

NorSCARF
PO BOX 1960
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 1WF

30th July 2019

Cllrs Abi Brown & Jackie Barnes
Civic Centre
Glebe Street
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 1HH

Dear Councillors,

We write to you in relation to the recent election of Cllr Melanie Baddeley as Deputy Lord Mayor for 2019/20, and subsequently Lord Mayor in 2020/21. As you are aware, Cllr Baddeley was elected on 23rd May by 22 city councillors to obtain this position, with 16 councillors voting against, and five abstaining, or being not present to cast a vote.

As you are also aware, Cllr Baddeley has a history of involvement with the British National Party (BNP), a viciously racist party that is famed for attracting right wing extremists, for promoting policies that are particularly exclusionary to minorities, and that attack fundamental democratic values which have been built up in this country over centuries.

Cllr Baddeley was a member of the BNP for at least three years, during which time she campaigned for the party in three elections; twice to be a local councillor, and once as a parliamentary candidate. You will no doubt have some knowledge of what the BNP was, and still is about, but here are some brief reminders;

- When Cllr Baddeley was in the party, its leader, Nick Griffin - whom she sat alongside at the top table during their manifesto launch in 2010 - was already a prominent far right extremist, having been convicted for inciting racial hatred on the grounds of holocaust denial. He had also spent time fraternising with the then leader of the Ku Klux Klan.
- In 2009, whilst Cllr Baddeley was a councillor for the party, the BNP's constitution stated that 'The British National Party stands for the preservation of the national and ethnic character of the British people and is wholly opposed to any form of racial integration... It is therefore committed to stemming and reversing the tide of non-white immigration and to restoring, by legal changes...the overwhelmingly white make-up of the British population.' Furthermore, just weeks before Cllr

Baddeley stood as a parliamentary candidate, a legal challenge from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission forced it to remove its ban on non-white members joining its ranks.

- In 1999 a former BNP member killed three people and injured 140 in a nail bomb attack in London, and in May this year, a former BNP youth wing leader was sentenced to life imprisonment for plotting to carry out terrorism, including the assassination of a MP. Recently imprisoned, 'Tommy Robinson', who is notorious for whipping up racism and who inspired the 2017 Finsbury Park mosque terrorist attack, was also in the BNP.
- In the BNP's 2010 manifesto, which Cllr Baddeley participated in launching, there are a number of starkly worrying commitments, including;
 - On art; ensuring 'that the distribution of National Lottery funds takes place in a fashion which encourages British culture, and not to so-called 'modern art' projects that insult, debase and discredit art.'
 - On hospitals; 'a return to traditional British staffing levels will help to alleviate the "superbug" problems which have accompanied the rise in non-British staffing levels.'
 - On prisons; 'Establish[ing] a penal station for hardened and repeat criminals on the British island of South Georgia.'
 - On Islam and 'Muslim immigration'; 'outlaw[ing] all overt signs of Islamic colonisation...(which are little more than symbols of territorial conquest). All of these measures will demonstrate to the world that the British nation is determined to resist the colonisation of its territory.' 'Today Europe faces a renewed Muslim invasion. This time the weapons are no longer the steel blade or cannon: they are the passport, the visa stamp, corrupt liberal Western regimes who have allowed mass Third World immigration, and the baby's crib. These things are the new weapons by which Islam now seeks to conquer Europe and the West, having failed in earlier centuries to conquer Europeans by force.' '...there should be absolutely no further immigration from any Muslim countries, as it presents one of the most deadly threats yet to the survival of our nation.' '...that Islamic immigration be halted and reversed as it presents one of the most deadly threats yet to the survival of our nation.'
 - On 'multiculturalism' and migration more generally; Recognising 'the right of legally settled and law-abiding minorities to remain in the UK and enjoy the full protection of the law, on the understanding that the indigenous population of Britain has the right to remain the majority population of our nation.' 'There is no escaping the fact that the admission into this country of large numbers of foreigners has, inter alia, created a poorer, more violent, uncertain, disorientated, confused, politically correct, ill-educated, dependent, fractured

