



East of England Liberal Democrats

Annual Conference

Saturday 14 October 2017

Red Lodge Millennium Centre

Final Agenda

#EoEConf

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Welcome to our Regional Conference.

We are delighted to have a wide range of speakers and contributors including Baroness (Sarah) Ludford, the party's Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords.

This agenda contains all the information you need to get the most out of the day. Please read carefully and get in touch if you have any queries.

We hope you enjoy the day.

Gill Collings

Chair, Conference Committee
conference@libdems.org.uk
01206 524351

REGISTRATION

Register online before Thursday 12 October at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/conf17. The registration fee includes conference papers, tea and coffee throughout the day and lunch. Registration on the day costs £38 instead of £32 in advance.

Collect your badge and agenda from the registration desk near the main door when you arrive.

Please wear your badge while in the conference centre, and return the plastic holder to the collection box when conference concludes.

SPEAKING AND QUESTIONS

If you wish to speak in a debate or ask a question please complete a speaker's card and hand it to the steward in the main hall. Speaker's cards can be picked up from the registration desk or the steward in the main hall.

You can also submit questions to regional officers and the Brexit panel in advance by emailing conference@eastlibdems.org.uk before 10am on Friday 13 October.

DISABILITY ACCESS

The centre has disabled access including disabled parking and a stair-lift to the first floor break-out room. The main conference rooms and lunch are on the ground floor

The main hall is fitted with an induction loop.

ACCOMMODATION / FRIDAY MEAL

Some members are staying near the venue on the Friday night at the Bell Inn, Mildenhall (01638 583511 www.the-bell-hotel.co.uk).

They will be going out for a meal at 7pm. If you wish to join them please let Gill Collings know at conference@eastlibdems.org.uk.

ELECTIONS

Nominations are open for 17 English Council members and councillor reps on regional committees. Nomination papers will be available at conference and at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/elections17.

EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID

In case of emergency please report to the registration desk or contact a steward.

FOCUS EXCHANGE

Bring along spare copies of your campaign literature and get inspiration from other people's work at the Focus Exchange table towards the back of the main hall.

REFRESHMENTS

Tea and coffee is available throughout the day in the kitchen. Lunch will be served from 12.30pm in the conservatory. Feel free to collect your lunch and take it into a lunchtime session. Refreshments are included in the cost of your registration.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders are the rules which govern the conduct of conference. You can download a copy at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders. Copies are also available at the registration desk.

STANDS

Please visit the stands in the small hall which include a cake stall, the Suffolk EU Alliance, the Lib Dem Education Association, South Cambridgeshire Lib Dems and a the North East Essex raffle.

WIFI

For free wifi use network address is **BTHub5 - X6JW** and the wireless key/password: **5d5ea4cb42**



CONFERENCE TIMETABLE – MAIN HALL

Session Chair: Gill Collings (Secretary, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Session Aide: Jon James (Chair, Suffolk County Co-ordinating Committee)

1000 Welcome to Conference House of Commons report

Rt Hon Norman Lamb (MP for North Norfolk)

See report on page 10

Norman will report back to members about the work of Liberal Democrat MPs in the House of Commons and take questions.

Norman Lamb first stood for Parliament in North Norfolk in 1992. He was elected in 2001 and has subsequently been re-elected four times. Norman is a former Health Minister and has built a reputation as a mental health champion. He recently became chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

At the end of the session members will be asked to vote on whether they wish to receive the report.

1020 Regional Officers' reports

Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Tony Mason (Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats)

See reports on pages 11 –16

Every two years members elect regional officers and an executive committee to oversee and carry out the functions of the regional party. (The committee is listed on page 18).

Jo Hayes will report to members on the activities of the regional party, the regional executive and representatives elected by Conference (see pages 11–13).

Tony Mason will report on the financial affairs of the regional party for the year to date and present an outline budget for 2018.

Members will be asked to vote to receive these reports, approve the 2016 accounts (see page 16) and delegate authority to the regional executive to appoint auditors to produce an independent report on the accounts for the next regional conference.



1045 Motion: Campaigning in University Towns

Mover: Steve Bolter

East of England conference notes:

1. At the 2015 General Election, this region lost all three of its university town seats, but retained its rural seat, which had had a sizable Leave vote in the referendum;
2. Despite concentrated campaigning, we failed to come close to getting any of them back at the 2017 snap General Election.
3. From December 2015 to date, Labour and its sympathisers have been running a continuous social media assault on the Lib Dems, using the 27 Lib Dem votes for fee capping and an improved student loan system to falsely portray us as unprincipled, putting power grabbing before the needs of students.
4. Instead of explaining how we saved students from a free market of unlimited fees and a totally inadequate Student Loan system – which the Tories wanted – or a catastrophic drop in university funding – which Labour were prepared to allow to avoid co-operating with the Lib Dems – Nick Clegg apologised.
5. Our campaigning was mainly a call for a referendum once a deal had been completed. There was little about our long term commitment to the EU or why we believe the UK should remain in a member, or what would happen if the quest for a deal was abandoned.
6. Just before the 2017 General Election Labour promised it would abolish student fees immediately if elected, safe in the knowledge that it would not have to keep its promise.

