

Press Release, Totnes Constituency Labour Party, 20 November 2019

Labour Party candidate Louise met with Extinction Rebellion (XR) Totnes activists in the Civic Square on the third day of their hunger strike for the climate. XR are challenging all candidates in the forthcoming general election to sign up to their three demands of truth-telling, decisive action, and binding citizen assemblies to help determine response to the climate emergency. The full text of the three demands is here:
<https://rebellion.earth/the-truth/demands/>

Louise spent over half an hour talking to Colin Moore and Stefan Karpik, the hunger strikers, and their supporters. She assured them she would tell the truth about climate change and the need for urgent and radical action. She also promised to tell the truth about the need for social justice, so people do not have to choose between good jobs and a sustainable economy for the future. Pushed on the question of the 2025 deadline for a carbon neutral economy, she said that Labour were committed to transformational change, with 2030 carbon neutral as the goal. But she recognised that even that date brings the risk of climate catastrophe, and promised in government and in the Labour party to press for the most ambitious targets.

Around 15 Labour members joined the discussion. They asked in turn whether XR could afford to remain neutral in the current election, when the other major parties are not expecting to reduce carbon emissions to net zero for several decades.

The full text of Totnes CLP's response to the XR demands was presented, with Louise's signature. It can be read here:
<https://totnes.laboursites.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/304/2019/11/XR-statement.pdf>

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