

Response to our TDEG election priorities and questions – From Robert Court

(candidate for the Liberal Democrat party)

Mr Court summarised his party environmental policies, alongside the following email (rather than addressing our specific queries).

Thank you very much for your email. Please forgive me for taking so long to respond. I wanted to wait for our party's manifesto which was published last week. My other problem is the overwhelming number of emails that I have been receiving. Unfortunately snowflakes, even incredibly important ones, can get lost in the blizzard. And your message and your questions really are very important.

I hope that you realise how very strongly environmentalist the Liberal Democrats are. We (and indeed I) fully recognise both the climate emergency and the ecological/biodiversity emergency that you correctly place at the top of the agenda in your question 1. I also really lament the fact that climate change has barely been mentioned in the course of the election campaign so far. Yes, there are important matters weighing heavily on voters' minds, but actually climate change is the biggest, most important and most urgent of all.

I would find it quite hard to carve out the time to produce the detailed response that your email needs. Please don't think that I am fobbing you off, but may I recommend that you study two parts in particular of the Liberal Democrat manifesto. You can find it at – <https://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto> . And the specific areas, as you will instantly recognise when you look at the chapter headings are Climate Change and Energy (Chapter 5), and Natural Environment (Chapter 12).

Can I please tell you what I would like to do? If I am elected on 4 July, I would like to meet with your group and exchange views on how we apply the general principles to this area. I would not find it hard to do that because our home is up the road in Foolow. And between us we could make considerable progress as the District Council is of course Liberal Democrat-led with the support of Labour and the Greens, which of course includes the councillor for your ward in Tideswell.

Please understand that I am very much in support of your aims and I share your concerns. I am a candidate accredited by the Green Liberal Democrats - a group within the Liberal Democrats, but I have not used that label in my literature because I did not want to confuse people who might have thought that I was somehow both a Lib Dem and a representative of the Green party. Here is my logo specially for you however:

All being well, we could be working together after 4 July!

Robert Court

Liberal Democrat candidate for Derbyshire Dales