Conference calls for the next parliamentary elections in university towns to be served by bold and positive campaigns, with:

1. An upbeat statement on previous student fees policies and actions, with commitment to use what power we may gain, to work for reductions in the student fees burden.
2. Criticism of Labour's campaign of misinformation on Lib Dem actions and its own empty promises on student fees.
3. A statement of our continued commitment to EU membership.



4. A statement of reasons of principle as well as expediency for staying in the EU.
5. Absence of the claim that a recommendation by 37% of the electorate that we leave the EU is an expression of the will of the majority of the population to leave, then or now.
6. The holding of referendum on the Brexit deal negotiated (if any) and campaigning for remaining in the EU, presented as a possible, but not exclusive, way of remaining in the Union.
7. Details of our commitment to the environment, including working towards a circular economy and fighting climate change with practical steps to achieving a very low carbon economy.

No amendments were submitted. The mover of the motion has up to five minutes to speak. All other speakers have up to three minutes. If you wish to speak please submit a speaker's card to the hall steward.

Session Chair: Belinda Brooks-Gordon

Session Aide: Gill Collings

1115 House of Lords report

Baroness Sarah Ludford (Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords)

Sarah will report back to members about the work of Liberal Democrat peers in the House of Lords and take questions. Sarah was appointed to the House of Lords in 1997 and is Lords Spokesperson on Exiting the European Union

At the end of the session members will be asked to vote on whether they wish to receive the report.

1130 Brexit discussion

Andrew Duff (Visiting fellow, European Policy Centre and former MEP)

Baroness Sarah Ludford (Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords)

Your chance to discuss the developing Brexit situation and how the Lib Dems should respond. After short opening statements, members have the opportunity to comment and ask questions to which the panel will respond.

Andrew Duff was one of the East of England's representatives in the European Parliament from 1999 until 2014. He has written and spoken extensively on Europe.

Sarah Ludford was a London MEP between 1999 and 2014 and formerly worked at the European Commission. She is currently Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Exiting the European Union in the House of Lords.



Belinda Brooks-Gordon is a Liberal Democrat representative on ALDE Council. The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) is the European political party to which the Liberal Democrats belong.

Submit a question to the conference office (conference@eastlibdems.org.uk) by 10am on Friday 13 October 2017 or fill in a speaker's card on the day.

1230 Lunch

Lunch will be served in the conservatory.

Feel free to take your lunch into one of the lunchtime training sessions and please visit the stands in the small hall.

Session Chair: Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Session Aide: Lucy Nethsingha (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats Campaign Committee)

1330 Keynote

Keynote speech and discussion.

1440 Report of English Party Review Group

Sally Symington (Chair, English Party Review Group)

The English Party comprises the eleven English regional parties and the Young Liberals. The principal functions of the English Party relate to membership recruitment and administration; parliamentary, mayoral and police and crime commissioner candidate approval and selection; and disciplinary and conduct issues.

For more information see www.libdems.org.uk/english_council_executive.

The English Party is reviewing its role and governance. Sally Symington, who is a member in Hertfordshire, is the chair of the review group. She will report to members and seek views.



1500 Motion: A Carbon Levy plus dividend policy to reduce CO₂ and poverty

Proposed by the East of England Liberal Democrats Policy Committee

Mover: Joe Jordan

Summator: Stewart Reddaway

Conference notes:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is urgent.
2. A carbon tax encourages both energy efficiency and the use of low-CO₂ energy.

Conference believes:

1. That a carbon tax should be levied on all production or import of fossil fuels. All the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) should be paid back via the benefits system as a cash dividend to the whole population on an equal-per-head basis, with half the adult rate for a child. It follows that people with below average carbon footprints (i.e. those for whom the dividend exceeds the effect of price rises due to the tax) would be subsidised by those with above average footprints. Although the poor may have high heating costs, their total carbon footprint from all spending is always below average and so they will be winners. Also, almost all people in fuel poverty will be winners.
2. The tax should be called a levy because the money is paid back, and not retained by the government. For the same reason, the policy is not tax hypothecation.
3. Over a decade the levy should rise progressively to between £100 and £150 per tonne. (At £125 per tonne, and with CO₂ emissions 30% lower than today, the annual adult dividend would be about £1000, or £2000 for an adult plus two children.) Levy rates for several years ahead should be published so investors and others can plan with confidence.
4. The levy will enable spending to be reduced on subsidies to low-CO₂ energy, and on tax breaks aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. Reduced poverty could lead to reduced spending on benefits.
5. Fuel duty should be reduced to partially compensate for the levy, and the levy should be fully refunded for CO₂ saved by Carbon Capture and Storage.

6. The government should negotiate for the levy to become international, including in the EU.
7. Some of the money raised by the levy should be used to give partial rebates to carbon-intensive industries, to encourage them not to migrate abroad. Consideration should be given to extending the carbon levy to imports of carbon-intensive commodities.

Conference calls for:

1. A carbon levy on all production or import of fossil fuels and petroleum products.
2. All the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) to be paid back via the benefits system as a cash dividend to all UK residents on an equal-per-head basis, but with half the adult rate for children.

