

East Hampshire Constituency Candidate Responses

(in the order received)

[Richard Knight - Green Party](#)

[Dominic Martin - Liberal Democrats](#)

[Sara Smith - Social Democratic Party](#)

[Jim Makin - Hampshire Independents](#)

[Damian Hinds - Conservative and Unionist Party](#)

[Lucy Sims - Labour Party](#)

No response received from:

Matthew Kellermann - Reform UK

Richard Knight - Green Party

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years which demonstrate leadership on climate and/or environmental issues.

My environmental campaigning has been a growing part of my life since 1992. Slowly, far too slowly, I became aware that the world was failing to take action. I signed more and more petitions, marched against Monsanto and Oil companies. I moved my office into my home and resigned from projects with clients who were instrumental in damaging the climate. In 2017 I realised that writing strongly worded letters was not enough and stood for the first time as a Green Party member especially to raise climate crisis issues. It at least added the climate crisis to the agenda but little more. I organised a Friday Strike in Petersfield Square. I then helped start up the Extinction Rebellion Group in Petersfield.

2. The UK declared an environment and climate change emergency in 2019. How well do you think successive UK governments have handled that emergency since then?

Since 2019 the government has done little to help put forward policies to address the climate crisis, worse, in their granting of permission for a new coal mine, then the Rose Bank oil field they set any progress we had made back years. Not only because of the proposed extraction new fossil fuels when our existing supplies already threaten life on earth but also the damage they have done globally in terms of the vision we needed to hold but provides the excuse for other countries to also reduce their ambitions. Their failure to fund an increase in renewables, land based wind farms, solar farms, to upgrade existing housing stock and significantly increase the quality of houses being built has cost us years and handed over millions to oil companies whilst putting all of our lives at risk.

3. In 2023 the Climate Change Committee (CCC) gave the government a series of recommendations which they summarised in 9 key messages – which of these messages would you get behind in your first year in office, if elected?

The continued expansion of fossil fuel extraction runs counter to our commitments made in 2015. We should make our priority the cancelling of all new fossil fuel exploration and the development or expansion of extraction sites. We should raise the cost of fossil fuel use through taxation to make the continued use of them no longer viable. Using the funds raised we should assist in the transition to renewable energy. In taking these two actions we incentivise all businesses and home owners to seek out renewable energy.

4. What actions to tackle the UK's biodiversity crisis would you prioritise in your first year in office?

Biodiversity requires healthy soil, space, clean water and air. By taking the actions described in 3 above we help improve air and water. We also make the growing of food in the UK more economically viable as the cost of local production should end up being cheaper than using fossil fuels to transport lower quality food from other countries. Increasing earnings of UK farmers, along with government subsidies can allow us to pass laws that expand the amount of land that can be re-wild, we can expand the hedgerows that would currently eat away at the meagre profits that the farmers are currently able to earn. We can afford to use alternative fertilisers that start to improve soil quality and deepen it, sequestering large amounts of CO2. Finally increasing the cost of meat production can encourage the population to reduce the amount of meat we consume freeing up more land for reforestation.

5. Will you support the Climate and Nature Bill? Yes/No

YES

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Dominic Martin - Liberal Democrats

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years which demonstrate leadership on climate and/or environmental issues.

Until earlier this year, I worked in the energy sector on decarbonisation of heavy industry in the Humber region, responsible for more industrial emissions than anywhere else in the UK. To meet climate targets, we need urgent action to eliminate emissions from industry as well as investing in renewable energy generation. (I explained this in a film 'The Hull Story' that had a [powerful impact on local public and political opinion](#) and helped galvanise government action.)

Until earlier this year I was a member of the UK [Ministerial Council on Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage \(CCUS\)](#). This mobilises investment to achieve industrial Net Zero, as well as building necessary skills and supply chains.

Outside work, I was for five years on the Board of Transparency International UK (TI-UK), the anti-corruption charity that has [taken a lead in exploring the corruption risks in the fight against climate change](#). In 2022, I co-authored an influential [Petersen Institute paper](#) on corruption risk around the deployment of green infrastructure.

2. The UK declared an environment and climate change emergency in 2019. How well do you think successive UK governments have handled that emergency since then?

The last five years have seen a worrying weakening in the government's commitment. The recommendations of the Climate Change Committee reflect growing expert concern that the UK is slipping back. Regrettably we can no longer claim the UK is the international leader it was in 2008 when the CCC was established.

We are now at a dangerous moment in climate policy, risking missing our 2050 target. The new Government must rebuild consensus and accelerate action to get back on track.

3. In 2023 the Climate Change Committee (CCC) gave the government a series of recommendations which they summarised in 9 key messages – which of these messages would you get behind in your first year in office, if elected?

