

Manifesto for Andrew Hickey

Our party is losing its identity, and we need to push for more radical, liberal, distinctive policies.

- We need to oppose Brexit, not merely call for a second referendum we're likely to lose – we should be the party of Parliamentary democracy, not of plebiscites on false choices – and we need to commit to returning to the EU should we leave.
- We need to push for free movement and open borders, not call for punishing immigrants perhaps a tiny bit less harshly and looking sad while we're doing it.
- We need to bring back great radical liberal ideas of the past, like basic income and land value taxation, and do so in a way that redistributes wealth much more fairly.
- We need to make the casualisation of the labour force – the "gig economy" – into something that works for everyone, especially disabled and otherwise marginalised people who are most reliant on this new way of working.
- We need to defend freedom against the onslaught of far-right online propaganda.
- We need an environmental policy that will actually tackle climate change.
- We need, in short, to be liberal.

My name is Andrew Hickey, I'm an author, and have written over twenty books on a wide variety of subjects, as well as having many years' experience as a technical writer, and I have a particular talent for working with others to turn their ideas into publishable text – I'm someone to take on the work that needs doing.

I've been a member of the Lib Dems for twelve years. I've held various minor party roles from anonymous activist to (paper) council candidate. But I'm not someone who has ever particularly sought to have much influence within the party. I've decided that that needs to change.

I was involved in the campaigns last year to get a better Brexit policy (which sadly failed) and in the open letter to Vince Cable during the leadership election, questioning him on various unfortunate statements he'd made about immigration and the single market in 2016. I took part in those, despite my normal instincts being not to rock the boat, because I feel that our party is drifting into a dangerous muddy centrism, where the principles set out in the preamble to the constitution are being ignored in favour of focus-grouped-to-death warmed-over Blairism.

I would be particularly interested in working on publications, using my experiences as a proven author for the liberal message.

We should, in particular, take a lead from the social media strategy of LGBT+ Lib Dems, who have managed to build a large following not only of Lib Dems but of liberals and progressives from all parties and none, by taking clear, consistent, liberal stances with none of the equivocation that plagues too much of our communication and policy-making.

The most important thing we can do is to make the case for liberalism both within the party and without, and currently that case is not being made. If elected, I will do what I can to make that case as clearly and unambiguously as possible.