



### Green budget saves Castlegate Centre and Yearsley Pool

A successful Green Party budget amendment has saved a number of key services and reduced cuts to children's centres and libraries. Green Party councillors negotiated the budget changes in the "hung council" situation, since neither Labour nor the Lib Dems and Tories combined could secure a majority.

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 year) 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.

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



*Left to right Susannah Bird (YorSpace), Mark Havercroft (Green candidate), James Newton (YorSpace), Pauline Buchanan (active Bishophill resident) discussing Oliver House -see YorSpace article overleaf.*

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.'



If you are online, follow our Green candidate blog:

[www.green4micklegate.co.uk](http://www.green4micklegate.co.uk)



## Are you registered to vote?

To vote on May 7th you must be on the local election register by 20th April. Everyone in the household needs to apply individually – but can do this online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote) using your National Insurance number (on pay slips etc)

## Are you a student?

You can still register and help elect Green councillors for York, even if you choose to vote at home for the General Election. You are actually legally required to register in your term time address – this helps to secure the right level of funding for an area and gives you proof of your local address. Do it today!

## YorSpace - Oliver House Bid still on!

Council Leader Dafydd Williams has deferred the decision on the disposal of Oliver House to Cabinet after listening to the arguments for YorSpace's bid from York Green Candidate for Micklegate, Mark Havercroft, YorSpace's Susanna Bird and James Newton, and local activist Pete Kilbane.

"The range of arguments and evidence for the need for this kind of housing made a strong case for YorSpace's plans" said Green Party Candidate, Mark Havercroft. "It is a victory in their efforts to have a wider discussion on York's housing needs and Cllr Williams has acknowledged this in his decision."

YorSpace are looking to build affordable housing and community space on the Oliver House site and have received strong support from Bishophill residents and the wider Micklegate community. "We'll carry on with our bid for fairer housing in York." said YorSpace's Susannah Bird, and Pauline Buchanan, a Bishophill resident and activist added "There is still an opportunity for York Council to become a leader in nurturing this kind of affordable housing in York".

THE POLITICS OF THE FUTURE DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE THE POLITICS OF THE PAST

[join.greenparty.org.uk](https://join.greenparty.org.uk)



## Three questions to Mark Havercroft – one of our Green Party Candidates for Micklegate



**Q: What is your background, Mark?**

I am a self-employed local builder, married with two school age kids. I'm the foreigner here as I live on the wrong side of the river in Fishergate, but I've lived in York for nearly thirty years now and I can't think of a better city in which to live.

**Q: Why did you decide to become a Green Party candidate for Micklegate?**

I've supported Green Party policies for years, but what drove me to become an active member and a candidate was that I couldn't carry on just complaining about what was happening in the world and in our city- I had to do something positive. I really care about York and this is an opportunity to give something back.

**Q: What would your focus be if you were elected as a councillor for Micklegate?**

Promoting strong communities. There is a lot of good community work going on in Micklegate such as Clements Hall and I would like to play my part in helping in the best way I can. Also, as a local self-employed person, I would want to help local small businesses - they have the means to do so much good in Micklegate, just look at the success of Bishy Road Traders Association.

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