



Dinosaur chancellor's budget

York Council's Green Group leader Andy D'Agorne slated George Osborne's latest budget. He said 'This budget does nothing to reverse the years of hardship the Government has foisted onto so many people and nothing to build a low carbon economy fit for the future. It clings to the dinosaur idea that we can carry on with 'business as usual', making it cheaper to use polluting, climate change causing fossil fuels,

whilst removing support from investors in renewables. After the wettest, stormiest winter on record with devastating floods, it ignores the need to cut carbon and invest in energy use reduction, insulation and renewables. We urgently need a Green budget based on proper long term investment in green jobs, warm affordable homes and public services.'

Sign the petition: bit.ly/K4zNoe

Greens on verge of electing first Green MEP for Yorkshire

Prospects for electing Huddersfield councillor, Andrew Cooper on 22nd May are looking good. The Greens were just over 1% short last time when the 6th seat in this proportional election went to the BNP. As the fourth largest group in the European Parliament Greens in Europe can and do make a real difference.

Key election campaign issues:

- ◆ Opposing 'Fracking' for shale gas
- ◆ Secure investment in jobs in renewables, notably solar power and offshore wind
- ◆ Protect wildlife, boost local food and food safety by changing EU farming subsidies
- ◆ Shift HS2 funds into boosting basic rail services
- ◆ Oppose re-privatising East Coast services
- ◆ A referendum on Europe – backing reformed EU with more local decisions
- ◆ Opposing the proposed TTIP 'Big BAD' Law (see next page)

www.yorkshireandhumber.greenparty.org.uk



Lead Euro candidate Andrew Cooper with other Yorkshire list candidates Shan Oakes and Denise Craghill outside the Lib Dem Conference in York on 7th March, offering Green first aid to delegates disillusioned with their party's participation in Government cuts. Yorkshire Greens joined trade union members from across the region in a protest march through York the next day. Speakers (all women to mark International Women's Day) spoke of the impact of cuts on the most vulnerable including women, carers, people with mental health problems and people with disabilities. They called for an alternative approach based on investment in jobs and decent public services.

Protecting York's Future



Big Business against Democracy threat

Lead Green Euro-Election candidate Andrew Cooper says: "While David Cameron has promised a referendum on changes to the EU, a secret US –EU trade deal he is pushing involves far greater threats to our sovereignty."

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is supposedly to remove trade barriers between Europe and the US but is really mostly about exposing our public services to corporate takeover and driving down employment and consumer rights. It includes a right for companies to sue governments and claim compensation for any policies that they consider reduces their profits. For example, a ban on pesticides that harm bees would be open to challenge if it was a practice allowed in the US. Cameron also wants this to open up our NHS to competition from US health providers.

The European Parliament has the power to block the deal but at the moment Tories, Lib Dems, Labour and UKIP are supporting it. Green MEPs are leading the fight alongside campaign groups to stop it. Electing more Green MEPs will be vital to win the battle against a really BAD law!

See www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk and search on "TTIP" for more details.

Germany Beck

With hedges ripped out and legal block options nearing exhaustion, work could start any day on building 650 houses south of Fulford. A big new raised junction, designed to prevent the A19 from flooding will be built, causing months of traffic chaos. However original plans still leave Fordlands Rd liable to flood, so we are pressing the council to rectify this and also ensure that drains and sewers are not liable to backing up in flood conditions. Greens will work with Fulford Parish Council and the local ward councillor on both this issue and the traffic impact from the development. Latest info:

www.fulfordparishcouncil.org.uk/news

Flood Wardens

Following a suggestion from York Green councillors, City of York Council is keen to work with the Environment Agency inviting volunteer 'Flood Wardens' to come forward in areas affected by river flooding. Those living in houses at risk of flooding may need emergency practical help but the main emphasis is on providing local updates on the state of flooding to the agency.

Greening the ward

The small remaining ward funding which was slashed by Labour is being shared out to voluntary groups enhancing the wildlife in the ward. Cllr Andy D'Agorne has worked with residents group BAGNARA to re-establish 'Friends of Fenby Field' which is establishing a maintenance plan and activities for local residents. Meanwhile Friends of Danesmead Wood has bought tools to enable the group to maintain the area and install a noticeboard to tell locals about their monthly activities. TCV has provided a range of native trees, planted by volunteers in the 'mast field' on the edge of the wood. Following concerns passed on by Andy D'Agorne to the Danesgate Centre that manages the adjacent playing field, repair work on the original school boundary fence is being costed up.

'Park and Pedal' scheme wins award



Cllr Andy D'Agorne has helped to develop the "Park and Pedal" scheme

The idea developed by Cllr Andy D'Agorne in conjunction with Designer Outlet and TSYS in response to parking issues has been commended in the cycle parking category of the 2014 British Parking Awards. Six of the ten available cycle lockers have been taken, meaning drivers have the option to use the 'park and ride' site leaving their bike secure overnight. Andy said "This means fewer cars on Fulford Rd and parked on local streets – we are aware of people getting bikes out of cars when parking locally, so there is obviously demand for this option."

York Green Party

Protecting York's Future

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