No amendments were submitted. The mover of the motion has up to five minutes to speak. All other speakers have up to three minutes.

The movers have submitted the following explanation:

A comprehensive carbon tax uses market forces to go to the root of the problem of CO₂ emissions. However, this motion pays all the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) back to the whole population on an equal-per-head basis via the benefits system. This means that people with below average total carbon footprints are subsidised by those with above average footprints. All the poor, and almost all the fuel poor, will be winners.

Not taxing carbon is like trying to reduce smoking without taxing cigarettes.

The dividend makes the policy tax-neutral overall, which helps sell it politically. It is also technology-neutral, as it does not try to “pick winners”

Administrative costs should be low. The levy would be collected from big companies on goods that are already monitored. The dividend is the same for all adults.

Over time, the policy could replace the EU ETS (Emissions Trading System), which prices only half of CO₂, results in volatile carbon pricing, and has, so far, been a failure.

To keep the motion relatively short, various issues have been omitted. For example:

- o How far and wide support for carbon-intensive industries should go
- o What should be done about carbon embedded in imports.
- o Estimates of the CO₂ saved as the levy is ramped up
- o International aviation and shipping

The policy is national, but for Eastern region it will particularly help off-shore wind and the use of farm waste in anaerobic digestion.



Session Chair: Lucy Nethsingha

Session Aide: Gill Collings

1530 Emergency motion

To be tabled

Emergency motions should be brief and relate to a topical issue.

1555 Closing announcements

1600 Close of Conference

Thank you for attending today's conference. Please let us have your comments by completing a feedback form either on paper or online at eastlibdems.org.uk/feedback17.

If you are interested in helping organise next year's conference, or other party events, please speak to a member of conference committee or email conference@eastlibdems.org.uk.

We are grateful to the volunteers who made conference happen, including trainers, chairs, aides and especially the conference stewards:

STEWARDS

- David Appleton
- Barrie Coker
- Keith Edkins
- Helen Korfanty
- Barbara Rix
- Joye Rosenstiel (Chief Steward)
- Huw Sayer
- Jack Spoor
- Chris Wiggin

VISIT THE STANDS

RAFFLE

Don't go home empty-handed! Win a prize and help raise funds for North East Essex Liberal Democrats local campaigning

SOUTH CAMBS LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

South Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrats are going from strength to strength. Find out more about their campaign plans for 2018

SUFFOLK EU ALLIANCE

The cross-party initiative for East Anglia, promoting the values of remaining as a member of the EU
www.suffolkeualliance.co.uk

LIB DEM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

High quality education for all is at the heart of what we believe. The LDEA contributes to policy development and discussion

CAKE STALL

Most good campaigns involve cake. Stock up on supplies by visiting the cake stall in the small hall



REPORT OF NORMAN LAMB MP

First of all, I want to express how immensely grateful I am to all those who turned out to support me in my re-election campaign in North Norfolk. It was a strange feeling being publicly written off by the *Eastern Daily Press* and academics at the University of East Anglia, who predicted that I was 100% certain to lose. We worked incredibly hard for the win, and it would not have been possible without the amazing and dedicated volunteers – from across the region – who gave up their time to help.

While other results in the East of England did not go our way, the Liberal Democrats proved that we can upset the odds. We saw some outstanding results in the local elections, holding onto seats in tough areas and making gains that very few people thought possible. After a very difficult few years, the Party has great potential to grow in strength. But there is no inevitability about this. We have to earn our recovery.

In many ways the election was an unwelcome distraction from the pressing issues facing the country. The Brexit process hangs over everything and I really fear the opportunity cost of these fraught negotiations. All the other big challenges we face are not getting the attention they deserve. For example, the catalogue of failings in the health and care system has become intolerable, with growing workforce shortages, failures of care, and more older people struggling without the care they need.

NHS AND SOCIAL CARE

In Parliament, I have been continuing my campaign for a cross-party convention on the future of the NHS and social care, working with MPs from Labour and the Conservatives to persuade the government to initiate such a process. Theresa May agreed to begin a dialogue with us, and we were due to meet with her advisers at Number 10 until this was postponed because of the election.

The fact is that all of the party manifestos fell short of what is needed to put health and care on a sustainable footing. This, together with the fallout over the Conservatives' deeply misguided plans for social care funding, reinforces the absolute need for a process designed to build a cross-party consensus. The problem is that we are still waiting for a decision from Government on whether to embrace this approach. I am not confident!

MENTAL HEALTH

I also remain committed to my mission to achieve equality for people who suffer from mental ill health, learning disabilities and autism. Families the length and breadth of the country continue to be let down by long waiting times and poor access to treatment; while in children's mental health services, outrageous criteria for admissions are common.

As well as leading a parliamentary debate on mental health in schools, I have been challenging the heavy use of force in mental health wards, scandalous waits for an autism diagnosis, and the shocking number of people with severe mental ill health who are stuck in institutions under lock and key, often suffering inhuman and degrading treatment in breach of their human rights.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

My recent election as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee means that I can no longer continue as the party's Health spokesperson. Brexit could have profound implications for the scientific community in the UK, and I look forward to putting body and soul into my new role addressing this and a whole host of other big issues.

