

Register NOW so that you can vote Green in May's elections.

Fishergate's two Green councillors have made a real difference in the ward and on the council since 2003. More Greens elected in May could mean we hold the balance of power if there is a 'hung' council. Make *your* voice heard.

Time is short to make sure you're on the electoral register. You can phone the council on 551050 for a form. Students can register at both home and term time addresses, and EU nationals can also vote in local elections.

If you think you might be away in May, then remember to phone 551050 to ask for a postal or proxy vote form.



Help York Green Party to win in May

Write to us and let us know if you have any issues, local or national, which you would like us to take up. Please post us this form or email or telephone if you prefer.

.....
.....
Name

Please send me some information about York Green Party

I would like to become a member of the Green Party

I can distribute Green Party leaflets in my area

I could display a Green Party poster during the election

I'll contribute £5 £10 £20 £..... to help.

Cheques are payable to 'York Green Party'. Thank you.

Please return your form to: York Green Party, Basement, 22a Fishergate, York, YO10 4AB or email: yorkoffice@greenparty.co.uk

Cllr Mark Hill / Office : 636239 Cllr Andy D'Agorne : 633526

New website launched : www.york.greenparty.org.uk



Fishergate South – February 2007

Heavy metal row in Danesgate

Fulford Cross allotment holders are now promised some compensation after the advice not to eat their crops last summer when toxic metals were found during tests for the nearby Skills Centre which is now under construction.

Green councillor Andy D'Agorne pressed for a decision to resolve the matter. He supported the allotments secretary in a successful request that resulted in existing tenants not being charged rent this year. This is, at least, necessary compensation for people losing their crops in 2006.

Andy says, "We will continue to press the Health Protection Agency and the Land Contamination Officer to let us know that the land is safe and the future use of the allotments for growing crops is secured as soon as possible."



Fishergate Green Candidate, Dave Taylor, and Cllr Andy D'Agorne survey allotment losses.

Read more on Andy's blog : www.andydagorne.me.uk

York Green Party 22a Fishergate York YO10 4AB Tel. 636239

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Consultation for some, but not for Fishergate residents

The council made £4 million from selling the Barbican site for flats and hotels. It recently ran a consultation into how it might spend this money, but replacing the public sports and leisure facilities on the site was not on the menu.

Survey options were either to refurbish Edmund Wilson Pool or build a new pool alongside the new sports centre at Oaklands - both of them in the Lib Dem Leader Steve Galloway's own ward. Worse still, the council surveys were only posted to homes in that part of the city.

Fishergate Green candidate, Dave Taylor, says, "I expect many people, especially those living near the Barbican, are used to the council's cavalier attitude toward consultation. They've been missed out of consultations before and the council said it was an accident, but this is altogether more blatant. First the council closed York's biggest leisure facility, then reneged on the promise to retain one small pool. Now it seems to have given up the pretence that people in the city centre should have a say in sports & leisure provision."

Barbican Centre: from public pool to private gambling den?

York Council has left the door open for casinos to be introduced to York despite fears that the Barbican may be converted for gambling use. Labour and Lib Dem councillors would not put their money where their mouth is and Andy D'Agorne, for the Greens, cast the only vote for a "no casino" clause.

Together we can beat climate change

The Stern Report starkly signalled the massive cost of Britain and other countries failing to cut greenhouse gases radically in the next few years. Yet Gordon Brown's budget does nothing to seriously tackle the problem. Actions by individuals and councils are important - between us we could save the equivalent of the output of a medium-sized power station. Even simple things like switching off everything electrical that's not in use: Computers and TVs that are on standby, lights we don't really need, etc...



However with gales and flooding uppermost in our minds, we think Government and councils should be taking more of a lead.

Cllr Andy D'Agorne says, "In the discussion of York's contract for street lighting, officers and councillors were reluctant to specify renewable electricity sources. We can't ignore the need to reduce greenhouse gases, and it's time for the council to show real leadership in relation to climate change."

Green Euro-MP comes to York to blast Blair's nuclear policy

Remember when Labour announced an '*ethical foreign policy*'? Well, let's tell that to the people who have been bombed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now Tony Blair has said that Britain will buy new nuclear weapons systems costing at least £25 billion. Blair's likely successor, Gordon Brown, has said he will back the replacement of the Trident nuclear missile system.

Cllr D'Agorne says, "Money would be far better spent on everyday equipment for our armed forces, and tackling the threat posed by climate change." Far from 'protecting us', extending the life of nuclear weapons breaches the non-proliferation treaties we have signed and actively encourages Iran or North Korea to continue their bid to develop them as well. See www.cnduk.org

A fierce critic of Trident, Green Euro-MP Dr Caroline Lucas, speaks at the University in room ATB057 in Alcuin College at 3:15pm on February 8th.

Back on the home front : Fishergate recycling latest

Greens welcome the extension of cardboard recycling collections in parts of the Fishergate area from early 2007. We've been pressing for this for some time, but the Lib Dem council chose the *west of the city* for the first phase...

Lib Dem claims that the Greens 'opposed greater recycling' are nonsense - we simply said that cardboard and plastics collection should be available before going over to fortnightly collections! We want to see communal collections for flats to make recycling easier for residents and we want York to have attractive recycling bins in the city centre so tourists can do their bit too.

Greens have opposed council plans to pay into a £1.5 billion incinerator programme. We call for waste reduction as a more cost effective and greener long term strategy. For more details see www.noburner.org.uk

Real Rotters save us all money

York Rotters was started by a keen Green who discovered that many people wanted info on how to recycle kitchen and garden waste on a compost heap.

Rotters have regular training, social events and attend national conferences. Home composting is a great 'waste reduction' technology and won funding from DEFRA. This paid for a co-ordinator who has been the key to York Rotters' success. Another year's funding from the Council would mean home composting diverting waste from landfill saving you and the Council money.

Do *you* want to start composting? York Rotters can visit or advise by phone. Compost bin + delivery offers from just £8. www.recyclenow.com/compost

Call Keely Mellor at York Rotters - 412861 / email rotters@stnicksfields.org.uk