

At Last: The All-Day Bus Pass

Tom Gordon, Lib Dem MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough, celebrated with local Liberal Democrats and Disability Action Yorkshire at a local bus depot after the confirmed it will scrap time restrictions on disabled people's bus passes from April next year - the policy Tom has campaigned on since February 2025.

The MP was joined at the depot by Jackie Snape, Chief Executive of Disability Action Yorkshire - the charity whose members first raised the 9am rule with Mr Gordon at a constituency event in February 2025, and which has campaigned alongside him since.

Tom said, "Standing at the local bus stop this morning with local Lib Dem councillors and with Jackie and her team, it hit me what almost two years of campaigning has actually won: disabled people in Harrogate, Knaresborough and across the country can now get on the bus whenever they need to. **Disabilities don't start at 9 o'clock, and soon neither will disabled bus passes.**"

The announcement drew cross-party recognition of the campaign. Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who adopted the policy in Greater Manchester after attending a parliamentary reception hosted by Mr Gordon and Whizz Kidz in December 2025, posted: "It has been good to work with you on this, Tom."

Katharine Macy, Chair of the Lib Dem Disability Association (LDDA) said, "I've been living in one of the few cities that had already lifted the restriction on disabled bus passes, and it makes such a difference. Travelling to work is the main reason I use buses. If we want to see more disabled people in employment, allowing us access to transport we rely on is a basic step. I'm so pleased to see Tom's resilience has paid off, as I know how much of a difference it makes."



Calling Local Party Secretaries

With your local party Annual General Meeting coming up, our top tips on making it accessible to members.

Zoom: if you hold your AGM online make sure subtitling can be turned on and ask participants to face the camera for those who might be partly lip-reading. An opening word or two on each remark (like "Thank you chair...") moves focus around the screen and make sure all the words are picked up more clearly.

In Person: the most useful thing is information. Are there steps up into the building, is there a hearing loop, how wide are doorways.

Remember no venue is perfect for everyone - varying where you have your meetings through the year will help make sure everyone can be involved some of the time.

LDDA in Brighton 2026

Find us at Stall H23 in the Exhibition Hall. This will be staffed when we are able to, and our literature and how to contact us will be available throughout the opening of the stall.

We have two amendments, one for F16 Getting the Nation Walking, Wheeling and Cycling which is on Sunday 20th September between 9:30 and 10:15.

The second is on F39 Feeding Britain: A Food Security Emergency which is on Tuesday 22nd September between 12:10 and 12:50.

Finally, our amendment to F39 has been accepted as a drafting amendment. It reads as follows

Conference calls for:

11) Local Food Plans to liaise with local NHS services to ensure those with allergies or food related disabilities or illnesses such as diabetes are supported to receive the food they require.

LDDA is running a training session titled: Making Change as a Disabled Candidate. It will be on Monday 21st September 15:15-16:15 in the Brighton Centre, Meeting Room 1B.

Local election successes

Cllr David Buxton and Cllr Joanne Barker were both successfully elected in May 2026 - congratulations!

We've love to hear from you if you stood. Did you win? What support would you have liked, whatever the result?

Even as a paper candidate, were there any barriers you felt could have been changed?

What would you do differently, if it was in your control?

Let us know!

Speaking Up in Parliament

John Milne, Liberal Democrat MP for Horsham, introduced a Ten Minute Rule bill on "Child Savings Accounts (Mental Capacity and Disability)".

He explained: "I want to tell you about a family. When Mikey Turner was born, his parents did what so many parents do. They saved for him—not much; a little here, a little there—because they loved their son and they wanted to give him the best chance in life. They put money into a child trust fund, the Government savings account that existed for children born between 2002 and 2011, topped up with £500 of public money as a foundation for every child's future.

"However, what they did not know at the time was that Mikey would grow up to have profound disabilities. He lacks the mental capacity to manage money independently. When his child trust fund matured on his 18th birthday, something absurd happened: the money that his family had saved for him, because of him and out of love for him, was, in effect, locked away.

"His parents, who have cared for Mikey every single day of his life, who are recognised by the Department for Work and Pensions as his appointees, who manage his benefits and who make decisions on his behalf, were told that they could not practically access their own child's savings account. Instead, they were pointed towards the Court of Protection."

The bill will return to the Commons for debate on Friday 29 January 2027.

This is just one example of the many ways Lib Dem MPs are standing up for us in parliament.

LDDA wishes to thank specifically John Milne MP, but all our 72 who are regularly reminding their colleagues of disabled and carer rights.

If you know of any recent or upcoming successes or speeches, reach out and let us know. We'd love to hear from you.

Back In The Spring

Conference in York passed policy motion "Whole-Person Mental Health: Care, Choice, Community, and Combatting Populism", referencing the new Lib Dem Mental Health policy paper.

Read the whole motion on our website.

Our amendment to the party policy motion "Revitalising Town Centres and High Streets" also presented at Party Conference in York - passed clearly.

This called for a minimum requirement of 5 per cent of car parking spaces (or 1, if greater) being blue badge designated in town centre redevelopments.

