

Guildhall

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

February 2017

Greens push hard for better air quality in York

Green councillors have:

- Set up an independent congestion commission, 'UnJam York', leading to the York Bus Forum, which campaigns for better bus services;
- Forced several council debates on the new park & ride bus contract, successfully making air quality a key part of the tender; we are still pressing for ultra- low emission vehicles on all routes - a necessity for improved air quality in the city;
- Put a motion to December Council calling for regular public progress reports on action to tackle the problem, for example anti-idling measures and a clean air zone in the city centre. Lib Dem and Tory councillors ducked a vote, passing it to a committee for further 'scrutiny'. We will keep on arguing for clean air.

Flooding Matters!

A copy of the full York flood inquiry report can be found here <http://bit.ly/floodinginquiry>

Help and advice e.g. on insurance or other financial matters is still available:

floodservice@yorkcab.org.uk

Tel: 01904 683908.

It's Our NHS

National Demonstration to Defend the NHS – Sat. 4th March, London. Coaches will be organised by York People's Assembly – find them on Facebook or ask us if you would like tickets.



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Guildhall Green Team: June Tranmer, Cllr Denise Craghill and Bethan Vincent want to make air quality a priority in the ward

Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Ward Residents' Meeting

Resident involvement - the future of Guildhall's neighbourhoods?

Briar House, Museum Street, York YO1 7DN

6.30 – 7.00pm Informal surgery / drop in

7.00 - 9.00pm Main meeting

SPEAKERS

Andrew Flecknor, the Council's Elections Manager – the pros & cons of creating one or more urban parishes in Guildhall ward

Rebecca Harrison, Strategy Development Officer, City of York Council – what would be involved in creating a Neighbourhood Plan (or plans) for Guildhall ward.

There will also be updates on ward spending and time to ask questions/raise issues. All welcome.

Guildhall and York in brief



Planning News

Almond & Cream!

Plans are underway for conversion of the former Rowntrees 'Almond & Cream' factory buildings off Haxby Rd to 283 flats. A public consultation took place in the old Rowntrees Library, where many people were supportive of bringing the buildings back into use. An application for a new access road has been submitted 16/02815/FUL. The access road could at a later date become a public transport route joining Haxby and Wigginton roads, but that is not part of this application.

Stonebow House. Permission for flats in the 'cube' and new commercial units below was given in October. Cllr Craghill argued for continued public access to the land at the Heron Foods end of the building - which the Council has made over to the developer on a long lease. She secured conditions on public access to new cycle stands and public seating, as well as a requirement that waste from the commercial units must be stored inside the building.

The committee failed to support her attempt to limit the proportion of drinking establishments, but possible part-use as a gym has now been approved. Ward funding has contributed to the removal of the nearby old taxi shelter and phone box, which were attracting anti-social behaviour.

Worries about land sale at Willow House? This older people's home off Walmgate is likely to be put on the market quite soon. Cllr Craghill has raised concerns about plans to include Housing Department land at the front of the building in the sale. This is much valued public green open space and is also right next to historic Walmgate



Cllr Craghill was one of 3 councillors to vote against the new visitor centre at planning committee and has joined the call-in of the Council decision to sell the land, saying: 'this is the wrong design in the wrong place'.

Bar. She has also asked for community space to be included in any new development.

Castle Gateway. Things are happening in the Castle-Piccadilly area. The Council has agreed a 3 year lease of the former Reynard's Garage site, subject to planning permission. Spark:York is an innovative temporary development, offering very cheap business start-up space, street food and a strong community and creative focus. There are also proposals for a new hotel on Piccadilly and the Council's first draft of a masterplan for the area includes replacing the Castle Car park with a new civic space and possibly building a multi-storey on the Castle Mills site. Watch this space!

Yearsley Pool

Cllr Craghill spoke at a recent Council meeting asking for more reassurance about the future of Yearsley. The pool is supported up to 2023/24 by funding set aside in a Green Party budget amendment in 2015. It seems future plans see the pool managed by GLL as part of the community stadium/Energise contract, but it is still unclear how far public opening hours will have to be reduced or what guarantees there are for the longer term.

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