

Motion 1:

Proposer: Mr Matt Walker – Harrogate

Seconder: Mr Mark McDermid

Conference notes the alarming recent research which has revealed that the level of degradation and disturbance suffered by many of the earth's tropical rainforests in recent years means that they have become a source rather than a sink of carbon emissions. Researchers found that forest areas in South America, Africa and Asia – which have until recently played a key role in absorbing greenhouse gases – are now releasing 425 teragrams of carbon annually, which is more than all the traffic in the United States.

Conference recognises that such degradation and disturbance is entirely the result of unsustainable human (anthropogenic) activity driven by mistaken economic pressures and in some cases by clearly illegal activities. Conference further recognises that this issue is clearly global rather than specifically local and that it therefore requires global action and pressure in order to be resolved.

Conference notes that the resolution of the problem does not require any complex technological fix; that methods of rectification are well-understood and that, therefore, it is a question of political will required to reverse these trends. Conference notes also that such action fits well with the existing Liberal Democrat emphasis upon developing a net-zero carbon strategy by 2050.

Conference believes that:-

1. Brazil, Indonesia and the Congo are the countries where the greatest effect could be achieved with the least investment of effort.
2. International and global pressure is required to initiate change in this key area of sustainability for the world's population of humans as well as for "the continuity of life in all its forms".
3. Indigenous peoples urgently require external support in order to protect both their well-being and the forests they manage so effectively on behalf of us all.
4. We all have a responsibility to build appropriate political will to effect change.

Conference therefore calls upon the UK Government to initiate early concerted action to build the necessary global partnership to bring pressure to bear on all aspects of this issue, working through existing BEIS channels (*The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy*).

Conference also calls upon Liberal Democrat parliamentarians, councillors, officers and activists to raise the priority of the carbon capture of tropical rainforests amongst their political endeavour.

Conference urges the Party to extend its outreach activity to the key countries concerned to assist in developing appropriate political infrastructure around, and emphasis upon, these issues, as a matter of urgency.

Motion 2:

Proposer: Mr Philip Knowles – Richmond

Seconder: Baroness Harris of Richmond

Decisions directly affecting patients in Yorkshire and Humber are increasingly being made by organisations outside of the area.

In North Yorkshire, decisions about the future of The Friarage Hospital in Northallerton are made in Middlesbrough and mental health patients are about to be shipped out of the County and into Co. Durham and Cleveland. The same Trust (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust) is wanting to close over 50 beds in Harrogate too.

We believe that the decisions about the health of the people in an area should be made by people in the area and move that the NHS Trust areas should reflect the geo-political areas that patients live in so that local elected representatives and bodies can have true oversight and input into these decisions.

Motions to Conference 2017

The motions up for debate will follow the following rules.

Proposers will have **4 minutes** each to speak to their motion

Seconders will have **3 minutes** each to speak to their motion

Speakers from the floor will have **2 minutes** each to speak.

Speakers cards will be available at Registration and must be completed and return to the Policy Chair (Kamran Hussain) no later than the start of the session.

All Valid Members of the Region will be eligible to vote on the motions.