However, I will continue to champion the issues that I care about, including equality for mental health and the need for a national conversation about the future of the NHS and social care.

Norman Lamb MP



CHAIR'S REPORT TO CONFERENCE

The last regional conference raised over £2,000 for the Witney by-election, and a number of members from our region went there and to Richmond Park to help. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

At the Boundary Commission inquiry hearings in October and November, our region put together the most impressive of the three party presentations.

We were sorry that late last year Cllr James Wright left the region's employment as a part-time Regional Development Officer to pursue alternative employment. We thank him warmly for his work with us.

Due to the introduction of One Member One Vote for internal elections, their conduct is now a major administrative task for HQ. Therefore the Federal Party postponed the regional elections until after the Federal elections. Hence I did not take office until late January.

We thank my predecessor Stephen Robinson for all his tireless efforts for the region during his term of office; we also thank everyone who served on regional committees last year for generously contributing their time and efforts.

The English Council Executive set up a working group last year to conduct a review of the English Party. It is chaired by Sally Symington of this region, whom we thank for all she has done on this working group. Its work was disrupted by the snap general election, but resumed over the summer. Proposed constitutional changes will be debated by the English Council on 2nd December.

County council elections were held in May in five of our six counties, the exception being Bedfordshire which has unitary authorities instead of a county council. Through the county co-ordinating

committees we fielded almost a full slate of candidates across the region when nominations closed on 4th April. To everyone who stood or was involved: thank you.

On 18th April the Prime Minister, Theresa May, called the general election to be held on 8th June. This U-turn, after her previous denials that she would call an early election, was an ambush for which the Regional Candidates Committee had prepared in 2016 by getting candidates in place in most of the region's 58 constituencies. The new Regional Candidates Committee Chair, Paul Clark, led efforts to ensure a full slate of candidates and agents, with nomination papers and deposits duly delivered by the deadline of 11th May. To everyone who helped, to the agents and above all to the candidates who put aside their plans and contested the election: thank you.

The general election disrupted our county election campaigns. But on 4th May we emerged with 15 county councillors in Cambridgeshire, seven in Essex, 18 in Hertfordshire, 11 in Norfolk and five in Suffolk. Thanks to strong local campaigns, some of these seats were new wins for us.

In the election for a new metro mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, in the first round no candidate obtained over 50% of the vote. Our candidate, Rod Cantrill, came second and went through to a runoff against the Conservative, gaining 43% of the vote.

In the general election on 8th June the Conservatives expected a landslide but got a hung Parliament. Nationally we came third behind the Tories and Labour in terms of votes. We increased our MPs to 12, with more diversity. Four are women, one is from an ethnic minority group and one has a hearing disability.



CHAIR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

In this region we did not get the gains we had hoped for, but Norman Lamb held North Norfolk, withstanding a massive Conservative attempt to take the seat.

Since then we have had council by-elections with some good wins in the region.

Congratulations to our winning candidates and teams. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who stood as candidates or contributed to our campaigns. Win or lose, you gave voters across the region a choice, and you were first choice for many voters who otherwise would have had to vote for another party, or not vote.

One of our county council election victors was our Regional Administrator, Lorna Dupré, who is now too busy as deputy leader of the Lib Dem group on Cambridgeshire County Council to continue in her administrative role. We are sorry she has left that role, but thank her for her diligent service. We are glad she continues as Regional Newsletter Editor to help local parties who participate in the region's members' newsletter scheme.

We thank Cllr Jon Whitehouse, our part-time Regional Development Officer, for all he has done for us in the past year, including stepping in after Lorna's departure and efficiently helping the Conference Committee to organise this Conference.

We thank Ian Horner, our Regional Training Co-ordinator, and the Rev Simon Wilson, our Regional Media Co-ordinator, for their invaluable contributions. We are very sorry that Simon has had to step down by reason of ill health, and hope he will soon be back working with us.

After the general election, our leader Tim Farron stood down, with our warm thanks for all he has done in the past two years, including achieving his aim of increasing the membership above 100,000.

Our new leader, Sir Vince Cable, was elected unopposed. He received an enthusiastic welcome at a Meet the Leader session in Cambridge on 24th July which was full to capacity.

We work for the party because we want to further the causes we believe in. At the present time the cause that dominates the political agenda both in urgency and importance is stopping Brexit. As an economist Vince is uniquely qualified among MPs to speak to the country with authority on this issue, and he is doing so.

In view of the volatile political situation and risk of another snap election, parliamentary candidates have been asked to stay in place until fresh selections have been made by local parties, as availability of returning officers allows.

We are preparing to help our teams in district and borough wards up for election next May across the region. ALDC (the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Campaigners) has allocated a campaigns officer to the region.

We have revised the regional development plan.

We have devised a Charter Mark scheme for local parties, and we hope all will take part.

We are offering a programme of training.

With the exception of two part-time employees, everyone involved in the regional party are volunteers. Our members are the party. Thank you for all you do.

