

Security & global issues



York citizens march on High Ousegate

What we stand for

- Thinking globally, acting locally.
- We believe that, as the level of government nearest to citizens, local government has a responsibility to be informed on global issues, to reflect local opinion to other levels of government and other agencies, and to take action locally when appropriate.
- We are opposed to the use of war as a means of resolving international crises, and believe that armed force should be used only as an absolutely last resort.
- We campaigned vigorously against the war on Iraq and believe that all British troops should be brought home. The presence of foreign troops in Iraq is only making a terrible situation worse.
- 2007 marks the 40-year anniversary of the Six Day War, in which the Israeli Army took military control of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We believe that until the illegal occupation of these areas end there will be little hope of peace in the Middle East.
- We believe that real security can only be built by working with others to promote justice, equality and mutual respect, as well as greater economic self-reliance.
- We support a reformed United Nations able to deal effectively with conflicts around the world in places such as Sudan, Zimbabwe and Burma.
- We are completely opposed to the replacement of Britain's Trident submarines with a new generation of nuclear weapons at a cost of up to £76 billion and equally opposed to the Labour Government's plans for new nuclear power stations.
- Both these pillars of the nuclear state will make the world a more dangerous place, whilst wasting money that could be spent on health, social services, providing the UK with genuine energy security and tackling global warming.

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- Greens are completely opposed to the development of the so-called “missile defence” system by the United States and the use of Fylingdales and Menwith Hill in Yorkshire as key elements in this. We have campaigned consistently against these proposals.
- We are an internationalist party, working closely with other Green Parties around the world.
- We believe in cultural diversity and the promotion of cultural and social exchange between countries and regions of the world.
- We believe in working closely with other countries to tackle global issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, migration and unfair and unsustainable trade.
- Since we also believe in promoting security through strong local economies, and in retaining democratic control of our economy, we are against the UK adopting the Euro, but support working constructively within the European Union.
- For the same reasons we are opposed to the unfettered free market in goods and services which is being promoted by trans-national corporations through bodies such as the World Trade Organisation.

What we will do

- Support and develop the twinning and international links which already exist in York.
- Encourage local schools to develop cultural links and exchanges, and to study peace education.
- Become involved in the network of European local authorities called Cities for Peace, which works on building a culture of peace from the street corner to the international level.
- Renew York’s membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities – a network of over 70 UK councils working together to reduce the risks to their citizens from nuclear weapons and nuclear power.
- Monitor the dangerous transportation of Trident nuclear warheads along the A1 near to York and lobby the government to provide full and proper notice to the local authority and emergency services of these journeys, and preferably to stop them.
- Continue to oppose the use of the Yorkshire bases at Fylingdales and Menwith Hill as part of US plans for global military dominance through weapons in space (Star Wars).
- Following a Green motion, the Council is now a member of the Menwith Hill Forum, a network of local councils, organisations and individuals concerned about the impact of the Menwith Hill base. We will continue to be active in this forum.
- Support the development of York as a Fair Trade City. We will work to expand the number of outlets using Fair Trade goods. We will promote the concept at the highest levels with the Council’s partnership organisations and ensure all council departments purchase fair trade products whenever possible.

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- Oppose the global drive towards the privatisation of public services through international trade agreements driven by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and individual governments. This is of direct relevance to local government with the potential to undermine our public services and overrule our own government's regulations.

Green councillors have:

- Supported the development of York as a Fair Trade City, including participation in the Fair Trade City Steering Group.
- Brought a successful motion to the City of York Council to make York a member of the Menwith Hill Forum.
- Opposed the privatisation of Council services.
- Promoted the Sustainable Communities Bill, which will give local councils and communities greater powers to resist the negative aspects of globalisation.