

Chris Bowers

for Federal Policy Committee

I'm standing for FPC because the Liberal Democrats need to be clearer and bolder about what we're offering voters – and why our members should give up time, money and shoe leather to campaign for us.

The low-profile strategy that served us so well in 2024 won't work again in 2029. Reform UK has changed the political landscape, to the point where democracy itself will be at stake. In order to fight for both our party and democracy, we need to be confident in what Liberalism is – to bang the drum for decency, compassion, community, and individuality, so we create a modern self-respecting country at peace with itself.

That means devising a bolder policy platform, and the FPC is the forum for that. I've shown I'm not scared of speaking truth to power. I hope you put me high up on your ballot paper. Thank you.



See Chris's speech to conference



Chris spoke in the policy review debate at September's federal conference in Bournemouth. Hear his three minutes at <https://youtu.be/xX1WpZ5t9Sc>

The UK's liberal party needs to rediscover its Liberalism and offer kind and hopeful politics

A quest for dynamic Liberalism

It's easy to despair about politics, but there is one political creed that is intrinsically optimistic, because it believes in the best of people – and that's Liberalism.

Our challenge now is to ensure Liberalism offers the vital missing ingredients in British politics: a sense of kindness and optimism, and reasoned hope that there is a better way – and that politics can deliver it.

If we hide our light under a bushel in the 2029 general election, we will get overlooked. Voters will be disgruntled with the two traditional governing parties, and Reform will look to cash in.

But people don't really want Reform – they just have a sense that there's nothing better on offer. So if we can offer a policy platform that addresses voters' circumstances and concerns, while being imaginative about how much better life could be, we could be the ones to cash in.

But we need to fly Liberalism's flag not just in our target seats but publicly and enthusiastically, so our votes make a difference – even where we don't win – in depriving Reform of greater clout.

Born: 1961 (age 64) in Cheshire

Family: one daughter (grown up)

Lives: Ringmer, East Sussex

Council: Lewes district councillor 2007-15

Parliamentary: candidate in Wealden 2010, 2017 & 2019, and in Brighton Pavilion 2015

Profession: Writer & broadcaster (specialising in tennis, environment & politics)

We have a rich heritage to draw on. Of all the pillars of Liberalism, community is likely to be the most important this time round, whether that's our street, town, or nation. We must help people to feel good about themselves, their neighbours and friends, and the place they think of as home.

I am the son of a refugee from Nazi Germany. My two grandfathers fought on opposite sides in the first world war, and my German grandfather spent 12 days in a concentration camp in 1938. It's no exaggeration to say a strong Liberal offering in 2029 could be key to avoiding a Nazi Britain. That's why I want to work for a dynamic, hopeful, and exciting Liberal offering in 2029.

I hope you feel able to support my attempt to get onto Federal Policy Committee.

We're backing Chris Bowers for FPC!

'I know Chris believes passionately that there's a crucial role for the Lib Dems, and feels we have to offer people hope that democracy is still the best way to build a better society. We need his energy, optimism, and clarity of thought on FPC.'

– Roz Savage MP



'I've known Chris since the late 1980s. He is a Liberal to his core, and he will be a voice on FPC for the party to be bold in its policies and make clear to both voters and members what the Liberal Democrats stand for.'

**– Simon Hughes
MP 1983-2015**



Please vote **Chris BOWERS** **1** **for FPC**