



## Floods aftermath

Green Party Guildhall ward councillor, Denise Craghill says: "For many people in the ward the Boxing Day floods are still very much a live issue. Many will not be back in their homes until June or even later. Many are concerned to make sure their homes are flood resilient in future. Small businesses in the ward have made valiant efforts to re-open as quickly as possible and it is inspiring to see those who are now up and running."

### Floods Inquiry

Everyone wants to know exactly what happened and what is being done to stop it happening again. The Floods Inquiry being coordinated by the Council is finally about to appoint an independent chair and panel and will hopefully get underway soon. I will be working for the maximum resident involvement and careful consideration of the technical issues.

### Flood Defences and Upstream Investment

I am also calling for more Government investment in 'upstream' flood prevention in the Foss and Ouse catchment area. The £10 – 13 million to be spent on the Foss Barrier work is very welcome. So is the £45 million to be spent on further flood defences in the city - I am asking for more details on where this will be spent and when local residents will be consulted. We urgently also need upstream projects to go forward to 'slow the flow' of the rivers and water-courses that lead to York's flooding."



Cllr Denise Craghill with Navigation Road resident, Marje Stephenson. Edible York are working with residents to plant fruit trees and a vegetable bed. Plans are underway to launch a new residents' association in the Walmgate/Navigation area. Please do get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

### Where to get help with flood-related problems

- Updated floods information, including financial assistance available and flood resilience grants, is on the Council's website at [www.york.gov.uk/floods](http://www.york.gov.uk/floods). If flooded, you should have received an update newsletter from the Council during March.
- You can also get funding and personal support and advice via the Two Ridings Community Fund, [www.trcf.org.uk](http://www.trcf.org.uk) or tel. **01904 435277**. You are encouraged to apply to the Floods Fund, which now stands at £1.5million. They can also help you to apply for resilience funding and offer help with problems with benefits, debt, issues with insurance companies and tradespeople and emotional support. See also [www.yorkcab.org.uk](http://www.yorkcab.org.uk)
- Contact York's amazing volunteers: Facebook 'York Floods 2015 Help for the affected'



## Green Party

### for the common good

# Guildhall and York in brief



## The Groves Chapel

Despite considerable local opposition, planning permission has been granted for a Sainsbury's supermarket in the chapel and 13 new flats at the back. Cllr Craghill argued for further limitations to parking in Union Terrace to protect residents' parking and limit traffic in the street .....

## Grove House Older People's Home

The last residents left Grove House in February and the Council are now putting the site on the market, aiming to raise as much as possible to help build new, more modern accommodation for older people in the city. Cllr Craghill has asked that the Council ensure that any new use takes into account the impact on Groves residents.

## 'No' to TTIP

A Green Party motion to Full Council on 24th March, calling for a review of the impact of the 'TTIP' trade agreement on local government decision-making, was referred to a scrutiny committee by the Lib Dems.

## 'Yes' to Europe

The Green Party will be supporting the 'remain' campaign for the European referendum in June. Whilst Greens believe the EU is far from perfect, we also believe it offers us a great deal in terms of workers' rights, consumer and environmental protection and human rights. It's better for Britain to stay in and be part of making things better, see:

[www.greenparty.org.uk/europe](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/europe)



## Green Budget proposals would have saved vital services

The recent Green Party amendment to the council budget offered residents an opportunity to invest in York's public services. The 6% increase in Council Tax would have meant a mandatory local referendum which, if approved, would have raised an additional £2.18m.

**Guildhall councillor, Denise Craghill**, who helped to draft the Green amendment said: "Proposing an increase in council tax of this level is not something we put forward lightly. But whilst the Government persists in spending national taxation on other things and starving local government of funds, we believe it is time to consult residents on the options. Our amendment would have given residents the chance to say 'yes' or 'no' to investing an average extra 67p/week in protecting vital services."

**The Green Party proposal** included restoring £200,000 to the York Financial Assistance Fund, which helps our worst off residents, as well as appointing an Outreach Worker to ensure take up of the Fund. It put money back into adult social care, public health and early intervention and prevention, services to children and young people, respite care and homelessness support. It also reversed the cuts to subsidised bus services; reversed cuts to officers who protect our built and natural heritage and invested in renewable energy, reducing fuel bills, promoting warmer homes and tackling fuel poverty.

## Guildhall Ward Councillor Surgeries

**Sat. 21st May:** Walmgate area tbc.

**Sat. 18th June:** 10am – 12noon, York Explore Café

**Green Party**  
for the common good

**York Green Party**, 15 Priory Street,  
York YO1 6ET

Tel: **(01904) 636239**

Email: [greenparty@york.gov.uk](mailto:greenparty@york.gov.uk)

Web: [www.yorkgreenparty.org.uk](http://www.yorkgreenparty.org.uk)

