

Guildhall

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

March 2015

Green budget protects Castlegate and future of Yearsley Pool

Green Party councillors Andy D'Agorne and Dave Taylor secured the protection of some key council services in return for voting in favour of an amended Labour budget at the recent Budget Council meeting. In the hung council situation there was a possibility that no budget would be set or that endless horse-trading between the parties would result in even more damaging cuts.

The Green Party amendment included:

- keeping the Castlegate young people's service in its current form for at least the next year ;
- Council funding (up to £300,000 per annum) for Yearsley Pool for up to 5 years, to guarantee its future whilst a new business case is being implemented;
- £100,000 put back into Children's Centres;
- reversing a £50,000 cut to libraries;
- keeping the Council's own apprenticeships scheme (proposed for abolition);
- protecting school crossing patrols and road safety;
- funding a trial free city centre shuttle bus.



'Guildhall candidates Denise Craghill and Andy Law campaigning in the city centre. Denise came second in this ward in 2011, with a big increase on the

Green Group leader Andy D'Agorne said, 'There's no denying that whatever budget is passed in the face of the reduction in Government funding (by almost half since 2009), this is inevitably a cuts budget. We shouldn't pretend otherwise. We are also opposed to the amount of privatisation that Labour is prepared to accept. However, we believe that by voting for this budget we have protected some very important services whilst also investing in the future.'

Labour's original budget had already included measures from previous Green budget amendments or manifesto commitments such as boosting mental health services, a voluntary sector capacity building fund, an energy officer to focus on tackling fuel poverty, better enforcement services, reduced bus fares for young people and investment in respite care for those dealing with dementia.'



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york.greenparty.org.uk



York Central in top 12 Green target seats

Green candidate Jonathan Tyler was a founding member of the Green Party and has wide experience as a campaigner, candidate and organiser. By profession he is a railwayman. He says 'With the Greens polling consistently well nationally, the sitting MP standing down and the breadth of support we already have in York Central, we have a real opportunity to do extremely well here. I will be campaigning hard to promote our key policies to protect the NHS, keep services public and properly funded, abolish tuition fees and ensure everyone has a minimum £10/week Living Wage by 2020.'



The Green Party's York Central candidate Jonathan Tyler with Andy Law, Naomi and Eleanor Rogers at York station.

Reynard's Garage could still be Air Museum and housing

Bids to demolish the council-owned property on Piccadilly to build yet another hotel have fallen through. The Green Party has consistently argued for the Council to consider other uses such as working with a local consortium to create a 1930s visitor attraction, marking the building's historic legacy, along with new affordable housing. Denise Craghill said, 'I spoke against previous plans to use this site for yet another hotel and very much welcome the Council's announcement that it will seek to do something more useful and imaginative with it, as we have urged all along.'

Punch Bowl Pub Saved

Thanks to a vigorous campaign by local residents and CAMRA, supported by the Greens, the Punch Bowl pub on Lowther Street has been saved from re-development as a Tesco's. Refurbishment is on the cards and the pub's spacious function rooms are available for use for events. Just ask at the bar! A successful Green Party motion to bring in a blanket

'Article 4 direction' to protect all of York's pubs is due to be discussed by the Labour Cabinet soon.

Haxby Road Pizza Hut application refused

Denise Craghill wrote twice to object on behalf of local residents to plans to turn the old Blockbusters shop on Haxby Rd into a Pizza Hut Delivery. Along with many letters from residents this resulted in a decision last December to refuse the application. An appeal is still possible, but not in prospect so far.

The Groves Chapel

Denise Craghill and June Tranmer attended a hearing where a licence to allow off sales from the Groves Chapel site between 7am and 11pm was awarded to Sainsbury's, despite well argued objections and the saturation of off-licenses in the area. A planning application has yet to come forward. Issues could include the impact on local residents and businesses, traffic, parking, deliveries and disruption to local amenity.

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