



WELCOME TO THE
SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
GREEN PARTY!



Welcome to the Southampton and District Green Party! Thank you for joining the Green Party of England and Wales - we're really pleased you chose to receive communications from your local group here in Southampton too. We hope the following information helps you find out a little bit more about the ways you can become actively involved in the group and explains a little about what we do.

OUR COMMITTEE

We are all volunteers here at the Southampton and District Green Party and our committee members are voted in annually at our AGM. We currently have the following officers:

COORDINATOR

Charlie Cutt is our Coordinator and the person you will most likely receive emails from regarding meetings and events that we would love members to attend.

TREASURER

Laura Crawford is our Treasurer and looks after our financial affairs, including budgeting, fundraising and monitoring spend during elections and campaigns.

ELECTIONS

Joe Cox is our Elections Officer and ensures we follow the right processes before, during and after elections.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have a vacancy for Membership Officer, a role which includes supporting members with ways to get involved, as well as overseeing the membership database.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Sarah Alewijnse is our Diversity and Inclusion Officer and makes sure our policies, events and campaigns are inclusive and ensure members from all communities feel welcome.

PRESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

John Spottiswoode is our Press Officer and ensures the party's views on local issues are heard. We also have volunteers who manage our social media channels and website.

DATA PROTECTION

Kathryn Cook is our Data Protection Officer and is responsible for ensuring that any personal data we collect and process is done so according to the relevant regulations.

OTHER ROLES

As well as formal officer roles, many of our committee – along with other active members – undertake additional activities across the group, from leaflet design and digital support, to canvassing during elections and helping with events and campaigns.

MEETINGS

We meet monthly (except for a summer break in August!) on the second Wednesday of every month in the evening. Due to the pandemic, our meetings moved online using Zoom. Going forward it is likely we will have a mixture of face to face meetings and Zoom, to help with the costs of hiring meeting rooms and reducing travel, whilst ensuring as wide a range of people as possible can attend.

Anyone who is a member of the Green Party and who has opted in to receive communications from their local group will be sent emails each month inviting them to our meetings. The emails will usually include the agenda, the minutes from the last meeting and information about any speakers who might be attending.



We'd love to have as many members coming to our meetings as possible, as they are good places to find out what's going on locally and how you can become more actively involved. Don't worry if you can't attend all of them, haven't been to one in a while, or have never been – we love to see different faces each month, both old and new!

Every year we also hold our AGM, usually in January. At our AGM, we run through officer reports from the previous year, as well as looking back on campaigns and election results. We also vote in our new committee, whether that's officers continuing in their existing roles, or new members coming on board.

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNAL - BETWEEN MEMBERS

The most regular form of communication between the committee and members is via email and usually includes invites to meetings, information about important campaigns or election content. You can email the local party directly at:

coordinator@southampton.greenparty.org.uk

For general discussions about anything linked to green policies, events and local issues, we have an unofficial public Facebook group which you are more than welcome to join! Anyone can

post in here, whether a member of the Green Party or not, and it's often a useful way of finding out about campaigns and events linked to other local environmental and social groups:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southamptongreenparty>

For those members who are more active, come to meetings regularly and/or help with group activities, we also have a What's App group which you would be welcome join if you're keen to be a bit more involved.

EXTERNAL – FOR MEMBERS, LOCAL RESIDENTS AND SOUTHAMPTON VOTERS

The Southampton and District Green Party website is where you will find the most detailed information about our group, recent communications and events. You can also see information regarding upcoming elections, including our local candidates (once confirmed) and Charter for Change, detailing our priorities for the city:

<https://southampton.greenparty.org.uk>

If you are on social media, we would love you to follow/like our official pages! You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using the information below:



www.facebook.com/sotongreens



www.instagram.com/greenpartysouthampton



www.twitter.com/sotongreenparty

ELECTIONS

We aim to ensure the Green Party of England and Wales has representation across Southampton in both local elections (electing a local ward councillor to represent the Green Party within Southampton City Council) and general elections (electing a Member of Parliament to represent the Green Party in one of the city's three constituencies: Southampton Itchen, Southampton Test and Romsey and Southampton North).



The spring months prior to local elections are our busiest time, where we campaign within target wards (using voter data from previous elections) to try to win a majority in that area of Southampton. This is how local ward councillors are elected as Members of Southampton City Council. We spend a lot of time leafletting target wards, canvassing door to door, recruiting and supporting local candidates and producing communications for printed press and social media.

The Green Party of England and Wales has regional support staff who help us plan our election campaigns, with a wealth of knowledge on how to target wards and, more importantly, how to win! In the 2022 local elections, we came a very close second in our target ward of Portswood and we would like to build on that again next year to see the first Green Party councillor within Southampton City Council.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The first step on your journey of being a Green Party member comes from joining. For some people, this is as far as their interactions will go and they have become members of the Green Party of England and Wales to provide financial and political support, vote in leadership elections and attend conferences and events, amongst other reasons. However, many members go on to become more active, particularly with their local group, often to support activities that enable Green Party representation within their local council.

Here at the Southampton and District Green Party, we would love to hear from you if you are wondering about other ways in which you can help! From meeting like-minded people, to supporting the Green Party of England and Wales to win more seats locally and within parliament, there are many reasons to help!



Here are just some of the activities that you can help with to support your local Green Party:

- **LEAFLET DELIVERY** within our target wards (year-round and more regularly in the run up to elections).
- **CONTENT FOR LEAFLETS, BLOGS AND PRESS RELEASES** (details are discussed at meetings).
- **CANVASSING** residents door to door within our target wards (with support for those who would like it).
- **CAMPAIGN/ELECTIONS PREPARATIONS** including planning, organising, training and video production.
- **EVENTS** such as attendance at litter picks, stalls at local fairs and helping to promote these.
- **JOINING OUR COMMITTEE/BECOMING A CANDIDATE** to ensure the group is sustainable and Green Party members get the opportunity to vote for their party, irrespective of where in the city they live!

HELP CAMPAIGN FOR GREENER, FAIRER COMMUNITIES WITH US!