

Roland Richardson

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years that demonstrate leadership on climate change issues. Personally I have taken action to reduce my carbon footprint including downsizing house, travelling less both nationally and internationally. I use a bicycle and electric bike to travel locally. I have pushed my local parish council to plant many more trees in suitable sites in the village.
2. If elected, what actions will you take in order to ensure that HCC commits to managing its pension investments to align with the Paris target to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C? If elected, I would hope to be part of a change in thinking at Hampshire County Council. The County must invest responsibly and align its pension funds with the Paris target. My core reason for standing for the Liberal Democrats in Alton Rural has been their campaigning on Climate Change and environmental issues. The success of this will depend on whether there is a change in the political balance at Hampshire County Council.
3. If elected, what specifically will you do to help decarbonise transport - including aviation, rail and road? The answer is to lower the carbon and ecological footprint of transport. Not an easy thing to achieve, but Electric Vehicles certainly play a significant role. Government dropping the EV vehicle subsidy was a negative as EV's are expensive. Hampshire is responsible for infrastructure and should put in more EV charging points, especially on HCC owned land. Public transport must be more user-friendly to encourage greater use. It is regrettable that HCC dropped all bus subsidies, this must be re-examined. Aviation is a very tricky subject, I am not expert, but I believe that local government needs to invest in alternatives like hydrogen powered aircraft and aviation fuel made from food waste.
4. If elected, what actions will you take to help and encourage businesses and individuals to adapt in order to decrease carbon emissions? Working with the Liberal Democrat team I will aim to bring a holistic approach to Carbon emissions in the workplace. Covid restrictions have shown a reduction in the need for travel. We need to cement those changes into culture and not allow a slow creep back to pre-covid standards. Much of the responsibility for carbon reduction will therefore shift to the employees home, therefore we need to target the businesses to provide incentives to their employees to ensure carbon reduction in the home. We need to be vigilant about businesses who claim significant carbon reduction when what they have actually done is pass that responsibility on to their employees. Incentives and adequate storage spaces should be created for electric bicycles and cars including charging points. Available roof-space should be used for Solar collection and much greater thought given to heat-pump technology. Server and Storage power usage and cooling is also tending to be outsourced to cloud providers shifting the emission responsibility. I will work closely with businesses to ensure that techniques, I have learnt from a career in high performance computing, are directed to ensuring best power practice.