Jo Hayes

Regional Chair

chair@eastlibdems.org.uk

www.eastlibdems.org.uk

www.facebook.com/eastofenglandlibdems



LOCAL PARTY CHARTER MARKS FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

INTRODUCTION

This Charter Mark proposal has been developed by the Development Committee and approved by the Regional Executive and is completely voluntary.

The proposal is open to any local party, and we anticipate most local parties will be awarded a Charter Mark.

It is designed to help and develop local parties be more efficient, proactive, financially sound and help fulfil the aims and objectives of the party through fighting elections and supporting the people we seek to represent in their area.

Participating and successful local parties will be awarded a Charter Mark that can be printed on letterheads etc.

There are financial incentives for participating and successful local parties directly from the region. On behalf of the region we have pleasure in announcing this scheme.

**Stuart C Beadle
Chair, Regional Development Committee.**

Jo Hayes, Regional Chair

THE CHARTER MARK PROPOSAL

The Charter Mark scheme is to be open to all local parties who want to participate.

There should be a series of activities and criteria that should be promoted within the local parties. They are chosen on the basis that they encourage the local parties to be more efficient, proactive, financially sound and aim to help fulfil the aims and objectives of the local parties as stated in their constitutions.

The Carrot

There are to be two incentives for local parties dependent on how they achieve, with some legal or constitutional requirements being essential.

The incentives are:

a. Recognition by awarding local parties an annual Charter Mark to be announced at regional conference with a minimum of six criteria met to qualify for the award.

b. The region to offer a financial incentive of £10 per criterion met, with a minimum of six criteria met (i.e. £60) to qualify for the incentive payments.

How

Volunteer advisers will be appointed to visit local parties, and will be a contact for support and for disseminating information.

The advisers will also recommend to the Development Committee which local parties satisfy the criteria and approve an application to award the financial incentive.

The criteria are:

The local party must have a development plan which includes all the items below, and how the local party is progressing towards achieving them.

Six of the following activities or criteria have to be met.

1. The local party must comply with PPERA. A budget is to be produced in accordance with the constitution.
2. The local party must have had their constitution reviewed within the last five years, and lodged with the region.
3. The main officers of the local party as stated in their constitution must be in place: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Development Officer, Data Officer.
4. The Executive Committee of the local party should meet a minimum of six times a year, or four if there are functioning campaign and other groups.
5. There should be five or more social or fundraising events per year organised by the local party.
6. There is to be a standing order giving scheme for the benefit of the local party with a minimum of five members, or more members than the previous year.
7. All principal local authority elections and by-elections in the local party area are to be contested.
8. A minimum of three members are to attend training courses such as Kickstart or attend Regional or National conferences where training is held.
9. Membership is to increase year on year.
10. There is to be a local party members' newsletter a minimum of four times a year, produced locally or through the scheme operated by the region.

NB The first three are essential as they involve constitutional and/or legal requirements.



TREASURER'S REPORT TO CONFERENCE 2016 ACCOUNTS

The 2016 statement of accounts was signed and submitted in March. Acceptance for the submission was received from HQ compliance department.

2017 FIGURES

The principal funding for the region arises from the service fee received from HQ for members within the region. Membership has continued to grow during the year from 8,279 at the end of 2016 to 11,497 currently (+38%). This makes the East of England the 2nd largest region in England (out of 11).

Activities in the region comprise admin and development support to local parties (via part-time employees), a quarterly newsletter, and the regional conference with a break-even target.

During the year the region also provided small loans to local parties for candidate deposits arising from the snap general election. Within the region there were 27 lost deposits.

2018 BUDGET

This budget shows little change to 2017.

The challenge will be to retain the growth in membership that has occurred since the EU referendum and which continued during the 2017 snap General Election. There is a retention rate of c85% each year. Consequently, the

region is looking for ways in which we can support local parties in the promotion and fundraising activities to drive membership, improve retention and increase voter participation leading to an increase in share of vote and reduced lost deposits.

The budget figure is higher than the present cost to allow for increases in employment costs and pay reviews.

FINALLY

Thank you to the many volunteer treasurers in local parties and branches. Generally, the region is doing very well in keeping up with all the paperwork necessary to comply with the requirements of the law and the Electoral Commission, but there are exceptions that could cause the party issues and lead to fines. These need to be resolved.

Motions to conference

1. Conference approves the treasurer's report and 2016 accounts.
2. Conference delegates authority to the regional executive to appoint auditors to produce an independent report on the 2017 accounts.
3. Conference approves the 2018 outline budget.

