



Keeping Conference Liberal

I am standing again for FCC after a 9-year gap, **appalled by the discrimination** I have seen against vulnerable people from protected minorities, and equally at the **bland agendas** while relevant and radical Conference submissions are **blocked** from debate.

On FCC I have worked to **help those on low incomes** to attend; supported the interests of **Party bodies** while putting fair eligibility criteria in place; I've also been a voice for **active campaigners**.

If we just debated what the Leadership want, we would have never had policy for equal marriage and trans rights. Nor would we hear from local government and Mayoral candidates. **We should have better agendas than we did this year.**

We should ensure the **interests of Party members** and groups are set fairly alongside the necessary goal of maximising income. Critically, we must be a **safe and inclusive space**, and not tolerate organisations that generate harassment at Conference as in recent times.

I'm a **successful campaigner** in Oxfordshire in a Labour-facing area; I chair the County Council group and am also South Central Regional Campaigns Chair. I know what it takes to win.

I've played a full part in Conference, on FCC and over 20 years as a **compere of Glee Club** - an event which has been made more difficult to stage in recent years. It is part of what makes our Conference Liberal.



My Priorities

- ✓ **A Conference that motivates people** to join and get stuck in - especially given the threats we currently face
- ✓ **A voice for localism** - platforming our most powerful leaders running local government and standing as Mayors
- ✓ **Doing the work** - Conference Committee needs people with a track record of turning up and getting the work done

Gareth's Factfile

- ✓ Party member since 1992
- ✓ County Councillor in Oxfordshire and Group Chair
- ✓ Experience campaigning against both the Conservatives and Labour all over the country
- ✓ Regularly invited to HQ 'top canvassers' calls
- ✓ 15 years' experience on FCC before becoming the first independent HS2 Construction Commissioner and becoming politically restricted
- ✓ Chaired the General Election campaigns for Witney in 2019; Bicester & Woodstock 2024
- ✓ Co-compere of the Glee Club since 2005
- ✓ Former co-chair of the Social Liberal Forum; member of the Liberator Collective; founder member, Lib Dem Friends of Palestine
- ✓ Three times Parliamentary candidate
- ✓ Successfully moved Next Business at Spring Conference 2023, the first to do so for over 20 years
- ✓ Led the Fair Deal for your Local campaign which defeated the Government and changed the law for the good of our pubs.

I will also do what I've always done on FCC, such as:

Work to ensure as many members as possible can attend - refreshing and prioritising the Access Fund and seeking the return of a creche for Autumn Conferences at least;

Help anyone wanting assistance drafting motions and/or amendments;

Turn up and do the work

Stay open-minded and pressing unpopular causes -or those the leadership find inconvenient ;

Be a strong voice for local government and our Mayoral campaigns;

Work to maximise debating time, with fewer presentations;

Keep an ear open for the voice of the Party's campaigners.

15 years' work on FCC - high attendance record.



Gareth EPPS

Your number one choice for Federal Conference Committee



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Please give Gareth your FIRST preference vote