

# Fishergate

# GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Winter 2013/14

## Fracking threat to York

The Green Party opposes the Coalition government's go-ahead for gas exploration and 'fracking' in North Yorkshire. Fishergate Councillor Andy D'Agorne said: "If we care about a sustainable future we have to oppose fracking. Extracting shale gas under York could risk our local environment, our water supplies and even our heritage. It would undermine local policies to limit the carbon emissions destabilising our climate."

Yorkshire is now in the firing line for fracking, (coal bed methane and shale gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing). This has been responsible for spectacular levels of pollution in the US - 280bn gallons of toxic waste water last year alone. Carcinogenic benzene, strontium and radium have been reported. It also makes no sense financially - Deutsche Bank, Nicholas Sterne and David King are amongst the many experts stating that it will not make a dent in rising energy prices.

Without local consultation, licences for exploration in the Vale of York, N Yorkshire Moors and Ryedale have already been handed out. Applications to develop new sites are appearing and more can be expected. Half of York is covered by a licence sold to Dart Energy.

The Greens are the only major party opposing fracking; while Labour is largely silent on it, UKIP supports it. Rather than move rapidly to renewables, the Government is trying to squeeze the last drops out of the UK's fossil fuel reserves.

Sign the petition:

[my.greenparty.org.uk/civicrm/petition/sign?sid=3](http://my.greenparty.org.uk/civicrm/petition/sign?sid=3)



Denise Craghill and lead European election candidate Andrew Cooper - see article below

### What has Europe ever done for us?

Green Party lead candidate in Yorkshire and the Humber for the European Parliament elections this May, Andrew Cooper, will be the main speaker at a public meeting on **Friday 31st January, 7pm at Millers Yard (off Gillygate).**

York Party chair Denise Craghill who is fourth on the party candidates list said "The large Green Group in the European Parliament is fighting austerity policies and attempts to put free trade above health and the environment. With an extra 1-2% of the vote we can elect Andrew in Yorkshire to become a very active member of that group."

Andrew will talk about the positive aspects of the EU, how we think Europe should change and his priorities if elected, followed by discussion. Come to listen, question or get involved with the campaign. Enquiries contact [office@yorkgreenparty.org.uk](mailto:office@yorkgreenparty.org.uk) or 01904 636239.

## Protecting York's Future





## Green Belt eroded further

Recent York planning decisions could signal a free-for-all in Green Belt development. Expansion of Askham Bryan College (to include a wildlife zoo surrounded by high fencing and a levelled area for a polo field), and new offices at Northminster Business Park were both approved as having 'very special circumstances'. Green Councillor Andy D'Agorne said "With Labour proposing massive housing developments in the Green Belt, planning policy seems to be seriously threatened. We need more Green councillors elected to put some teeth back into our planning policies."



## Gritting cuts and bins

After Fulford Cross was taken off the list of primary gritting routes, Cllr D'Agorne has got the grit bin moved from the Danesgate entrance to the point where grit is most needed – at the entrance from Fulford Road. Residents are encouraged to use council grit bins to help make pavements and roads safe near where they live. Volunteer snow wardens are provided with a supply of grit and a snow shovel to help out in severe weather and there are now over 200 in York.



Contact Michal on (01904) 551832, or e-mail [michal.czekajlo@york.gov.uk](mailto:michal.czekajlo@york.gov.uk) for details. Winter gritting information: [www.york.gov.uk/info/200262/gritting](http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200262/gritting) or ring 01904 551551.

## Millennium Lights fixed at last

After several months' pressure leading to a complaint from Cllr D'Agorne to the relevant Council Director, the lighting on the Millennium Bridge is now fully operational again.

## Boundary changes in 2015

The Boundary Commission has confirmed changes to York's ward boundaries, to even out the size of electorates for each councillor. Fishergate remains largely unchanged, but will lose a small number of households on the eastern end of Broadway and along Heslington Lane. Fulford and Heslington villages will become part of a new single member ward, while the University will be included in a larger three member Hull Road ward.

## Bedroom Tax debate

Responding to a petition of over 1,000 signatures calling for a 'no evictions' pledge in York, Greens spoke in support of the call at the December council meeting. Greens had already put an amendment in July to this effect, voted down by Labour and Conservative councillors. In spite of the recent debate, this pledge, which has been adopted by the Green-led council in Brighton, is still not policy in York.



## Green light for more student flats

Work has started on the former Reg Vardy site on Lawrence Street. Cllr Dave Taylor says, "There'll be fewer flats now, aimed at postgraduates, all studio apartments - no shared kitchens, so it may be quieter for neighbours. We have concerns about parking as there's only disabled and visitor parking, but on balance the scheme is better than the continued loss of existing family housing to student occupation. There will be one bike space for every two flats and we are pressing for improved public transport to the University."

## Democracy diminished by Labour

Since coming to power Labour has blocked all attempts for scrutiny review of Cabinet decisions and even mooted blocks on what the public can say at meetings. Cllr Dave Taylor said, "Labour must be willing to review controversial decisions, not just rubber stamp them all the time, otherwise York has become a one-party state."

# York Green Party

## Protecting York's Future

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