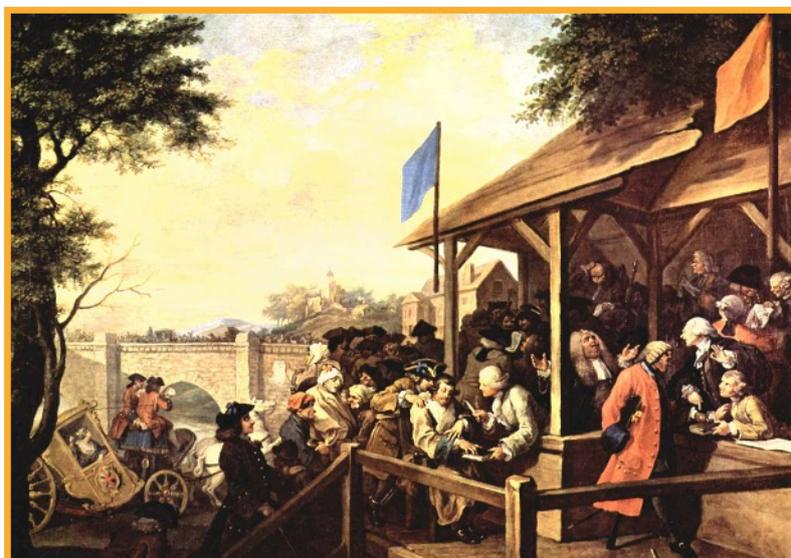
Tony Mason, Regional Treasurer
treasurer@eastlibdems.org.uk

FACEBOOK

Keep in touch on Facebook by liking the East of England Facebook page at [Facebook.com/EastOfEnglandLibDems](https://www.facebook.com/EastOfEnglandLibDems).

Message us to join the private East of England Lib Dem campaigners group, or one of the private county discussion groups.

Find us on 



OUTLINE 2018 BUDGET

	2018 Budget (£)	2017 Budget (£)	2017 YTD (Q3)
INCOME			
Bank Interest	0	0	10
Donations & Appeals	5,450	5,450	4,958
Fundraising Income	250	250	819
Membership Rebate	21,250	25,000	16,185
Newsletter Income	15,000	10,000	16,161
Other Income	4,000	4,000	552
Regional Conference	5,000	5,000	2,500
Training Income	0	0	
TOTAL INCOME	50,950	49,700	41,185
EXPENDITURE			
Candidates Committee	250	250	
Campaigning costs	250	250	
Charges and taxes	300	300	
Fundraising costs	50	50	
Grants to local parties	3,000	3,000	3,898
Miscellaneous	100	100	
Newsletter costs	12,000	7,500	7,559
Office & administration	3,700	3,700	662
Policy committee costs	50	50	
Regional conference	5,000	5,800	4,000
Staff costs	22,660	22,000	15,446
Training costs	850	850	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	48,210	43,850	31,565
SURPLUS	2,740	5,850	9,620

WE NEED **YOU** TO BE AN ELECTION AGENT

Agents are unsung heroes, ensuring campaigns keep on the right side of the law.

We need more people to step forward and volunteer as election agents to support local and parliamentary candidates. No special experience is needed, but a organised and logical approach is a big help.

Picture is *The Polling* by William Hogarth (1755) showing agents from both sides using unscrupulous tactics to increase their votes or challenge opposing voters (Wikipedia.org, CC-BY-SA)

Find out more at 2.40pm in the Duncan Room at conference and / or attend fuller training in Colchester on Saturday 11 November 2017.

Time: 10am - 2.45pm

Venue: Colchester Liberal Democrats, Wimpole Rd, Colchester CO1 2DE

RSVP: events@eastlibdems.org.uk or online at www.libdems.org.uk/jonw/agents_training

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

Registered address: 8-10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE.

The responsible Officers for the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 were Stephen Robinson (Chair) and Lloyd Harris (Treasurer).

Membership of the region in 2016: 8,279

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

Income & Expenditure Account

	2016	2015
Income		
Membership	23,311	25,898
Donations	14,232	9,744
Branch income	22,536	815
Fundraising income	531	201
Investment income	32	29
Miscellaneous	18,776	14,911
	79,418	51,598
Expenditure		
Office costs	1,214	1,959
Branch expenditure	401	244
Staff costs	19,458	30,775
Campaigning costs	10,757	245
Fundraising costs	77	61
Financing charges	330	261
Miscellaneous	13,106	14,027
	45,343	47,572
Surplus	34,075	4,026

Balance Sheet

	2016	2015
Fixed assets		
	-	-
Current assets		
Cash in hand and at the bank	56,402	32,474
Debtors and prepayments	7,944	6,345
Total current assets	64,346	38,819
Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	16,219	24,767
Loans	-	-
	16,219	24,767
Net assets	48,127	14,052
Reserves		
Accumulated fund as at start of the year	14,052	10,076
Surplus	34,075	3,976
Accumulated fund as at end of the year	48,127	14,052
Total reserves	48,127	14,052

RETURNING OFFICER VACANCIES

Volunteer Returning Officers oversee parliamentary selections, ensuring rules are followed and candidates and members are treated fairly.

We are looking to train new Returning Officers in advance of the next round of candidate selections. Please contact candidates@eastlibdems.org.uk.

Download a complete copy of the 2016 statement of accounts, including notes, at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/accounts16.

A limited number of paper copies are available at the registration desk.



TRAINING SESSIONS

Duncan Room

1020 – 1115

HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR CONNECT DATA

Connect can produce all sorts of numbers but what do they mean? James Lillis explains how to use the figures to help your campaign

James is a Federal Party campaigns officer and was campaign manager for the successful Richmond Park by-election in 2016. He is a councillor in Peterborough.

