# Edge Hill logo and crest

# Edge Hill University Politics Lab Student Podcast: runners and riders in the West Lancashire by-election

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00:00:00,060 --> 00:00:03,510

I'm Declan. I'm a first year. I tell myself a history of politics.

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00:00:04,530 --> 00:00:07,750

I am James. I study history and politics. I am first.

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00:00:08,730 --> 00:00:17,670

I'm Josephine. I said history of politics. And then my first year at I am to me on the study of law and politics of the first year.

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00:00:19,050 --> 00:00:19,350

Okay.

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00:00:19,350 --> 00:00:27,240

So what we're going to be looking at in this podcast, looking ahead to the West, Lancashire by election, is the prospects for some of the challenges.

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00:00:27,510 --> 00:00:30,890

So we know that this is currently a Labour seat.

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00:00:30,900 --> 00:00:35,910

The departing MP Rosie Cooper. Labour and Labour have selected a candidate.

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00:00:36,180 --> 00:00:41,820

But there's other parties out there who want to knock Labour out of the seat and challenge.

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00:00:42,660 --> 00:00:49,290

So the politics lab students have been researching some of the old parties and thinking about their prospects.

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00:00:49,620 --> 00:00:56,920

So perhaps we could start by hearing a bit about the current second place party, and that's the Conservatives.

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So what do we think the Conservatives will be doing?

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Well, it's been a challenging time for the conservatives, to say the least.

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00:01:05,040 --> 00:01:10,679

You know, following the resignation of Boris Johnson in July and Liz Truss is premiership from September to October,

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00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:13,080

which on my island is about the average lifespan of a lettuce.

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00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:21,120

And you know, it says this this by election is going to be part of a series of tests for the Tories, especially for Rishi Sunak as well.

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00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:27,000

You know, there's two of the by elections coming up in the city of Chester and Stretford and Urmston.

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00:01:28,170 --> 00:01:33,989

But it's sort of like a real challenge to see where loyalties lie with previous voters,

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00:01:33,990 --> 00:01:39,850

maybe potentially voters that are coming across to the conservatives for the first time and how they've reacted really to it.

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00:01:39,900 --> 00:01:46,380

To Rishi Sunak's leadership since taking over and the budget as well that was that was announced recently.

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00:01:47,250 --> 00:01:56,430

So let's hear a bit about the Lib Dems. So I believe that it would Dems in this by election coming up could provide a suitable alternative.

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00:01:57,390 --> 00:02:02,190

I believe that if the Lib Dems were compared quite smartly,

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00:02:02,190 --> 00:02:09,930

they could pull a few voters from both the Conservative Party, which is very fractured right now and very split.

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00:02:10,230 --> 00:02:12,840

And also they could pull maybe a few voters from the Labour.

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00:02:13,380 --> 00:02:21,510

They could they could see a potentially a maybe maybe not a winning a chance, but a strong second place.

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Recent wins in Tiverton and Huntington, which were very strong conservative seats,

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00:02:27,540 --> 00:02:38,310

proves that the Lib Dems could be back on the surge from just the party taken over by the SNP to the stable third party after the 2019 crash.

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00:02:39,210 --> 00:02:42,400

Okay, so we've heard about the Conservatives, you've heard about the Lib Dems.

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What do we think about the Green Party and their prospects on a local level?

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Labour got 92/% in this election and the Green Party only got 6%.

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00:02:54,150 --> 00:03:04,140

So the Green Party don't look like they're going to do super well unless they're able to target younger voters, have a social media campaign,

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00:03:04,560 --> 00:03:12,450

get more councillors on local in local areas, because at the moment Lib Dems are doing better than Green,

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00:03:12,780 --> 00:03:16,560

which is the two alternative parties to Conservative Labour.

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And also to add to the number of councillors over the years the Green Party has increased by quite a substantial amount.

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00:03:24,510 --> 00:03:33,390

So I think at the moment they've got 400 councillors and I think locally for the West Lancs area they are in for a chance.

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00:03:33,720 --> 00:03:40,680

I think in the running, if I think if they do rely much on their young voters to be able to realise that oh

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00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:45,010

they are doing this not just for the country but the state of the world in general,

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00:03:45,180 --> 00:03:50,550

like doing better for the environment. So yeah, we could maybe see some good things from the Green Party.

