

# Binmen kick up a stink in support of suspended Batley teacher

*From the [Orwell Society](#) and freedom of expression is very important. I don't feel guilty in any way for taking a stand on this issue."*

Mr Bamford claimed that an NEU official attempted to pressurise him into withdrawing the motion on the basis that it was "unhelpful" to draw further attention to the issue. He said he was phoned by the official who asked him to "reconsider" the motion since it "risks inflaming what is an extremely sensitive and very complex situation" for members. Mr Bamford was told that the NEU has an obligation to the "wider community in Batley" and that any further attention on the matter would "set back quite sensitive negotiations".

But he said he has no intention of abandoning the motion, adding that the school curriculum should not be "dictated by an indignant mob . . . We are outraged that the teachers involved are being challenged for trying to broaden their students' horizons and encourage their critical thought. We don't believe that the determination of the use of teaching resources in a school should be influenced by people taking offence, and using intimidation and threats."

An NEU spokesperson said: "It is a sensitive issue and the NEU did ask for the motion to be withdrawn. With every viewpoint that is expressed our members face yet more public exposure." They added that "speculation is unhelpful, not least for our members who the NEU are fully supporting throughout this investigation and will be doing so beyond the investigation".

*The forthcoming Batley and Spen by-election (no date set, but*

probably early July) is going to be interesting. The Conservatives have already chosen a serving councillor from Leeds, not too far away (the nearest big city if you don't know Yorkshire). Labour may only intend to present their local members (all other potential candidates so far have declared they have no interest in standing, which I don't believe) with a shortlist of one person. She is Kim Leadbeater, who only joined the Labour party last week (there used to be regulations about how long membership was required before standing for an election, any election) but she is the sister of Jo Cox, the Remain campaigning MP for Batley and Spen who was murdered the day before the Brexit vote. Batley voted strongly in favour of leave. While they grieved her death, a wicked crime, up to that point she had