



### Tree rescue on Monkgate

Guildhall ward Co-ordinator, Denise Craghill joined a concerned Groves resident back in August to rescue the trees in tubs on Monkgate from the heat and lack of water. The Council say the trees are watered via a big water reserve in the tubs which they top up, but the dry spell was very long and any help from residents in future will be very welcome.

### Green Party slams Labour's Local Plan

The Green Party has criticised Labour's proposal to build 22,000 new houses in York over the next 15 years including major new settlements in the Green Belt as unsustainable, damaging to the environment and the character of York and unrealistic. See our full 40-page response at [york.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns/](http://york.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns/)

### Struggling with 'austerity'? Or want to help others? Some useful contacts:

- ♦ The Besom project – brings together people who want to give time, money, things or skills with those who are in need. It's a free service run mainly by volunteers. Tel. 01904 658220 [www.besom.com/local-besoms/york](http://www.besom.com/local-besoms/york)
- ♦ York Freecycle is a website which matches up unwanted items with someone who wants them – a free service for free items, no money changes hands - you just need to arrange collection. [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)
- ♦ York Handy Person Service – assists with small repairs and other tasks to help people live safely and comfortably at home. Aimed at people over 60 or of any age with a disability. Tel 01757 241010 Email: [handyperson@yorkshirehousing.co.uk](mailto:handyperson@yorkshirehousing.co.uk)

### Thanks for survey responses

Thanks to everyone who has filled in one of our community survey forms over the last year. We have gathered a huge amount of information and ideas about what day to day issues are in Guildhall and what would make the ward a better place. Apologies if we haven't solved everything yet! We are still working on it!



### Renationalise the railways

Greens welcomed the president of the RMT (railworkers union) to their recent national conference, where York Green Group leader, Cllr Andy D'Agorne spoke in support of keeping the East Coast main line in public ownership.

Cllr D'Agorne said 'It's time to put a stop to our unreliable mish-mash of private companies. We could use the £50bn planned for the dubious HS2 project to create a high quality national railway with more local services, lower fares and access for all. The successful East Coast should be kept in the public sector and other franchises taken into public control as they come up for renewal.'



If you agree with us urge your MP to support Early Day Motion 303 Public Ownership of the Railways.

*Cllr Andy D'Agorne speaks in the debate at the Green Party Conference in Brighton*





## Greens in Government

Governing Green councillors in Brighton & Hove have published a report listing 98 achievements in their first two years as the UK's first Green led council. These include introducing the Living Wage for all council employees and working with the Chamber of Commerce to sign up more than 80 private companies as Living Wage employers; an economic strategy based on high value, low carbon jobs; and becoming the UK's first One Planet City. See the full report at [bit.ly/16XOKAE](http://bit.ly/16XOKAE)

## Payday loan sharks

Guildhall Green Party Coordinator, Denise Craghill, joined with other members of the York People's Assembly in a day of action on the problems caused by the growing number of payday loan sharks. These companies present a friendly face and offer quick easy loans to people struggling with debt. Sounds good until you realise interest rates are up to 5,000% per annum. Someone can end up owing many times what they borrowed and in a far worse spiral of debt than when they started. Denise said 'These companies are profiteering from people made desperate by the Government's austerity policies. Strict regulation is needed along with far more Government support for credit unions offering safe lending at fair and affordable rates of interest.' If you are struggling with debt or thinking of taking out a loan contact York Citizen's Advice Bureau on **08444 111 444** for specialist confidential advice.



*Members of York People's Assembly protest outside the Money Shop*

**York Peoples Assembly** is a group of people from various political parties and none who are challenging the Coalition's austerity agenda. Following a well-attended conference in York on 12th October more action is planned. Contact [yorkpeoplesassembly@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpeoplesassembly@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Austerity myth-busting:** Did you know that when we set up the National Health Service at the end of the war our public 'deficit' was far higher than it is now? Investing in jobs, services and fairer taxation is more effective than cuts.

## Protect our city centre

In our Local Plan response we have suggested that the Council should bring in planning controls on the number of national chain mini-markets and cafes that are allowed in the city centre, in a similar way to the current 'saturation zones' we have for drinking establishments. Denise Craghill says 'Whilst some convenience food shops may be useful and help reduce travel, these are reaching saturation point. We want to see more local food shops'.

## Groves Secret Garden

The Groves Secret Garden, located behind Bempton, Willerby, Rudston and Patrington houses off Lowther Street, is winding down now for the winter with a Big Tidy Up and bulb planting on 2nd November. More people are needed to make sure this great project keeps on growing successfully. It is open to anyone in the area. If you would like to help with planning events for the Spring contact [charlotte.holgate@ywt.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.holgate@ywt.org.uk)

## Lendal Bridge Limited Access

We hope that the trial closure of Lendal Bridge to general car traffic will be a success – it is the sort of bold move to help to reduce traffic levels and air pollution in the city centre that we have been pressing for. However, it is important

that everyone's experience during the trial period is taken into account. Fill in the survey on the council home page [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) to feedback any problems AND ALSO if you have had a good experience of the closure and would like it to continue.

# York Green Party

## Protecting York's Future

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