



Mr E Lopez
Secretary
Exeter Labour Party
26 Clifton Hill,
Exeter EX1 2DJ

10th May 2017

Dear Mr Lopez

This is for your urgent attention.

Green Party members and Parliamentary candidates are very pleased to see efforts in recent weeks to forge electoral alliances in a number of constituencies. Moves such as the Greens stepping aside for Rupa Huq in Ealing Central and Acton, and the Liberal Democrats stepping aside in Brighton Pavilion for Caroline Lucas, demonstrate a willingness to work together against the worst aspects of our first-past-the-post electoral system to help make sure Theresa May does not achieve the crushing majority she hopes for.

We applaud the Labour members who wrote to the Guardian this week, welcoming Green Party decisions to stand down in key Labour marginal seats in this election and urging Labour to reciprocate in two Green Party target seats. The letter says:

"If Labour were to respond, not only would it be doing the right thing morally, it could unlock further positive moves from the Green Party and its supporters in a swathe of other seats. We therefore call on the Labour leadership not to stand candidates in just two seats, Brighton Pavilion, the one seat the Greens now hold, and the Isle of Wight, the one seat where they are the best placed party to defeat the Tories. In both instances Labour has no realistic hope of winning.

"This is both the right thing to do and helps Labour in seats where the Green vote can make the difference to our party winning or losing. Labour now has to give something back to gain even more."

Exeter can no longer be regarded as a safe Labour seat, and the Tories are targeting it. Exeter Green Party is willing to consider standing our Green Party candidate down in this general election in order to improve the chances of Labour defeating the Tories in Exeter. But we could only do so if you are able to persuade the Labour leadership to take reciprocal action by agreeing that the Labour candidate in the Isle of Wight should stand down in favour of the Green Party candidate there, Vix Lowthion."

Vix is the best placed to defeat the Tories and has been a hard-working and dedicated activist in the constituency for many years. As a result of a strong and creative campaign, in 2015, Vix came third, ahead of all the other progressive parties, and the local election results now reinforce our position as the main challenger to the Conservatives there.

This is a serious offer to save Exeter from a Tory victory locally. But our offer is wholly dependent on confirmation that Labour will stand down in the Isle of Wight.

Please take action on this as soon as you can. The deadline for standing down our candidate is 4pm on Thursday 11 May, so we need a decision from the Isle of Wight before then.

Yours sincerely

Chris Dent
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