

Fishergate

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Autumn 2015

York Art Gallery should be free for residents

Thirteen years ago, the council placed our museums and art gallery into a trust, asking it to maintain buildings and collections, to increase the number of visitors and to ensure free access for residents to York Art Gallery. The art collection is partly bought from tax-payers' subsidy and partly donated by benefactors or artists who might have expected their work to be freely available.

York Museums Trust aims to charge £7.50 per visit but through our objections and public petitioning against this elitism the Council will now fund free access for young people, and some older people and those in financial hardship.

Dave Taylor says, "We have won a minor battle for these citizens but this was a test case and we now fear charging will soon become the norm for all city and regional museums."

Green bins

Greens opposed the 'emergency budget' changes of the new Tory/Lib Dem administration which raided budgets to put £1m pa back to ensure that a free green bin service continues.

No one wants to spend even £35 extra on a service that is currently free. However, the current scale of cuts to the most basic services suggest this should not be a priority, compared with other 'non statutory' services like school crossing patrols and children's centres that could be hit further in 2016.



Cllr Dave Taylor joins a public protest outside York Art Gallery

Ward Committee Meeting

Mon 12 October 7pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

Ward funding has doubled, and we have more devolved responsibility for community care, highways, and environment maintenance (Pride in York).

Important decisions will be made. Come and have your say on how we can minimise the impact of spending cuts on your community.

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Fishergate and York in brief



Your views on congestion

Recent press reports highlighted how locations like Fishergate gyratory are still above safe limits for air quality because of diesel fumes. The scrapping of the Lendal Bridge trial and Labour's Congestion Commission has left the Tory led administration without a coherent plan for tackling this problem.

The Green Party is inviting residents, businesses and other parties to put forward their ideas of how to tackle growing congestion and pollution in our historic city. You can email your ideas to

yorkpeoplescongestioncom@gmail.com

or come to hear Prof John Whitelegg, transport expert on **20 October, 7.30pm** at Priory Centre YO1 6ET (book by e-mail or tel 636239).

Park and Ride contract

Papers just published indicate the council could award an 8-year contract in 2017 with an 'express' service from the Designer Outlet. This could mean residents wanting to use this bus to get to the station having to walk to Iceland/ Barracks stop or the Novotel stop.

Cllr Andy D'Agorne said, 'Green councillors will oppose this unless another service (e.g. the 415) provides an alternative direct link to the station. Proposed electric vehicles are welcome as are possible options for some later running services, but any cut to city centre parking charges could undermine the viability of the park and ride contract.'

Students welcome

It's that time of year when we get a big influx of young people to the city to study at one of our two universities (perhaps the first time away from home). New bus routes 66 and 56 provide



People's

Congestion

Commission

for

YORK

links in addition to the 44 between student blocks and the Univ of York. Recycling systems are different in each council, so a helpful word about York's arrangements and collection day could go down well with new neighbours. A cup of tea and conversation now could help make it much easier to build relationships before the first party!

Petrol station plan

Plans to reopen a filling station plus a supermarket on the site of the old Fulford Rd petrol station are due to go to planning committee in October. Cllr

D'Agorne asked for it to be decided by committee and has raised concerns about late night noise. If approved, shop hours will now be restricted to 7am -11pm and there will be a footpath with less parking spaces than first proposed.

Local Plan

Tory/Lib Dem proposals for the Local Plan are now being worked up based on revised housing projections that could see fewer developments in the Green Belt. Greens will continue to press for sustainable infrastructure and low carbon affordable homes as essential components of the agreed plan.

Refugees welcome here

Green Party councillors and members joined the recent march through the centre of York calling for the city to play its part in helping Syrian refugees fleeing fighting in their own country. We are still pressing for 'city of sanctuary' status to be confirmed for York.

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