1130 – 1230

TARGET SETTING FOR LOCAL PARTIES

Smaller and medium sized local parties face many challenges. Ian Horner will help local party officers and activists focus on the key issues and plan ahead.

Ian is regional training co-ordinator for the East of England. He is an experienced campaign manager and agent.

1240 – 1330

COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Get answers to your queries about PPERA, expense returns, data protection, candidate selection and other compliance matters. **Collect your lunch first and bring it to the session.**

Darren Briddock is Compliance Manager for the Liberal Democrats based at Lib Dem HQ.

1440 – 1555

TRAINING FOR CURRENT AND POSSIBLE AGENTS

Agents are unsung heroes of the election process, ensuring campaigns keep on the right side of the law. Find out more and update your knowledge with Darren Briddock.

Darren Briddock is Lib Dem Compliance Manager.

Board Room

1045–1130

TALKING TO VOTERS USING THE MINIVAN APP

MiniVan is the Lib Dems' easy to use doorstep canvassing app. Find out how to use it with Jon Whitehouse. If possible, download NGP MiniVan onto your Android or Apple phone in advance.

Jon Whitehouse is East of England Development Officer and a district councillor in Epping.

1130 – 1230

CONNECT HELPDESK

Please drop by to ask your Connect questions, from access issues to getting tips and tricks on how to manage your data for use with other campaigning systems such as Prater Raines websites.

James Wright is a councillor in Norwich, and Regional Connect Manager for the East of England.

1240 – 1330

LOCAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT

The East of England's development committee is proposing a new initiative to support local parties. Victor Scrivens explains more. **Collect your lunch first and bring it to the session.**

Victor is a member of the East of England development committee and of the regional executive.



WHO'S WHO

Officers

President
Chair
Vice-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Andrew Duff
Jo Hayes
Sara Bedford
Gill Collings
Tony Mason

Committee Chairs

Campaigns Committee
Candidates' Committee
Conference Committee
Development Committee
Policy Committee

Lucy Nethsingha
Paul Clark
Gill Collings
Stuart Beadle
Joe Jordan

County Co-ordinating Committee Chairs

Cambridgeshire
Essex
Hertfordshire
Norfolk
Suffolk

Spencer Hagard
Theresa Higgins
David Davies
Denys Robinson
Jon James

Executive Committee members

Simon Banks
Belinda Brooks-Gordon
Peter Chivall
David Jones
Rabi Martins
Diversity champion

Andy McGuinness
Lucy Nethsingha
Daniel Norton
Stephen Robinson
Victor Scrivens

Conference Committee members

Gill Collings Chair
Martin Brooks
Belinda Brooks-Gordon
Ian Horner Regional Training Co-ordinator
Joye Rosenstiel Chief Steward
Victor Scrivens

Staff

Development Officer
Newsletter editor

Jon Whitehouse
Lorna Dupré

CONFERENCE VENUE

The address of the conference venue is Red Lodge Millennium Centre, Lavender Close, Red Lodge, Bury St Edmunds IP28 8TT.

Red Lodge lies on the A11 between Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

You are strongly advised to check your route and timetables before your journey. This information has been compiled in good faith using published information from the bus and train operators but we cannot take responsibility for any inaccuracy.

Train and bus from CAMBRIDGE / NEWMARKET

Greater Anglian train

Cambridge	0844	Platform 6
Newmarket	0904	
Kennett	0912	

Bus service 16 (Stephensons)

Kennett	0928	on Station Way
Red Lodge	0937	Blackberry Way bus stop

Bus from BURY ST EDMUNDS

Bus service 16 (Stephensons)

Bury St Edmunds	0852	Railway Station (adj)
Red Lodge	0937	Blackberry Way bus stop

It is a two-minute walk from the Blackberry Way bus stop to Red Lodge Millennium Centre in Lavender Close.

Alternatively you can book a cab to meet you at Kennett station.

Taxi / minicabs

Minicab / taxi firms based in Red Lodge include (book in advance as no taxi rank at the station):

