

# Guildhall

# GreenLight

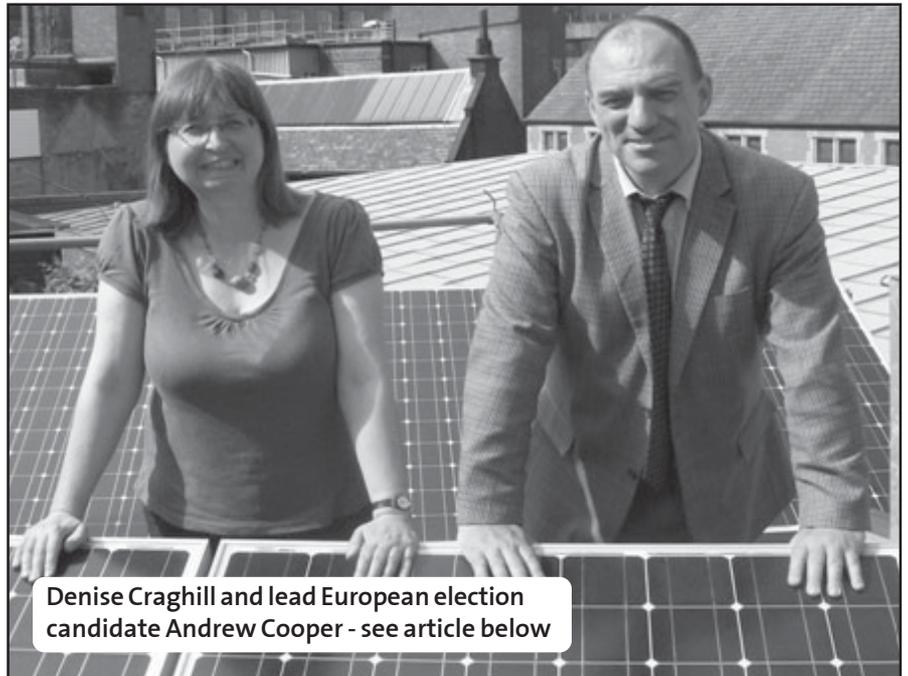


The Newsletter of York Green Party

Jan/ Feb 2014

## Fracking threat to York

The Green Party opposes plans for gas extraction using 'fracking'. Green Councillor Andy D'Agorne said: "Extracting shale gas from under York could risk our local environment, our water supplies and even our heritage". Cameron has admitted that recent extreme weather is 'probably linked to climate change'. Yet days later he announced new financial incentives to encourage councils to allow fracking, boosting UK fossil fuel supplies.



Denise Craghill and lead European election candidate Andrew Cooper - see article below

Fracking has been responsible for spectacular levels of pollution in the US: billions of gallons of toxic waste water each year carry cancer-causing substances such as benzene, strontium and radium. Experts agree that fracking will not dent rising UK energy prices and will create fewer local jobs than clean renewable energy.

Government licences for exploration in the Vale of York, N Yorkshire Moors and Ryedale have already been handed out, with the west of York covered by a licence sold to Dart Energy. Consultation on York and N Yorks' waste and minerals policy next month is a chance for you to give your views, as part of local long term plan making.

The Greens are the only major party opposing fracking while UKIP and Tories support it and Labour have yet to decide.

Sign the petition: <http://bit.ly/K42Noe>

### What has Europe ever done for us?

Green Party lead candidate in Yorkshire and the Humber for the Euro- elections this May, Andrew Cooper, will be the main speaker at a public meeting on **Friday 31st January, 7pm at Millers Yard (off Gillygate)**.

York Party chair and Guildhall ward co-ordinator Denise Craghill who is fourth on the party candidates list said "The large Green Group in the European Parliament is fighting austerity policies and attempts to put free trade above health and the environment. With an extra 1-2% of the vote we can elect Andrew in Yorkshire to become a very active member of that group."

Andrew will talk about the positive aspects of the EU, how we think Europe should change and his priorities if elected, followed by discussion. Come to listen, question or get involved with the campaign. Enquiries contact [office@yorkgreenparty.org.uk](mailto:office@yorkgreenparty.org.uk) or 01904 636239.

## Protecting York's Future



## Green Belt eroded further

Recent York planning decisions could signal a free-for-all in Green Belt development. Expansion of Askham Bryan College, and new offices at Northminster Business Park were both approved as having 'very special circumstances'. Green Councillor Andy D'Agorne said "With Labour proposing massive housing developments in the Green Belt, planning policy seems to be seriously threatened. We need more Green councillors elected to put some teeth back into our planning policies."

## Bedroom Tax debate

Responding to a petition of over 1,000 signatures calling for a 'no evictions' pledge in York, Green councillors spoke in support of the call at the December council meeting. Greens had already put an amendment in July to this effect, voted down by Labour and Conservative councillors. In spite of the recent debate, this pledge, which has been adopted by the Green-led council in Brighton, is still not policy in York.



## Greens question lack of imagination over Reynard's Garage

Guildhall ward coordinator, Denise Craghill spoke at the recent Cabinet meeting about the Council's sale of the old Reynard's garage on Piccadilly. Four of nine bids for the building were shortlisted but not the popular proposal for a 1930s-style museum (linked to the 'Airspeed' origins) combined with housing.

Denise said "I'm delighted the Council has at last responded to our pressure for action on the derelict building, but angry that the shortlist excluded the museum proposal and includes only hotels, which are reaching saturation point in the city. Decision-making has been shrouded in secrecy, with capital receipts being more important than heritage or public opinion. Cabinet members said the final decision had not yet been made, so it is still not too late for a change of plan!"

## Boundary changes in 2015

The Boundary Commission has confirmed changes to York's ward boundaries, to even out the size of electorates for each councillor. From May 2015 Guildhall ward will be expanded to become a three councillor ward. It will include most roads between the railway line and Huntington Road as far north as the Nestle factory and Yearsley roundabout. It will also include Eboracum Way, Layerthorpe and roads north of Lawrence Street to the west of Abbotsford Road.

## Gritting cuts and bins

Council cuts have affected gritting routes and grit bins across the city. In the Walmgate area Navigation Road has been downgraded from a primary gritting route (always gritted) to a secondary gritting route (a route which may be gritted during prolonged severe weather). The Council clears very few pavements beyond the city centre. The Groves area is supplied with 3 grit bins on Bowling Green Lane, Townend Street and Lowther Street but none in the northern Groves. These have broken lids, which we have asked to be mended. The Walmgate area has 3 grit bins along Navigation Road and 4 to the south of Walmgate (Albert Street, Margaret Street, Hope Street and Lead Mill Lane). These are for use by residents. If they are not kept filled with grit report this via [551551](tel:551551), [ycc@york.gov.uk](mailto:ycc@york.gov.uk) or contact us.



You can also sign up to become one of the 200+ volunteer snow wardens in York which means you will be supplied with grit by the Council to use in the street(s) where you live. See [bit.ly/JU1h7r](http://bit.ly/JU1h7r) for more info on snow wardens and clearing pavements yourself. We are looking into ways of working together in an area to clear dangerous pavements and paths – please contact us if you would be interested in this.

**The Groves Secret Garden** – winter activities include 'Dig In Cook & Eat Club' at Door 84, Lowther Street, Monday 27th January, 3.30-4.30pm – learn to make tasty winter salads [www.ywt.org.uk/discover-learn/dig-york/groves-community-garden](http://www.ywt.org.uk/discover-learn/dig-york/groves-community-garden)

# York Green Party

## Protecting York's Future

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