

# The Alliance For Change

98 High Street, Knaresborough, N Yorks. HG5 0HN

[info@AllianceForChange.co.uk](mailto:info@AllianceForChange.co.uk) +44 7930 519793 [www.AllianceForChange.co.uk](http://www.AllianceForChange.co.uk)

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## **WHY LIVINGSTON? BECAUSE OUR DEMOCRACY IS BROKEN!**

It appears that there will be no fewer than ten candidates who will be contesting the Livingston by-election. There are candidates for each of the four parties which the broadcasting media have designated as the "main" parties.

- Scottish Labour
- Scottish Nationalist
- Liberal Democrat
- Conservative

Then there are four other old-fashioned parties putting up candidates, parties which the media has decided aren't "main" parties.

- Scottish Green Party
- UKIP
- Scottish Socialist Party
- Socialist Party of Great Britain

Then there's a fellow from Edinburgh, who is standing as an

- "Independent".

That makes nine candidates, so far. Isn't that enough choice? Why is John Allman, presently still living in Yorkshire, standing yet again, as the Alliance For Change candidate, this time in Livingston? This is will be his third parliamentary candidacy, in less than five months!

The reason is simple. Our democracy is broken, and it needs to be mended, as a vital part of mending our entire society.

The "main" parties don't *want* to mend our broken democracy. (To his credit, just in time, the late Robin Cook managed to distance *himself* from *one* bad result of the broken state of our democracy, but he remained staunchly loyal to one of the "main" parties that don't want to mend our broken democracy.)

None of the other four parties that have selected candidates have much hope on their own of forming a government after the next general election. And we may be sure that there is unlikely any time soon to be a majority of MPs at Westminster who had just the word "independent" written on their ballot papers!

What is needed, if we want to mend our democracy is an *alliance* committed to making this vital change. At the general election, the three Alliance For Change candidates proved that it is possible in practice to comply with electoral law, and in principle to maximise party political broadcast entitlement, by using this new "alliance" approach. We rejected the main parties. But we decided not to start a single new, narrowly focussed, old-fashioned party either, to try to fight the "main" parties according to *their* rules.

All Alliance For Change candidates subscribe to a set of patriotic, compassionate, reforming, and human rights-centred Core Policies. They can belong to existing small parties which have agreed to join the alliance, or they can belong to no political party at all. The new approach empowers supporters of single-issue campaigns like, say, Make Poverty History. They can escape having to stand as "independent" candidates, without having to turn their single-issue campaigns into legally registered political parties.

At [www.AllianceForChange.co.uk](http://www.AllianceForChange.co.uk) there is an explanation of the new political method, a list of the **Core Policies**, plenty of past **press releases**, and **links** to single-issue websites of concern to former and the present candidates. There are also copies of every candidate's **election address leaflet** ever printed, including the newest, the Livingston by-election leaflet about John Allman's present candidacy. There are opportunities to link to **media files** of past TV and radio appearances.

Let's hope that the media gives fair coverage to this completely new approach to breaking the power of the main parties. The voters of Livingston ought then to prove perfectly intelligent enough to recognise where lies their best hope of getting a better government, after the next *general* election. Their best hope is to use their vote in this by-election to give a massive morale and publicity boost, not to the Alliance For Change *candidate*, but rather to the new Alliance For Change *approach*. This could help to make *real* change possible, after the next general election. It is, perhaps, the *only* way of mending our broken democracy.