



May 2017 Edward McMillan-Scott to be West Worcestershire General Election candidate

West Worcestershire Liberal Democrats have nominated a local man with a background in international politics as their candidate for the General Election on Thursday 8th June. A former senior MEP, Edward McMillan-Scott said "It is a real honour to stand in a parliamentary election in Worcestershire, where my maternal family has lived and farmed since we moved from Yorkshire in the 18th century, first to Longdon, near Upton-on-Severn and then to Wick, near Pershore. I have lived in Wick since my marriage to Henrietta and we brought up our two daughters here."

After a successful career in tourism involving travel across Europe, Africa and the USSR, Mr McMillan-Scott was one of the first political lobbyists in London, setting up his own company, commuting daily to London. He was a founding member of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group and is now one of its Vice-Presidents.

Mr McMillan-Scott's introduction to politics was as deputy organiser for Worcestershire in the Yes to Europe campaign during the 1975 European Referendum. He is a highly experienced politician having been a member of the European Parliament for 30 years, initially as a Conservative and more recently as a Liberal Democrat. For the final ten years of his time as an MEP, Mr McMillan-Scott held the prestigious and highly responsible position as a Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Mr McMillan-Scott is a Patron of the European Movement set up by Winston Churchill in 1947 and in this capacity strongly supports Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrats leader's call for the British people to have a decisive say once the reality of the Brexit deal becomes clear. He says "The Conservatives are split on the issue and we must oppose them as Theresa May moves towards a hugely damaging Hard Brexit, with no opposition from Labour."

As a lifelong pro-European he found himself increasingly out of step with the Conservative party as it increasingly came under the sway of an extremist anti-EU faction. In the European Parliament, Conservative MEPs abandoned their links with the centrist EPP Group and allied with "a bunch of nutters, anti-Semites and climate-change deniers" (as Nick Clegg described it). Mr McMillan-Scott joined the Liberal Democrats at the Birmingham Spring Conference in March 2010 and realised that "like many in my family, it is my natural political home".

In the European Parliament Mr McMillan-Scott focussed on the promotion of democracy and human rights, as the continent came together in freedom and security. He founded the EU's Democracy & Human Rights Instrument which, with an annual budget of £150 million, is the largest such programme, now operating worldwide.

He is looking forward to a keenly fought campaign here in West Worcestershire.