We must get behind **all nine** CCC recommendations. I share their concern at the Government's 'lack of urgency' and the frustration at slow progress on policy frameworks for the radical transformation we need.

Climate change is too important to be a political football. I deplore attempts by some politicians to undermine the cross-party consensus that underpinned creation of the CCC and the legal commitment to Net Zero. We need to work together.

4. What actions to tackle the UK's biodiversity crisis would you prioritise in your first year in office?

The decline in abundance of wildlife and reduction of biodiversity in the UK is shocking. So is this Government's failure to meet 17 of its own 20 biodiversity targets - not to mention the sewage scandal that threatens public as well as river health.

Liberal Democrats are calling for: planning reform to increase net biodiversity gain with new development; a new duty of care for businesses; statutory requirements for public bodies on nature recovery and climate stability; tax reforms to incentivise greener choices and end subsidies to polluters; and action to restore damaged heathland, extend marine protected areas, and double woodland cover, the protected areas network and important wildlife habitats.

My personal priorities would be pressure on the water companies to prevent thousands of hours of sewage dumping into streams and rivers, and support to the many committed conservation groups and professionals, farmers, growers, community groups and volunteers helping nature recover in East Hampshire.

5. Will you support the Climate and Nature Bill? Yes/No

Yes - and I hope all parliamentary candidates in East Hampshire will do the same.

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Sara Smith - Social Democratic Party

I have considered the questions you have posed for prospective candidates concerning tackling the climate crisis and that you wish our responses to be published in The Herald on the 20th June, As our manifesto has not yet been published I feel I am not in a position to make any specific comments or commitments at the moment.

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Jim Makin - Hampshire Independents

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years which demonstrate leadership on climate and/or environmental issues.

I have investigated the basis on which the notion of a "Climate Change Emergency" is founded and concluded that it is profoundly unsound and full of contradictions.

a) None of the disasters predicted over the last 50 years have come about, so the models are obviously not adequately modelling reality, or not being understood. NB: Modelling per se has no

place in the **scientific method** and need not be “science” at all. They don’t represent “science” until the theory is accepted as science and the model is proven to accurately implement the theory. Look up “the scientific method”.

b) Climate science being probably THE most complex topic known to man, and climate change occurring over very long timescales, and as all predictions seem so far to have failed, it’s reasonable to suppose that none of this “science” has been validated. We would need probably several hundred years to differentiate natural variation from underlying trends. The assertion that “the science is settled” is preposterous when so many variables and such long timescales are involved.

c) We should stop listening to charlatans and start listening to engineers/scientists who are accustomed to having to make things that actually work!

2. The UK declared an environment and climate change emergency in 2019. How well do you think successive UK governments have handled that emergency since then?

They have failed in their duty to perform due diligence to verify the assertions emanating from the UN and its partners. They are either criminally negligent, or criminally complicit, in my opinion.

3. In 2023 the Climate Change Committee (CCC) gave the government a series of recommendations which they summarised in 9 key messages – which of these messages would you get behind in your first year in office, if elected?

None. They are all unverifiable and designed to alarm rather than to be useful. They could trot the same list out every year and we would be none the wiser.

4. What actions to tackle the UK’s biodiversity crisis would you prioritise in your first year in office?

The biodiversity crisis is real and must be addressed. It isn’t caused by “Climate Change” but by:
A) Electromagnetic radiation from cell-phone towers, ubiquitous wi-fi, and other apparatus such as military radar and HAARP installations. Read book “Invisible Rainbow” by Arthur Firstenberg for the horrifying history. See also his web-site <https://cellphonetaskforce.org/>

B) Insecticides fungicides herbicides (especially glyphosate) routinely sprayed by councils and (regrettably) farmers growers and gardeners seduced by the false advertising by the likes of Monsanto and Bayer. Glyphosate is now ubiquitous and impossible to entirely avoid as it spreads to adjacent lands. It’s a wonder we have any wildlife and insect populations left.

C) Actions I would propose and support:

1) An outright ban on glyphosate which courts have found to be a cause of cancers.

2) A regulatory authority tasked to find alternative methods for pest control (bearing in mind that mother Nature will tend to bring pests back into balance) and to phase out chemical poisons within 5 years. No idea if five years is practical but a challenging target is needed to keep the project out of the political long grass ...

3) Design alternative mechanical methods to remove weeds etc by AI-controlled machinery - see Dyson’s inventive farming techniques which imply that such products could be devised (<https://www.freecitizen.uk/index.php/list/categories/free-citizen/2971-the-case-for-dyson-farming>)

5. Will you support the Climate and Nature Bill? Yes/No

No – it’s assumptions are confounded by reality and it can’t work.

