

Introduction

Keeping York Special

York is a unique city. That is one of the main reasons why many people chose to live here, and why we don't want to leave.

It has wonderful landscapes and buildings, excellent schools and two universities, all clustered around one of the major rivers in North Yorkshire. We need to take care of what we have inherited in order to move into a sustainable future.

In particular, we need to agree our needs in line with what a small, medieval walled city can provide without changing its character.

York is special: we must keep it that way!

When you vote for your councillor this May ask yourself:

- Will they maintain the city as a special place to live and work?
- What does their party say on issues like traffic, employment generation, housing, sustainable growth and green belt policies?
- Who is trying hardest for the city's future?

A special city demands special care when you decide who should run it.

At this election “Keep York Special”

Welcome to York Green Party's manifesto for the 2007 local elections.

Four years ago, we made a breakthrough onto the city council, jumping from fourth to first place in Fishergate ward. Since that time, our councillors have worked very hard, both in their local ward and across the city. They have fought against over-development, privatisation and the loss of services. With very limited resources, we believe that we have 'punched above our weight' to promote positive green policies.

Working with local people

The Green Party believes we can only **Keep York Special** by working closely with local people, effectively involving them in decision-making, sharing information in a clear way and being honest, transparent and accountable.

Less can be better

'Development' doesn't have to mean more buildings. It can mean improving our local environment, providing proper youth services and supporting and developing cultural and leisure activities. Reducing our impact on climate change doesn't have to mean lowering our quality of life. Using less energy actually means lower energy bills. Using cars less means cleaner, safer and healthier surroundings for all of us.

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Managing the Council

We believe the Council has a responsibility to manage resources as effectively as possible, and to implement policies across council departments and partnership organisations, which actually 'join-up' with each other and make sense.

Climate change

Climate change is not the only green issue, but it is the most pressing issue facing the future of the planet (and every small part of it) today.

There is now an overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is happening, that it is being caused by human activities and that its consequences will be catastrophic if it is not checked.

Many of the policies set out in this manifesto for the 2007 local elections are designed to help tackle climate change at the local level in York using the powers available to local government. It will be necessary for people in every locality to play their part in this way.

Safe, healthy local communities

The principles underlying these actions have underpinned Green Party policies for many years. As well as helping to tackle climate change, we believe our policies contribute to protecting and creating a more pleasant local environment; encouraging greater equity within the city and a good quality of life, and promoting lively, safe, healthy and self-reliant local communities.

Keeping York Special

In York, whilst there are still inequalities within the city, most of us benefit from living in a small historic city with very special buildings, an attractive and lively city centre, green strays and ings and open countryside within easy reach.

The Green Party is committed to **Keeping York Special**, whilst encouraging the development of a lively and inclusive 21st century city, and ensuring we make our own local contribution to reducing global warming.

Make a difference on May 3rd

This May 2007 we hope to increase our number of councillors and therefore our influence in Council decision-making.

This May you can make a real difference by voting Green.

Please see '*How you can help*' to see how you can help us elect more Green councillors.

The Green Party – don't vote for one that isn't.