

## TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK

Dear voter

I am standing on the single issue of legalising cannabis because I believe its continued prohibition is a key symptom of the fear and paranoia that has gripped us in the west. I believe a financial crisis faces us within the next 15 years as the oil and other non-renewable energies that have fuelled incredible economic growth since the Industrial Revolution, finally run out.

To survive we need to change our way of thinking and reject the intolerant mindset engineered by successive governments and the sensation-seeking media, in favour of social co-operation, protecting the environment and true justice.

Voting for the Legalise Cannabis Alliance would send out a strong live-and-let-live message to those who seek to divide and rule. We have had enough of the false illusion that cannabis is a threat to our way of life.

Think about this – cannabis has not directly killed anyone .... EVER. Many of its alleged side effects are largely unproven and pall into insignificance when compared to those of legal intoxicants and even prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.

If they are so keen to protect us why not ban tobacco, which kills over 100,000 people every year in the UK alone, or alcohol which kills over 10,000 and causes immense social disruption in communities everywhere and continues to be marketed and advertised as harmless fun.

Millions of people from students to pensioners, of all creeds and from all walks of life, regularly enjoy a spliff in private and most cause no problems whatsoever. Yet too many of them are hassled, their homes searched and reputations spoiled.

But the cannabis issue goes far beyond being about a mild, non-addictive recreational activity. It directly concerns health, human rights, the environment, education, law and order, transport and food. Its status as an illegal narcotic established in 1928 has been a glaring injustice for too long.

Legalising dope does not send out “The wrong message” – waging war on defenceless Muslim states using the false pretext that they are a threat to us, does that all too well!

Legalisation offers a practical and workable solution to a failed policy of prohibition.

**Why is the LCA fighting this election?** While a couple of political parties favour easing prohibition, they are not properly addressing the legalisation issue. Your support would show that there are votes in such a policy.

**But hasn't the government downgraded pot from a class B to class C drug?**

True, a step in the right direction. But possessing larger amounts or cultivating the weed are still serious criminal offences. The time to act is NOW – many sick people need cannabis for its therapeutic benefits and the government has signalled its willingness to reverse the change in the light of apparent evidence about its effect on mental health.

**What good would legalisation do?** Cannabis could be taxed to the benefit of social services and its quality – sometimes dubious due to its control by criminal and even terrorist gangs – properly controlled.

Legality would end the waste of time and money spent by the police and the judiciary allowing them to pursue the real criminals. We would all then take in peace!

Additionally, cannabis has been said to be the world's most useful plant and was widely and even compulsorily grown during the last Elizabethan age.

Products include rope, animal bedding, cloth, paper and even fuel, from biomass. The seed is a good feed, full of protein, vitamins and essential minerals. It can be made into cooking oil, ice cream and cosmetics.

It is a weed, easily grown virtually anywhere needing no pesticides or artificial fertilisers.

The near demise of hemp and its supplanting by synthetic products that are manifestly dangerously to the environment has proved catastrophic.

**THE UK ECONOMY WOULD BENEFIT ENORMOUSLY FROM INCREASED CULTIVATION OF HEMP AND CANNABIS IN TERMS OF JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Sid Whitworth is a 47-year-old businessman who has lived and worked in Carmarthenshire for 16 years.

During his 25 years as a journalist he worked for weekly and daily newspapers in Hertfordshire, Hong Kong and South Wales and in 1984 won a commendation in the national EMAP awards for a series of campaigning articles published in the North Herts Gazette. Latterly he has called for cannabis legalisation in the Carmarthen Journal.

Sid has spent a total of two years backpacking around the world, listing Vietnam, Bolivia and Greece as his favourite destinations.

He first became angered at the idiocies of the British drug laws in his mid 20s after a close friend was jailed for six months about his second dope bust. His friend, a man he considers model human being, has for the last 15 years run a company in Bolivia helping poor farmers set up renewable energy systems.

Sid is a member of Dinewr Green Group and believes passionately that politics should be about protecting the environment and not in waging wars, building huge bureaucratic empires and kow-towing to multi-national corporate power.

He has also campaigned on the streets of Carmarthen for UK's withdrawal from the EU.

A divorced father of one from Penygroes, Sid is a Buddhist/pagan who enjoys walking, cycling and flute playing. He is a vegetarian, teetotal non-smoker (tobacco that is).

He does voluntary work once a week at the DGG's fundraising shop in Llandeilo and recently spent four months working at a Golden Grove organic farm in return for board.

He is currently setting up a media recycling business.

I am not seeking to encourage the illegal use of cannabis.

Produced and published by and on behalf of Sid Whitworth,  
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VOTE

**SID  
WHITWORTH**



Your

**LEGALISE CANNABIS  
ALLIANCE  
CANDIDATE**

FOR

**CARMARTHEN EAST  
AND DINEFWR**

ON

**MAY 5**