society.' 'Britain's existence is in grave peril, threatened by immigration and multiculturalism. In the absence of urgent action, we, the indigenous British people, will be reduced to minority status in our own ancestral homeland within two generations.' 'The present regime and its collaborators are engaged in an undeclared cultural war against the British people and have employed Orwellian methods of intellectual terrorism to suppress opposition. We must therefore take the necessary measures to safeguard the existence of the native peoples of these islands and ensure they are the dominant ethnic, cultural and political group.'

- On freedom of expression and protected characteristics; 'A Clause 28-style proscription against the promotion of racial integration in schools and the media.' '...repeal[ing] the Race Relations Act and all other artificial restrictions on free speech or employment.'

With the above in mind, we find it alarming and wholly unacceptable that our local councillors deem it appropriate to elect an ex-BNP councillor and parliamentary candidate into the position of first citizen for Stoke-on-Trent. We are aware that Cllr Baddeley has released a statement about her history with this party, in which she claims that she was 'not fully aware of what the BNP stood for' and that she was 'naive and made a mistake'. We consider this to be an insult to the intelligence of local people, who are well aware that councillors, and particularly MP candidates, need to be well versed in the ideology and policy of their parties in order to stand and to run campaigns. We also find it deplorable for Cllr Baddeley to merely claim 'I regret that I have caused offence' and 'apologise for my naivety,' when people who were targeted by her party lived in constant fear and intimidation when it had a prominent presence within our city. We also reject any notion that the BNP's position may have been 'a product of the times', as we and local communities have consistently been campaigning against the party's disgusting views since its inception over 35 years ago. You will also notice from the enclosed leaflets which Cllr Baddeley delivered that the message of far right extremists then is identical to what it is now. This clearly shows that the BNP's and its associates' ideas are just as disgusting and divisive now as they ever were.

The BNP represents a danger to our communities and to our democratic values. It is utterly shameful that Cllr Baddeley has taken eight years to even publicly acknowledge her history in the party, let alone renounce it. And for part of this time she has been happy to sit alongside an open fascist in her Abbey Hulton ward, in the form of the For Britain Movement's Richard Broughan. Surely a reformed member of an extremist right wing party would have taken every opportunity to condemn far right sympathisers, and to commit themselves to help rid the city of extremism and hate-filled politics. Unfortunately Cllr Baddeley has done nothing of a sort.

It is for this reason that North Staffordshire Campaign Against Racism and Fascism has begun a petition to demand that Cllr Baddeley either withdraw from her position as future Lord Mayor, or for the council to intervene to remove her. Otherwise, we open the gates for any 'former' right wing extremists to occupy positions of high office, simply by apologising for causing offence. We maintain that it can never be right for the first citizen of our city to be a person who has so overtly sought to divide our communities and to remove many of our basic rights. Whilst we accept that Cllr Baddeley has been elected by her constituents to represent her ward as a councillor, we reject the premise that this gives her a free pass to represent the whole of our city.

Our petition was launched in early June and since then has obtained over 22,000 signatures. The petition can be found on the following link - <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/952/073/337/no-nazi-mayor-for-stoke/?fbclid=IwAR2x38uUjOwcGzRBVlxRI2AQDcRzuBdE8gBflhGwlibPonW8LdfxOsdK61g> We would encourage you to peruse the attached heartfelt comments left by many of its signatories.

The number of signatories and the comments left are testament to the strength of feeling that it is inherently unacceptable for an individual of such repute to be selected by city councillors to represent us as Lord Mayor. As such, we are confident that our above requests for her withdrawal are reasonable and indeed just, and we would consider it wise for you and your colleagues within the council chambers to come around to the wishes of our petitions signatories.

Rest assured, this letter will be made available for the general public to view, and we would expect a reply from you as a matter of urgency.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards,

NorSCARF Assistant Secretary