

# Fishergate

# GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Summer 2014

## Highest Green vote in region

In the recent Euro elections, York voters gave us the biggest increase in Green votes in Yorkshire and the Humber (up from 14% to 16%). Our total of 7456 was 50% above the Lib Dems vote and only 25% below the Labour and Tory totals. We gained a new MEP for SW England to add to the two re-elected Green MEPs from the UK, but didn't quite manage to secure one for our region. However the York vote gives the Greens a strong base from which to launch our campaign for the 2015 local elections (when all 47 York council seats are contested).

Thank you for the fantastic Green vote in Fishergate. YOUR SUPPORT over the next few months could really help us towards re-electing our two Greens councillors as well as increasing the total number of Green councillors in York. See back page for ways to help us and to contact us.

## Local Plan

New housing sites are currently being consulted on, with Labour plans for massive green belt development over the next 15 years due to be decided prior to the elections. Greens want more affordable housing but question the planned scale (two Germany Beck's each year) and the lack of sustainable transport provision needed to ensure they don't lead to more pollution and congestion. A new town about the size of Strensall is proposed for 'Whinthorpe' alongside the A64 just south of Heslington, while buildings in the heart of York like Stonebow House and Ryedale House lie empty and unused.



Further details are available from libraries and on the council website. Make your views known by emailing [localplan@york.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@york.gov.uk) before Jul 16th.



## Fishergate Residents' Forum Meeting

You're invited to The Retreat on Heslington Road on Monday 7 July, 6-8pm, which includes a tour and talk on the history of this pioneering psychiatric service.



**For the common good**



## Safer Streets

Greens welcome the forthcoming extension of 20mph to residential streets in the south and east of York but are pressing for busy local shopping areas to be included, such as Heslington Rd and Broadway. Cllr Dave Taylor said “30mph is too fast for the congested stretch between Cemetery Rd and Regent St with buses, parked cars and numerous side roads. Including this section would save money on the number of signs needed (for each side road) and boost safety. It would also encourage cyclists to stay where they should be on the road.” Meanwhile, pressure from Cllr D'Agorne has got highway repairs to Fishergate completed and white lining on the zebra crossing repainted. If you have concerns you want us to follow up with the council please email or ring us.

## Fracking fears come closer

Despite growing opposition to fracking for gas under the English countryside the Coalition Government plans to clear obstacles in the way of companies like Cuadrilla by removing the need to get owners' permission to drill beneath their land. Already protest camps are springing up in our region – Crawberry Hill near Beverley has been set up by local residents ([walkingtonbbag.wordpress.com](http://walkingtonbbag.wordpress.com)) in response to concerns that toxic chemicals could get into the aquifer supplying local drinking water. Germany and France have banned fracking, with Germany recently reporting 75% of electricity supplies coming renewables. “We are the only Party to oppose fracking. We are concerned about the risks to the local environment and the threat that burning the gas poses to climate change” said Cllr Andy D'Agorne.



## Incinerator plans stalled

Ten year old plans to burn the rubbish from York and N Yorkshire are still stalled two years after planning permission was granted for Allerton Park. Greens opposed the £1,400,000,000 25-year plan which stalled when £65m government PFI funding was cancelled, but the councils are still hoping to secure bigger more costly loans. Greens argue that reducing use of oil based packaging and more recycling will make the plant less and less viable within a decade.



## Free parking farce

Green councillors called for further scrutiny of a Labour pre-election bribe

offering free city centre parking on Thur, Fri and Sat mornings. While it has been claimed as a way of boosting city centre trade in response to the new John Lewis store opening at Monk's Cross no monitoring is proposed to identify the benefits

and funding is being taken from a 'developer pot' earmarked for walking cycling and public transport measures around Monk's Cross. Green councillors argued that the funds would have been better spent on a free city centre shuttle bus as operated in Bradford.

Completely reversing its previous transport policies, Labour has pressed ahead with the parking deal, in spite of risks of peak time congestion and poorer city centre air quality.

# York Green Party

## Protecting York's Future

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