

Michael Berwick-Gooding

A founder member of the party and a member of his Regional Executives for 21 years; having served as Vice Chair; and Chair of Regional Local Parties Panel. A member of the English Council for over 15 years including some years as a member of English Council Executive and being on the English Constitutional Working Party. Active in his local Basingstoke party's Executive for many years, holding posts including Chair and Treasurer; was also a Borough Councillor for four years and Treasurer of a Community Association with a budget in excess of £100,000.



He attended many meetings of the Social Liberal Forum Council, not being permitted to speak until he was co-opted last year though believing all members should be allowed to. He made many suggestions on constitutional amendments and one was passed at the AGM with praise for it by the person leading on these amendments. He worked very closely with Katharine Pindar. He was appalled by the way the 2020 AGM was run and by the document produced late from the Chair for 2021 AGM regarding the problems of the Council.

For the past seven months he has also worked closely with Katharine on developing the Fairer Society Policy Paper and for many years on the social ills of poverty, lack of skills and training, homelessness and unemployment.

“If elected I would want to change both how the Council is run and what it does. I would want to work with other Council members to ensure that Officers do not make decisions without consulting members of the Council, with their meetings being minuted and the minutes then discussed at Council meetings where the decisions must be ratified or overturned if necessary. Never again should the Officers present documents to the AGM without them being discussed and agreed by Council beforehand.

“I reject the idea that the Liberal Democrats are now a social liberal party and there is no need for the SLF to get involved in policy motions and elections to the Federal committees. I want to increase SLF involvement in submitting motions and amendments to the Party's Conferences as has happened in the past, with a view to convincing the party to adopt social liberal principles.”

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