

Guildhall

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Summer 2013

Yorkshire Greens Go for Europe

In 2009 the Green Party narrowly missed gaining the sixth seat for Yorkshire and the Humber at the European Parliament. The seat went to the BNP instead. In May 2014 Huddersfield Green councillor Andrew Cooper is determined to take that place for the Greens.

York Green Party chair Denise Craghill has been selected as one of the six candidates on the Green Party's regional list. She said, "The Green Party has a clear vision for a European Union that is run for people and not profit. A 'Europe of the Regions' would work together to tackle big international issues such as climate change, air pollution and energy, but give back power to countries and regions to protect their own economies and make their own decisions."

Our campaign for Europe will be based on 'Yes, yes, yes' – yes to a referendum, yes to staying part of Europe, and yes to very big changes in the way the European Union operates. A Green MEP for Yorkshire will campaign hard for this as part of the 50-strong Green Group in the European Parliament and will also fight for fair funding for Yorkshire, challenging the recent Government decision to take away millions of pounds of European funding from our region to use as a 'sweetener' in the Scottish independence debate.



The Green Party's candidates for the Euro-election next year (from left), Kevin Warnes, Martin Hemingway, Denise Craghill, Vicky Dunn, Shan Oakes and lead candidate Andrew Cooper

Guildhall Ward Committee Wed 21st August, 7pm Hudson Room, West Offices, Station Rise

The meeting will discuss the proposed redevelopment of Museum Gardens and changes to traffic on Lendal Bridge. The suggestion is that for an initial trial period the bridge will be closed to motorised traffic other than buses and taxis between 10.30 am and 5.00pm (footstreets hours) in order to reduce air pollution and improve this key part of the centre for pedestrians.



Protecting York's Future

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Local Plan will ‘kill the goose that laid the golden egg’!

Greens oppose Labour's plan to build 22,000 houses in the next 15 years, many on greenbelt land around York. York Green Party will make a formal response arguing that the proposals are unsustainable - threatening to choke our road networks, worsen flooding problems and affect the quality of life in our small historic city. We support new housing including affordable housing on sites like Hungate, Terry's, and British Sugar, with green space and good public transport, walking and cycling routes to help limit the traffic impact. But we oppose the proposed building around the ring road including the 4,000 houses at Clifton Moor and the 5,500 south of Heslington. These are most likely to attract car-borne commuters working in Leeds and are an unacceptable level of development.. There is also a danger that developers will just concentrate on greenfield sites instead of developing more sustainable brownfield ones.

We support opportunities for local people to determine the size and location of wind turbines, preferably owned by local communities rather than multinationals. Farmers should be allowed to install renewables big enough to meet their own needs and those of their immediate local community.

To see the full range of Local Plan proposals and make comments by **Jul 31st** go to www.york.gov.uk/info/200396/planning_policy/428/planning_policy

Contact us!

Please use the form if you would like to get in touch.

Name

Address

Tel

E-mail

- I would like to raise a local issue
- Please send me information about the Greens

Any additional info

Please send to: York Green Party, 22 Holgate Road, York YO24 4AB, call us on **636239** or e-mail: yorkoffice@greenparty.org.uk

Austerity – there IS an alternative!

The Greens are the only main party offering any alternative to cuts and more cuts. Green MP Caroline Lucas said “As Ed Miliband now accepts the scale of the cuts and supports a cap on welfare spending (regardless of need) any chance of Labour challenging austerity has been lost.” She added, “The way to address the deficit is to invest in jobs, crack down on tax evasion and avoidance and invest in the infrastructure we urgently need.” She called for a programme to use carbon tax income to insulate Britain’s homes.

In York the Greens are pushing for investment in a council-led renewable energy company to establish district heating systems, creating jobs whilst cutting energy bills. We are also supporting the York People's Assembly against Austerity which will hold its second meeting on Mon 29th July - contact us for details.

Time to re-nationalise the railways



The Green Party wants to bring the railways back into public ownership – Green MP Caroline Lucas has introduced a private members bill to re-nationalise the network by 2020. The Greens also support the campaign to keep the East Coast service in public ownership, after its improved performance over the last four years. Public money could be used to support lower fares, more trains and better staffing instead of shareholders’ dividends. Rail fares are now 26% higher than before the recession. See www.farefail.org for how to take action now.

News in brief

Bedroom Tax: The Green Party supports the opposition to the ‘Bedroom Tax’ which takes housing benefit from tenants with so-called ‘spare rooms’. Green Group leader Cllr Andy D'Agorne tabled a motion in July calling on the Council to guarantee no Bedroom Tax evictions and re-classify properties so tiny ‘bedrooms’ are counted as storage space. So far the Council has failed to make this commitment. You can sign the York petition at bit.ly/12CEOxF

Local Heritage List The long awaited Local List for York – an effort to protect cherished buildings in York not statutorily listed – is being consulted on alongside the Local Plan. See www.york.gov.uk/localheritagelist

Tree Planting: Tremendous York is a project to plant 50,000 trees across the city. If you have suggestions for possible sites for new trees (on public or private land), including fruit trees, please contact us and we will pass them on before the next tree planting season starts in the Autumn.