levels. Having worked on a General Election (2019), PCC Election (2021) and multiple by-elections at the Brighton & Hove Green Party, I have developed detailed knowledge of the policy positions of each of the major political parties. This was crucial to translating complex ideas into concise communications with potential voters: through direct contact, responding to campaign pledges, and writing canvassing scripts. While at the national Green Party, I compiled the 2019 General Election report. This included summarising focus group feedback and analysing data trends. I understand that the Green Party is a democratic body, and policy direction is determined by members at conference. During my time in the Young Greens, I developed a firm understanding of the roles of our liberation and special interest groups.

I have a broad and deep understanding of green policy. My interest in green politics helped to sculpt my degree. The climate crisis must be addressed as part of a just transition to a fairer, greener economy. It is right that Green Party policy challenges, and proposes alternatives to, our inequitable society

William Mountford

The Green Party continues to lead the way in offering a progressive voice, and providing a rigorous, just and representative view on Policy for our members is a key part of our duty to our members. As a former Councillor Candidate, I have seen the party processes in motion, and a strong commitment to our shared values. I have the time, energy and commitment necessary to see that the duties of a PDC member are fulfilled, and our party members can continue to trust in the processes we uphold



Micheal Herron

I am a committed member of the Green Party with a desire to achieve a fairer, greener UK. I have experience in progressive politics in this country and the US having worked in policy and presentation. I have worked for a Democrat campaign consultancy, which trained me to analyse polling data to develop effective campaign strategies and slogans. I believe this experience can help me to promote policies that can persuade voters to vote for our party. I am particularly interested in promoting policies that appeal to younger voters such as policies that can resolve the housing crisis

Adrian Spurrell

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Adrian.Spurrell.Green>



I am standing to be a member of the Policy Development Committee I am currently coordinator of the Eastern Region and a co-opted member of the Committee. Prior to that I was a co-chair of the Regional Council (GPRC) and in that role was responsible for managing the party's interim and rapid policy processes. These are the means by which policy statements can be made between conferences by elected Greens and spokespeople. I struggled to get the level of adherence to the processes as is required under our constitution - something I am determined to change as a member of PDC.

As we head towards a general election it is crucial that we have an effective and responsive process to allow our candidates, elected Greens and spokespeople to respond to the issues of the day while ensuring that these statements are in line with our existing policy. And this is also true of the manifesto.

As co-chair and then a co-opted member of PDC I have also facilitated the production of a priority 'gaps' list. The areas of policy that elected Greens, candidates and spokespeople most feel need policy to fill to allow them to campaign and work effectively.

Finally I have been championing connecting the Policy Working Groups, spokespeople and elected Greens - especially our MP, as well as providing support to our Peers - to provide us with joined up, effective and powerful Green policy and action.

I have shown in all my roles in the Party to be effective at making things happen and follow our constitutional rules irrespective of my personal feelings on the subject. I would bring this to PDC and ensure we are in a position to campaign effectively

Please vote for me as a member of PDC.

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>

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