

## Press Release, Totnes Constituency Labour Party, 21 November 2019

Totnes Constituency Labour Party is delighted to accept an invitation from South Devon Green Party to discuss 'How should Totnes Greens vote?' on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

We are pleased to have it confirmed by local Green Party members that participating in a national stand-down pact with the Liberal Democrats does not mean they are endorsing the Liberal Democrat candidate here in Totnes.

Stephen Reid, the elected Green Party candidate who stood down, clarified the position in an interview with Devon Live.

*There is some confusion in Totnes. It is being interpreted that we are behind Sarah Wollaston because of the Lib Dem's pro-Remain stance but we have been careful not to say that. Whilst we want to unify the Remain vote we are not backing any one particular candidate. To underline this we are hosting a 'How Should Totnes Greens Vote?' event.*

*It has emerged that the Labour candidate Louise Webberley is very much pro-Remain and we think the result in Totnes could be a close-run battle with all three candidates likely to win about a third of the votes."*

Jacqi Hodgson, Green Mayor of Totnes and Green Party Parliamentary Candidate in 2017, wished Louise all the best in her campaign. Her message was also clear: *It is very regrettable that Green Party members and supporters are unable to vote Green in this General Election, but this sacrifice is part of a wider pact that will hopefully lead to more Green MPs in other constituencies representing us in Westminster and strengthen the Remain Vote in this constituency. I'm very aware that many voters do want to see left of centre parties working together and opening the way for better democracy and better politics, that can lead us away from the destructive and dishonest politics of Tory greed, that has dominated and crushed the UK for almost a decade. A vote for Labour party as represented by Louise Webberley in this constituency, would be a vote for social justice, action on the climate and ecological emergency and a people's vote on Europe, with a candidate who supports Remain; not as Green as the Green Party manifesto, but certainly a strong move in the right direction.*

Louise Webberley said:

*I'm delighted to have worked so closely with the Green Party on Totnes Town Council, for example supporting the declaration of a Climate Emergency at the end of 2018. Labour's flagship Green New Deal policy has evolved in close step with the Green Party's decarbonisation strategy, and we are aligned on key issues such as investing in services and keeping the NHS in public hands. I believe our massive investment in green jobs and renewable energy offers a realistic and socially just path towards zero carbon by 2030. If elected I will continue to work with the Green Party locally and nationally, and keep raising our party's ambitions for action on the climate emergency. I am fully behind Labour's commitment to offer a second vote on Europe, and to negotiate a deal that keeps our rights, jobs*

*and environmental protections. But however good that deal may be, I personally will campaign to remain in Europe.*

Louise has campaigned for many years against fracking and for divestment from fossil fuels. She looks forward to sharing Labour's strong manifesto commitments to people and planet.

Picture caption:

Green Mayor of Totnes Jacqi Hodgson wishing Labour Party parliamentary candidate Louise Webberley good luck in her campaign.

Full event details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/498813297510648/>

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