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00:03:50,730 --> 00:03:54,090

Okay, so let's say you were running these campaigns.

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00:03:54,600 --> 00:04:02,460

I'm going to ask you for one message that you would give to each party about the way they run their campaign.

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So let's start in reverse or the Green Party. What would you say to the Green Party?

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00:04:06,300 --> 00:04:13,170

What should they do? Well, science says at the moment we need a zero carbon economy before 2050.

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00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:20,970

So the Green Party is not only just about local reform, but also national reform and global reform,

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00:04:21,810 --> 00:04:31,530

because there might not be a country to be elected to by 2050, especially if there's a 45 degree rise, which would mean a don't look up scenario.

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00:04:32,220 --> 00:04:35,340

So your message to the Greens is to really hammer that message home?

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00:04:35,370 --> 00:04:39,269

Yes. Also, in addition to that, with the state of the economy at the minute,

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00:04:39,270 --> 00:04:47,219

I think they could really add their views on how they see the economy in the share of wealth and how the minimum wage is put out,

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00:04:47,220 --> 00:04:52,799

because a quite large majority of people in the country are struggling in the economic matters.

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00:04:52,800 --> 00:04:59,720

So if they do lean on, stop by a small sum about something that is a priority to people as life.

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00:04:59,950 --> 00:05:05,679

It's going on right now. So if they leaned into that a bit more, I think they're bound to realise the people are swayed a bit more in that

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00:05:05,680 --> 00:05:10,950

direction because it is very useful for the state of the country at the minute.

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So yeah, they just need to really lean into on the economic side of things.

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00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:19,060

Okay, so that's what the Greens should do. What should the Lib Dems be doing?

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00:05:19,090 --> 00:05:28,300

What do you have one message to the Lib Dems? I think the strong message the Dems should support is now is the time to be the party of the centre,

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00:05:29,230 --> 00:05:34,680

because they could they could refer to the past administrations and see how pushing

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00:05:34,690 --> 00:05:39,190

further and further towards the base is have just wrecked the economy and made it

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00:05:39,190 --> 00:05:45,070

a national laughing stock and playing as the centre party that's not too far could

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00:05:45,400 --> 00:05:51,490

provide a rational stronghold that may for now be good on stabilising the country,

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00:05:51,490 --> 00:05:53,709

not not introducing radical reform,

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00:05:53,710 --> 00:06:02,230

just stabilising the country back into a position where people can afford to keep their own houses and take the train without breaking back.

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00:06:03,010 --> 00:06:11,530

Okay. So conservatives have got big challenge because although they're in second place, they've had a lot of bad poll ratings.

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00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:15,370

So what is your message to the conservatives? Unity.

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00:06:15,790 --> 00:06:22,269

I think that sums it up. Like I said earlier, it's been a very, very difficult time for the Tories slightly in this regard, regards the polling.

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00:06:22,270 --> 00:06:29,260

You know, the Conservative Party have only got a 26% approval rating, whereas Rishi Sunak has an approval rating of 47%.

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00:06:29,710 --> 00:06:34,840

If the Tories can get behind this leader that they have a potential for winning,

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00:06:34,930 --> 00:06:39,490

not just this by election of the series of byelections but the 2024 general election.

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00:06:39,880 --> 00:06:43,330

It's not like it's gonna be a challenge, but it's not going to be easy for them either.

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00:06:43,660 --> 00:06:52,299

For them to unify behind Rishi Sunak and for them to get behind his policies and his and his budget and to understand what they are campaigning for,

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00:06:52,300 --> 00:06:59,500

which is to say, you know, now to fix the economy, that they put themselves into this situation where they need to fix the economy and inefficiency,

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00:06:59,500 --> 00:07:02,550

squabbling like schoolchildren, which essentially is what they're doing.

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00:07:02,680 --> 00:07:09,129

It's not going to leave them in the best position. So like I said, unity is the one thing that needs to be focused on.

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00:07:09,130 --> 00:07:14,500

Unity for the Conservatives. The Lib Dems need to stress more the centrality of their message, and the Green Party need to say a lot more about climate change and the risks the world faces.

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00:07:21,850 --> 00:07:27,129

So that is the latest in our series of podcasts on the West Lancashire by-election we will be looking at the prospects for the Labour Party in a future recording.