And our amendment to the motion "Driving Forward: The Road to Access" passed, highlighting how less than 1% of Approved Driving Instructors in the UK have vehicles with adaptations for disabled learners.



Intersectionality in LDDA

After our AGM in 2025, we now have formal non-voting Reps from the Diversity AOs as part of our executive.

This, along with all of the work the AOs already do, has gone a long way to build bridges both to ensure a joined up approach, but also to recognise the intersectional challenges faced by members.



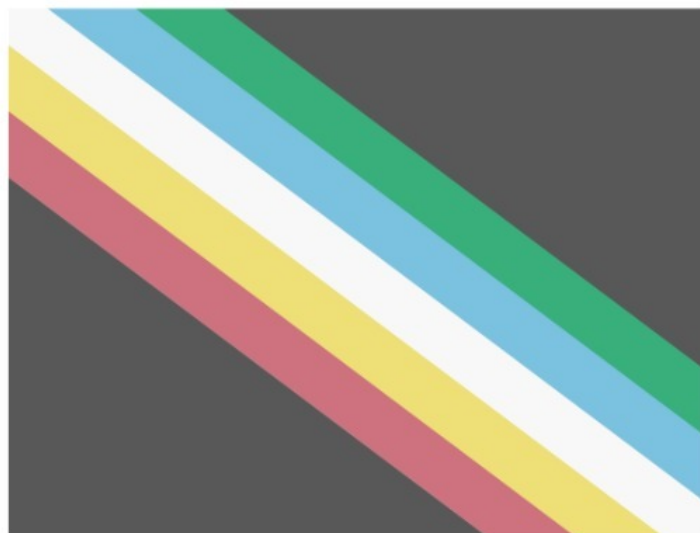
Did you know we have a flag?

On our stall and in our updated logo, you'll notice we display the colours of the disability pride flag. We know it will be new to many readers so we felt it needed a little introduction.

This was designed ten years ago by disabled American artist Ann Magill. Like the original LGBT rainbow flag, each of the colours is assigned symbolism: green for sensory disabilities, blue for emotional and psychiatric disabilities, white for non-apparent and undiagnosed disabilities, gold for neurodivergence, and red for physical disabilities.

The original design in 2016 used bolder colours and something of a 'lightning strike' zig zag styling. After community feedback this was refined to more muted colours, including a charcoal rather than black background. It also has a simpler shape, with stripes running top left to bottom right. That made it easier for people with particular visual impairments.

Whether you want to decorate a Lib Dem stall or diversity event, pop something on a pole for a demonstration you're going on, or just have an ironic 'cape' gift for a friend who has been told their neurodiversity is a 'super power' once too often, the flags can be obtained fairly cheaply online - about ten pounds for a 5 foot by 3 foot one on eBay.



Could YOU help us?

We want LDDA to be more visible in the party right across the country. Could you run a stall at your regional or state conference?

LDDA is a group of disabled people, carers and our allies. But because a lot of us are disabled, it takes its toll, meaning we need to take extra care to share the load.

We would love to know if you want to get involved and any skills you have, but some ideas of where we'd love support:

Regular Comms, including but not limited to:

- Emails to members
- Social media posts
- Video/podcast making skills

Finances:

Our phenomenal treasurer has kept us legal and compliant for a while now and is cautious of ensuring there's a successor, please let us know if you're interested.

Keeping us updated:

With 72 MPs, plenty of Peers and many councillors, we can't keep track of everything!

Please send us any news stories you see of our phenomenal Party mentioning disability issues so we can keep on top of it all! Let's share good initiatives that everyone across the country is doing, both to replicate and celebrate.

Keeping In Touch

Our website, www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk, is kept up to date with news of campaigns, debates in Parliament and more. Please do check regularly to see what's going on.

Facebook: We have a facebook group for members (www.facebook.com/groups/149700901745741 or search for LDDA) where things can be discussed and questions can be asked and answered. It's a private group just for members of LDDA so it's not prone to the problems sometimes seen on social media. Some recent discussions have been around how to manage tactile paving near pedestrian crossings so that it serves the needs of those with sight loss but doesn't cause extra difficulties for those with mobility problems and



Our AGM

LDDA have elections every two years, so at our AGM this year we will be electing our new executive.

The positions we currently have on the executive are:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Development
- General Committee Member x6

If you're interested in getting involved through being on the executive, we'd love to know. More information on the details will be coming soon, and the process is in our Constitution on the LDDA website.

Feel free to approach current executive members with questions.

It is also an opportunity to put forward constitutional amendments to ensure the organisation works how you want it to.

the ongoing problems caused by pavement parking. It's also a place for sharing useful tips and hints, sharing relevant campaigns and petitions, and occasionally someone feels they just have to let off steam about a government policy or decision. Why not try it - if you don't find it helpful it's easy to leave it.

Conference stall, twice a year - we're there in the exhibition just waiting to talk to people who're interested in any aspect of what we do.

The AGM, usually in November or early December each year. It's online so no travel involved, and a chance to raise questions, put forward suggestions and generally chat about what's happening.