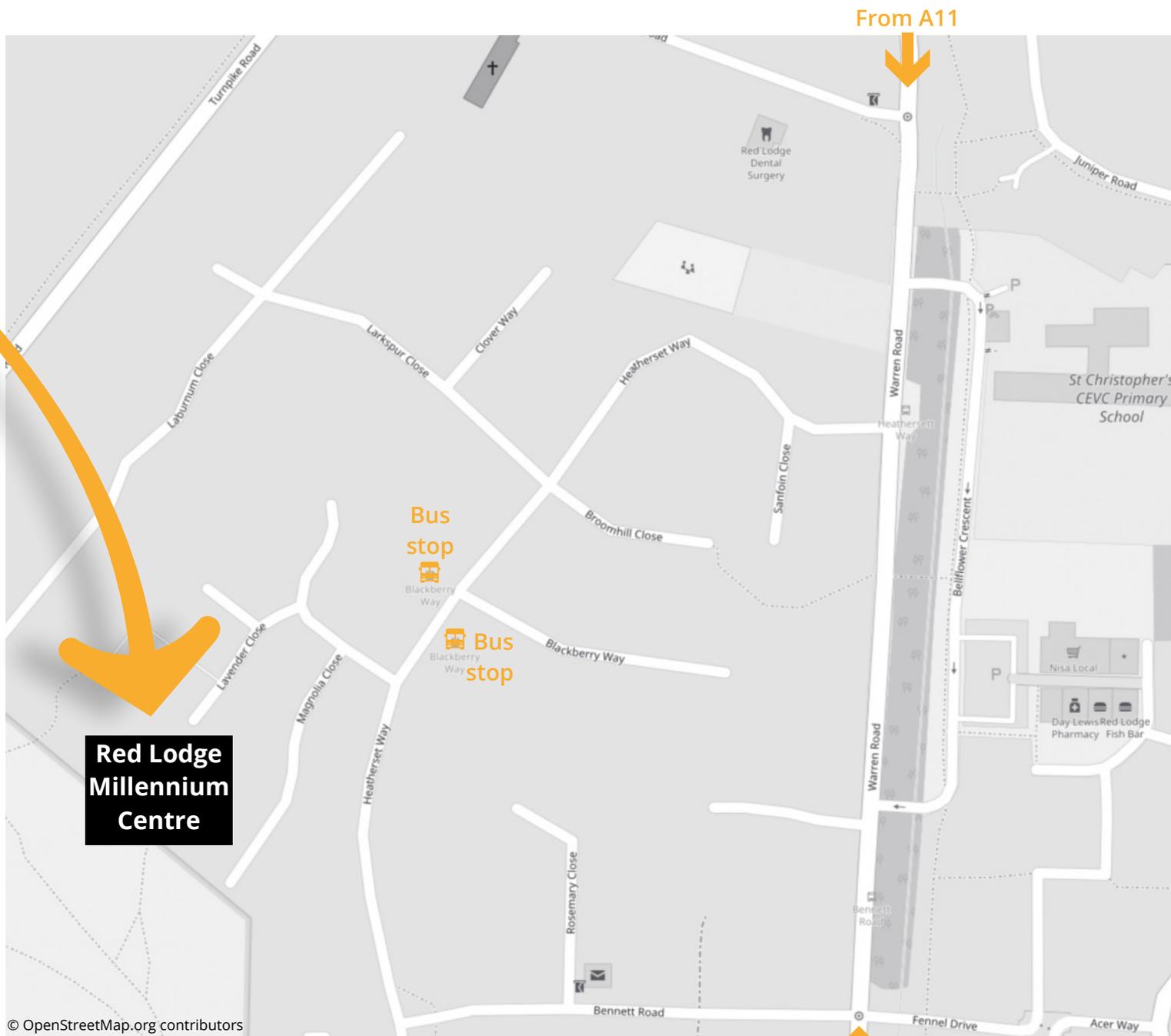
- Britannia Cabs - 01638 750300
- Cabline Taxis - 01638 751999
- Style Taxis - 01638 669966

WiFi

network address: BTHub5 - X6JW

wireless key/password: 5d5ea4cb42





ARRIVING BY ROAD

Red Lodge is easily accessible from A11 and A14. The postcode is IP28 8TT. Estimated journey times:

- Bedford 1 hour ten minutes
- Cambridge 40 minutes
- Chelmsford 1 hour 20 minutes
- Ipswich 55 minutes
- Norwich 1 hour 10 minutes
- St Albans 1 hour 30 minutes

From the A11

Leave the A11 at the B1085 exit towards Red Lodge. At the roundabout take the first exit onto Warren Road.

Follow Warren Road, passing through three more roundabouts (2nd exit, then 3rd exit, then 1st exit).

Turn 1st right into Heathersett Way, 2nd right into Magnolia Close and 2nd into Lavender Close.

From the A14, travelling from the East

Take the B1506 exit towards Newmarket. At Kentford turn right onto Herringswell Road towards Red Lodge.

At second roundabout turn left onto Bennett Road. Turn second right onto Heathersett Way, first left onto Magnolia Close and second left into Lavender Close.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE AT A GLANCE

	Main Hall	Duncan Room	Board Room
0930	Registration opens		
0930		Meeting for New Members Jo Hayes (Chair)	
1000	Welcome to Conference House of Commons Report Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP	-	-
1020	Regional officers' report Jo Hayes (Chair) Tony Mason (Treasurer)	Training (until 1115) How to interpret your Connect data	-
1045	Motion Campaigning in University Towns		Training (until 1130) Talking to voters using the MiniVan app
1115	House of Lords Report Baroness Sarah Ludford		
1130	Brexit plenary session with Andrew Duff and Baroness Sarah Ludford	Training (until 1230) Target setting for local parties	Training (until 1230) Connect helpdesk
1230	LUNCH		
1240	-	Training (until 1330) Compliance Q and A	Development (until 1330) Development Committee proposals for training
1330	Keynote	-	-
1440	Report of English Party Review Group Sally Symington	Training (until 1555) For agents and potential agents	
1500	Motion: A Carbon Levy plus dividend policy to reduce CO ₂ and poverty		
1530	Emergency motion		
1555	Closing announcements	-	-
1600	Conference closes. Safe journey home.		

