



# Alton Climate Action Network

## Election Special

### April 2021

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The Hampshire County Council election on Thursday 6th May is our chance to send a loud, clear message to our council that we want urgent, appropriate action to address the climate and environmental crisis that faces us all.

ACAN's lobbying group is asking all our candidates 4 questions on the climate crisis and will publish their replies in a second election special newsletter in a couple of weeks, so please don't cast your vote before then.

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## THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

### Election

On Thursday 6 May voters in Alton Town and Alton Rural will go to the polls to elect our new representatives on Hampshire County Council. We in ACAN see this as a perfect opportunity to step up our demands for action on climate.

### ACAN's role

In the absence of any formal hustings, ACAN is writing to each local candidate asking for their views and plans for action to tackle the climate emergency.

The next four years will be crucial in terms of decisions and actions taken to reduce and adapt to climate change. Our representatives must be willing and able to lead the way and work constructively with MPs and councillors, regardless of party affiliation and across all districts, towns and parishes. That is why ACAN is aiming to provide information to help us vote according to candidates' policies.

### Key Actions

Naturally we seek a clearly documented strategy and timetable for achieving net zero. Follow this link to read ACAN's 10 key actions that we expect of government and councils: <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/climate-crisis-resources/find-out-more/10-key-actions-for-government-and-councils-to-help-tackle-the-climate-crisis>

### The Commitment

We want local people to be able to make informed choices at the ballot box. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph1kBhucW-A&ab\\_channel=TheCommitment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph1kBhucW-A&ab_channel=TheCommitment)

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### HCC's Pension Fund

Although HCC declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019, and despite warnings from financial advisers over a year ago, we are very disappointed to learn that HCC is still investing **£136,056,249** of pension funds in polluting fossil fuels <https://www.dirtymoneyhants.info>. We want to know how candidates will change that.



### ACAN's questions to candidates

1. Describe any actions you have taken in the last 5 years that demonstrate leadership on climate change issues.
2. If elected, what actions will you take to ensure HCC commits to managing its pension investments to align with the Paris target to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C?
3. If elected, what specifically will you do to help decarbonise transport - including aviation, rail and road?
4. If elected, what actions will you take to make it easier for businesses and individuals to decrease carbon emissions?

**Disseminating the replies**

We will share all candidate responses via a 2nd Election Special newsletter, on our website, in the local press and social media from Monday 19th April.

**Postal Votes**

Please wait for our candidates' responses before choosing who to vote for. Thank you!

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