



Statement by the Liberal Democrats Group on Wealden District Council

The Liberal Democrats Group on Wealden District Council are very concerned by, and do not agree with, the motion on Zionism passed by the Green Party at their recent conference. We believe that it risks fuelling the violence and intimidation faced by the Jewish community and that Jewish residents in our district may be feeling distressed and less safe as a result.

As Liberal Democrats, we are committed to addressing the unacceptable rise in antisemitism in our country and will speak out against any signs of antisemitism, Islamophobia and any other type of hatred in Wealden. We do not support policies or rhetoric that risk conflating members of our community with extreme political factions.

The Green party motion expressly undermines a two-state solution which has the best chance of bringing a lasting peace in Israel and Palestine. Liberal Democrats have led the way in Parliament towards a two-state solution by calling for the recognition of Palestine, full accountability for war crimes, ending arms sales and pushing for sanctions on the illegal settlers in the West Bank.

Our Green councillor colleagues in Wealden have said that they do not support the motion and that those of them present at the conference voted against it. They have said, and we are sure, that they are as committed as we are to ensuring our actions on the Council keep Wealden an inclusive, safe, and welcoming place for everyone.

The Wealden Liberal Democrats Group are focused on delivering for local residents on things which lie within the Council's remit. That is what the Alliance for Wealden was formed to do. Alliance members, comprising Liberal Democrats, Greens, Labour and one Independent, have unanimously agreed a strategy aimed at making Wealden a great place to live, work and visit – greener, fairer and kinder. We have jointly been delivering on that very successfully for the last three and a half years.

Working with people across our community, we will stay focused on delivering for businesses and residents by providing the services they need and investing in the district. We will not be diverted from this by getting involved in an argument which, though important, is not relevant to the Council's affairs.

23 October 2026