

# Fishergate

# GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Autumn 2013

## Fenby Field

Following concerns about council neglect, unauthorised tree felling and some sporadic evening disturbances, Cllr Andy D'Agorne is working with local residents' group 'BAGNARA' to re-establish a 'friends group' for Fenby Field off Danum Road. Local residents can get involved in caring for this public open space. Proposals to lock it at night were discussed but felt impracticable. However police are keen to receive details of any under age drinking or illegal activity – telephone Police non-emergency 101 to report, and 999 if you believe a crime is being committed such as violence or criminal damage on the field.

We hope to work with volunteers to manage the woodland better, clear litter and host more activities for local children. If you are willing to help or have suggestions for the area, contact Andy on 633526.

## Convent

Sadly St Joseph's Convent on Lawrence St has closed and is up for sale, with potential housing development the most likely new use. With lobbying from us behind the scenes the Victorian building has been listed so is likely to be converted but the orchard and vegetable gardens are still threatened. We hope an imaginative developer can be found to retain the unique character and at least part of the 'green corridor' in any new development on this precious site.

## Green Party slams Labour's Local Plan

The Green Party has criticised Labour's proposal to build 22,000 new houses in York over the next 15 years including major new settlements in the Green Belt as unsustainable, damaging to the environment and the character of York and unrealistic. See our full 40-page response at [york.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns/](http://york.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns/).

Latest details including all responses are available at [www.york.gov.uk/info/200396/planning\\_policy/428/planning\\_policy](http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200396/planning_policy/428/planning_policy).



## Renationalise the railways

Greens welcomed the president of the RMT (railworkers union) to their recent national conference, where York Green Group leader, Cllr Andy D'Agorne spoke in support of keeping the East Coast Main Line in public ownership.

Cllr D'Agorne said 'It's time to put a stop to our unreliable mish-mash of private companies. We could use the £50bn planned for the dubious HS2 project to create a high quality national railway with more local services, lower fares and access for all. The successful East Coast should be kept in the public sector and other franchises taken into public control as they come up for renewal.'

If you agree with us urge your MP to support Early Day Motion 303 Public Ownership of the Railways.



*Cllr Andy D'Agorne speaks in the debate at the Green Party Conference in Brighton*

## Protecting York's Future





### Street issues

Green councillors have been pressing the council to get weeds and verges tidied on Danum Rd and calling for the bin near Broadway shops to be moved back nearer to the Co-op to capture more of the litter which is being dropped. Despite the general appearance of more weeds and neglect council officers deny any reduction in maintenance routines.

Greens are also concerned at Labour's decision to stop routine annual gully clearing with more and more drains getting blocked threatening more surface water flooding in periods of intense rainfall.

### Hands off our NHS

York Greens joined the recent protest outside the Conservative Party conference in Manchester to oppose further steps to privatize the NHS. Andy D'Agorne, who joined the protest, said: "We must act now to prevent the NHS being fractured further and handed over to private companies to the detriment of the public."

York Greens also joined with other members of the York People's Assembly in a day of action on the problems caused by payday loan sharks. They present a friendly face and offer quick easy loans to people struggling with debt. Sounds good until you realise interest rates are up to 5,000% per annum. If you are struggling with debt or thinking of taking out a loan contact York Citizen's Advice Bureau on **08444 111 444** for specialist confidential advice.



*Cllr Andy D'Agorne protests against privatization of the NHS on 29th Sept*

**York People's Assembly** is a group of people from various political parties and none who are challenging the Coalition's austerity agenda. Following a well-attended conference in York on 12th October more action is planned. Contact [yorkpeoplesassembly@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpeoplesassembly@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Austerity myth-busting:** Did you know that when we set up the National Health Service at the end of the war our public 'deficit' was far higher than it is now? Investing in jobs, services and fairer taxation is more effective than cuts.

Governing Green councillors in Brighton & Hove have published a report listing 98 achievements in their first two years as the UK's first Green led council. These include introducing the Living Wage for all council employees and working with the Chamber of Commerce to sign up more than 80 private companies as Living Wage employers; an economic strategy based on high value, low carbon jobs; and becoming the UK's first One Planet City. See the full report at [bit.ly/16XOKAE](http://bit.ly/16XOKAE)

### Green energy

The Coalition Government go ahead for new nuclear power plants to be built by Chinese and French government backed companies will guarantee higher energy payments far above the current 'green energy' levy to help pay for renewables and home insulation. Currently nearly half our electricity comes from gas fired power plants, old coal and nuclear plants are being phased out but the new nuclear plants will take at least a decade to complete and no safe long term storage solution for the current waste stockpile has been found. This leaves us far more vulnerable to international gas prices than places like Germany where half the power is generated from wind and solar and with a weak renewables market undermined by government policy in favour of nuclear,

fracking and imported gas. Greens locally have worked to promote home insulation to help cut fuel poverty and are now supporting the local campaign against 'fracking' which could be an option to extract shale gas in the York area see [www.frack-off.org.uk](http://www.frack-off.org.uk)

# York Green Party

## Protecting York's Future

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