

Guildhall

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Autumn 2015

Guildhall Ward Committee Meeting

Thursday October 29th 2015

6.30pm informal surgery, 7.00 –
9.00pm formal meeting, York Explore,
Library Square, YO1 7DS

Comprised of ward councillors working in conjunction with residents, Ward Committees now have larger budgets to spend, although the new system also requires us to make some 'savings'. The meeting will include:

- an explanation of the new budgets;
- a chance to discuss how they will work in future;
- discussion of ward priorities;
- an opportunity to make specific spending suggestions;
- appointment of residents to the Guildhall Ward Planning Panel (to comment on planning applications from a local perspective – please get in touch if you would like to put yourself forward);
- open forum and future meetings/events.

This meeting will be chaired by Cllr Denise Craghill (Green Party). Ward committee meetings are open to all Guildhall ward residents. Contact us (overleaf) if you have any queries.



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Welcome to new students living in Guildhall Ward

At this time of year we welcome large numbers of students either returning or coming to York for the first time.

We know some residents associations in the ward greet new students in their street with a cup of tea and a bit of advice on when and how to put the rubbish out, where the shops are etc. This seems like a great approach – everyone could do with a bit of help in a new place.

Pressures on rented accommodation can mean large numbers of students living in areas alongside families with young children, shift-workers and elderly residents. For students, saying hello to neighbours, keeping the noise down and keeping front gardens tidy can go a long way towards good relations.

There are also lots of opportunities to volunteer and get involved in local communities, see <http://bit.ly/1LAGuyI> (University of York) and <http://bit.ly/1jiJ2v2> (York St. John University).

Guildhall and York in brief



City Centre Matters

Cllr Craghill has been working with officers to put a stop to the continued use of King's Square as a car park rather the traffic free public space it was intended to be. Benches and possibly planters are to be moved further out into the road to deter parking, as a first step. Officers are looking into how non-essential traffic and parking can be more effectively excluded from the whole area (possibly in conjunction with bringing Fossgate into the footstreets).

Green Party councillors have questioned the future of decision-making on the city centre, since its management has been handed over to 'Make It York', alongside the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) – both organisations outside of direct Council control. We believe the city centre is a public space to be shared and enjoyed by everyone including residents, visitors and businesses.

Greens support reduction in council tax bills for worst off

Green councillors supported a Labour motion to ensure that the Council reviews the amount of Council Tax it requires our least well-off residents to pay. Cllr. Denise Craghill said that, as shown by research by Advice York, the current 30% requirement has caused very real harm, increasing rent arrears and forcing more people to use food banks. York is one of only 9 councils in the country to require this level of contribution, which Green councillors tried, without support, to keep down to 8.5% when it was approved in December 2012.



Time to get out of fossil fuels!

Green councillors worked with the Lib Dems to get a motion through Council on tackling climate change and promoting renewable energy in York. A Green Party amendment requiring the Council to start a process of disinvesting from climate change causing fossil fuels was also passed. The Greens are supporting the York Climate Coalition and calling for an effective agreement at the Paris Climate Talks. See <http://bit.ly/1NzndnI> to book coach tickets to the 'People's March for the Climate' in London on 29th November.

Guildhall Ward Surgeries

Denise will be holding joint surgeries with the Labour Guildhall councillors on a monthly basis around the ward. The next dates are:

Sat. 21st Nov., 10.00am – 12.00 noon, venue

Sat. 19th Dec., 10.00am – 12.00 noon, venue

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