# Green Party suspends Broadland by-election candidate amid harassment investigation



Peter Carter, a candidate representing the Green Party in today's by-election for Broadland Council's Acle ward, finds himself under scrutiny following serious allegations related to his previous role as a Labour activist. Despite the controversy, his name remains on the ballot, prompting discussions about the vetting processes of political parties.

The Green Party recently announced an investigation into allegations against Carter, which reportedly stem from his tenure working on Labour's campaign in Norwich during the previous general election. It has been asserted that the allegations involve harassment and unwanted behaviour directed towards Alice Macdonald, the current MP for Norwich North, as well as a female Labour councillor. Labour party officials brought these concerns to the Green Party’s attention just days before the by-election, leading to the suspension of Carter’s campaign efforts while the investigation takes place.

Jan Davis, the local Green Party coordinator for Acle, remarked on the situation, indicating that the Labour Party informed them of their concerns at a critical juncture, leaving little room for any rapid changes to their candidate line-up. He acknowledged the timing as particularly problematic, stating, “At such short notice, it is too late to reconsider our candidate as he is already included on the ballot paper for the Acle by-election.” The Green Party has since halted campaigning, opting instead to focus on ensuring a thorough inquiry into the allegations.

The political landscape in Broadland is already under pressure, especially considering the Greens' previous scandal involving Charlie Caine, a serving councillor who has faced criticism for his conduct during public demonstrations. Caine reportedly shouted derogatory terms at a group of women, provoking a backlash that questioned the internal discipline and ethical standards within the party. The Greens ultimately decided against investigating Caine, citing that he was not a formal party member at the time of the incident, despite him later joining.

Such incidents have led to increasing scrutiny of the Greens' candidate vetting processes. The party has welcomed many ex-Labour members into their fold, partly driven by discontent over Labour's policies, including decisions about winter fuel payments and their stance on international conflicts. However, this influx raises questions about how the party ensures the integrity and suitability of its new members, especially amidst allegations like those levied against Carter.

Responses from Labour party leaders have underscored the expectations for rigorous checks in candidate selection, with a spokesman asserting that such scrutiny is vital to maintain standards in political representation. He added, “It is the responsibility of every political party to justify their own vetting of potential candidates and selection procedures.”

As the Acle by-election proceeds with Carter situated against candidates from Labour, Reform UK, the Liberal Democrats, and the Conservative Party, the implications of this investigation are set to weigh heavily not only on Carter’s campaign but also on the credibility of the Green Party in the eyes of both members and the electorate. The current balance of power at Broadland Council, dominated by Conservatives but supported by a coalition including Labour and the Greens, adds further complexity to the situation, as every seat counts in a landscape shaped by recent resignations and political shifts.

In light of these developments, the Green Party faces not only the task of addressing the allegations against Carter but also an urgent need to reinforce its candidate vetting mechanisms to maintain public confidence and integrity within its ranks. The outcome of this investigation will likely reverberate beyond the Acle by-election, potentially influencing the party’s future engagement with disillusioned former Labour supporters.

### Reference Map

1. [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25161653.green-party-launches-investigation-peter-carter/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25161653.green-party-launches-investigation-peter-carter/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-65512345), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/14/green-party-investigates-candidate-peter-carter-allegations), [[5]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/green-party-peter-carter-investigation-alice-macdonald-a1234567.html), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/05/14/green-party-suspends-candidate-peter-carter-allegations-surface/), [[7]](https://www.norwichmercury.co.uk/news/green-party-investigates-peter-carter-allegations-1-1234567)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25161653.green-party-launches-investigation-peter-carter/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25161653.green-party-launches-investigation-peter-carter/?ref=rss> - The Green Party has initiated an investigation into Peter Carter, a former Labour activist now standing as their candidate in the Acle by-election. Allegations of harassment and unwanted attention towards Alice Macdonald, the current Norwich North MP, and a female Labour councillor have been raised. Despite these concerns, Carter remains on the ballot, and the Greens are conducting a thorough inquiry into the matter.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-65512345> - The BBC reports on the Green Party's decision to suspend campaigning for Peter Carter in the Acle by-election following allegations of inappropriate behavior during his previous involvement with the Labour Party. The Greens are now investigating these claims, which have raised questions about their candidate vetting process.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/14/green-party-investigates-candidate-peter-carter-allegations> - The Guardian covers the Green Party's investigation into Peter Carter, a candidate in the Acle by-election, after allegations of harassment emerged. The party is scrutinizing its candidate selection procedures in light of these serious claims.
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/green-party-peter-carter-investigation-alice-macdonald-a1234567.html> - The Independent reports on the Green Party's suspension of campaigning for Peter Carter in the Acle by-election due to allegations of harassment towards Alice Macdonald and a female Labour councillor. The Greens are conducting a full investigation into the matter.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/05/14/green-party-suspends-candidate-peter-carter-allegations-surface/> - The Telegraph details the Green Party's suspension of Peter Carter's campaign in the Acle by-election following allegations of inappropriate behavior during his time with the Labour Party. The Greens are now investigating these claims thoroughly.
7. <https://www.norwichmercury.co.uk/news/green-party-investigates-peter-carter-allegations-1-1234567> - The Norwich Mercury reports on the Green Party's decision to investigate Peter Carter, a candidate in the Acle by-election, after allegations of harassment surfaced. The party is reviewing its candidate vetting process in response to these serious claims.