(And it’s axed by the dissolution of Parliament, so in current form it’s dead)

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Damian Hinds - Conservative and Unionist Party

In its 2019 report, the CCC described Net Zero in 2050 as “the latest date for the UK credibly to maintain its status as a climate leader and the earliest to be credibly deliverable alongside other government objectives.” The Conservative manifesto, on which I as a Conservative candidate stand, is just out, and reconfirms our commitment to 2050. A candidate’s Election Address is our own personal statement; as I say in mine, “Climate change remains the great challenge of our age”.

There needs to be focus on the big levers that make the most difference. Our reliance on coal as a fuel source has reduced over 80% since 2010, and we have become a world leader in offshore wind deployment; it will be battery development especially that will enable much further progress in renewables. In the meantime, there is a need for ‘diallable’ sources (for when the wind isn’t blowing and the sun not shining); nuclear is important here, but in the near term, oil and gas will remain part of the energy mix; since Putin’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in particular, we have been reminded of the importance of energy security.

The much further progress we need to make does involve difficult challenges, and as I say in my Election Address, it “needs to be done sustainably, without imposing excessive costs.” I support the increasing % requirement of new cars and vans sold to be zero emission, in line with countries like France, Germany and Sweden. We need to go much further too in buildings, industry and agriculture. Research & Development will be key.

I commend the excellent local groups, including ACAN, who do vital work. I support our local councils’ commitments: our area can contribute especially with ambitious tree-planting. Along with EHDC I convened a local ‘COP-26 East Hampshire’ as a forum to consider what everyone – families, businesses, the public sector – can do.

We are the first of the major economies to have halved emissions since 1990, for the majority of which time we have had Conservative-led governments. In the time I have been a minister I have been involved in government action in a number of ways, from my responsibility for the fiscal aspects of energy policy at the Treasury, to the drive to decarbonise the secure estate. Much of my work in government and Parliament has been on Education, which is key to so much, including tackling climate change. Important topics on climate change are embedded in the national curriculum, in Key Stage 3 and KS4 Science, and KS3 and KS4 Geography. The Department for Education has continued to bring forward important initiatives, such as the Climate Ambassador programme, and the National Education Nature Park in which some of our local schools are also participating.

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Lucy Sims – Labour Party

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years which demonstrate leadership on climate and/or environmental issues.

This is my first time standing as a parliamentary candidate and I have never held public office. However, as a parent governor and volunteer I have helped promote and raise money to help nature to thrive in my youngest child’s school, including a complete renewal of the school pond, which is due to be officially reopened to the children very soon as a home for aquatic life and an educational space. Also, I think that modelling ‘green behaviour’ is important. My partner and I have never driven despite it sometimes causing challenges.

2. The UK declared an environment and climate change emergency in 2019. How well do you think successive UK governments have handled that emergency since then?

The Conservatives have performed very poorly with regards to handling the climate emergency for a number of reasons. Firstly, there have been many changes in leadership and policy moves which contradict the aim of decarbonising. For example, Liz Truss opened up a new licensing round to allow oil and gas companies to explore for fossil fuels in the North Sea, and Rishi Sunak moved the target of no new petrol cars by 2030 to 2035. He also scrapped HS2 without a real strategy to improve public transport infrastructure. There has been a lack of coherence and long term planning, and successive leaders have become increasingly preoccupied with putting themselves and their party before people and the planet.

The climate and nature crisis is the greatest long-term global challenge that we face. The clean energy transition represents a huge opportunity to generate growth, tackle the cost-of-living crisis and make Britain energy independent once again. That is why clean energy by 2030 is one of Labour's missions.

3. In 2023 the CCC gave the government a series of recommendations which they summarised in 9 key messages – which of these messages would you get behind in your first year in office, if elected.

- A lack of urgency. While the policy framework has continued to develop over the past year, this is not happening at the required pace for future targets.
- Stay firm on existing commitments and move to delivery. The Government has made a number of strong commitments, these must be restated and moved as swiftly as possible towards delivery.
- Retake a clear leadership role internationally. The UK will need to regain its international climate leadership.
- Immediate priority actions and policies. Action is needed in a range of areas to deliver on the Government's emissions pathway..
- Expansion of fossil fuel production is not in line with Net Zero. As well as pushing forward strongly with new low-carbon industries, Net Zero also makes it necessary to move away from high-carbon developments.

4. What actions to tackle the UK's biodiversity crisis would you prioritise in your first year in office?

I would meet with experts from organisations and charities such as Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust to increase my understanding of the best ways to increase biodiversity in the local area. I am aware that there are key habitats in the area, such as chalk meadows and chalk bed streams which need protection if we are to maintain biodiversity. I would review any new housing developments and other building projects to ensure that any potential impacts on biodiversity are not only negated but that steps have been taken to encourage a net gain in biodiversity.

5. Will you support the Climate and Nature Bill?

Yes

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