

# PORTSWOOD GREEN NEWS



## **Green Party local priorities in Portswood:**

- Protect services for children, elderly and vulnerable people
- Reduce high levels of air pollution in the ward
- Reverse cuts to libraries and library staff
- Make roads safer and improve public transport
- Maintain Green spaces and enhance the urban environment

## **INTRODUCING THE CANDIDATES**

### **Chris Bluemel**

Chris Bluemel has been selected as the Green candidate for Portswood in the 2015 City Council elections. Chris grew up in Shirley and now enjoys life as a musician, teacher and campaigner. He plays piano for the Southampton-based Conchord Singers. He has been active in the Green Party since 2004, and contested the Parliamentary seat in Southampton Test in 2010. He has worked with communities and organisations calling for limits on noise pollution from Southampton Airport, the protection of green spaces, improvements in provision for cyclists and bus users, and the protection of local shops and businesses



### **Angela Mawle**

Angela Mawle has been selected as the Green candidate for Southampton Test in the 2015 parliamentary elections. Angela's background is in Public Health, and was formerly Chief Executive of the UK Public Health Association, which represents public health workers, promotes sustainable development, and battles to end health inequalities. She is currently a Visiting Fellow in Public Health at the University of Southampton's Medical School. Before switching to the Greens, she was a Labour councillor in Southampton for almost six years.

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## PLANNING CONTROLS IN PORTSWOOD

Many residents have raised planning issues in Portswood concerning Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and new buildings on gardens. The Greens recognise that Homes of Multiple Occupation are important in providing affordable accommodation to many people, especially students, but believe that it is important that landlords are properly regulated. We are committed to taking action where we believe that landlords are failing to discharge their duties in keeping their rented properties in good repair.

Chris Bluemel is opposed to building on residential gardens, and in 2012, he wrote to the the Department of Communities and Local Government to oppose plans to weaken planning controls on such developments. Gardens have important environmental value, both for wildlife and for drainage, and their loss can affect the character of the area.

*Are there any other planning issues that we should be aware of? We'd like to hear from you.*



## YOUTH CENTRES MUST BE KEPT OPEN

Successive Conservative and Labour administrations have made savings to the city budget by closing youth centres. Chris Bluemel says that this is false economy and takes a very short-term view. Youth centres are a valuable part of reducing juvenile crime, which carries its own costs to society, and it is wrong to see youth services as being an optional luxury. The Greens are committed to safeguarding community facilities and services, whatever the policies of the party in national Government.

## SAFER STREETS IN PORTSWOOD

Southampton & District Green Party are delighted with the implementation of a 20mph on Kent Road, and are calling for it to be extended on all residential roads, shopping streets and outside schools. We believe that, in particular, a 20mph limit in the Portswood high street would go a long way towards improving the safety of this busy street, where there are high numbers of cyclists and pedestrians. Main roads outside these areas would generally remain at 30pmh.

Chris Bluemel says 'I cycle nearly everywhere in Southampton, and cycling is invariably safer when traffic speeds are lower on city roads. Given that 20mph limits have cross-party support in many places and cost very little to implement, there is no reason why they should not be implemented more widely.'

*Is there anything else that should be done to improve road safety in Portswood? Are there any blackspots we should know about? We'd like to hear from you.*

## **GREENS SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

The Greens warmly support local businesses in the city, and seek to reverse the long-term decline in the number of small businesses across the UK. For this reason we have opposed large supermarket developments in places where it is clear that they would harm the interests of small businesses, who generally employ more local people and keep more money within the local economy. The Greens would also aid businesses by setting business rates and rents at realistically affordable levels.

The Greens would also seek alternative uses of council-owned commercial spaces which have not been used for a long time, such as conversion to residential use or offering to not-for-profit community groups.

## **GOOD NEWS ON FLUORIDATION**

Southampton & District Green Party welcome the decision by Public Health England not to proceed with plans to add fluoride to water supplies in Southampton. In the 2008 consultation, over 70% of respondents were opposed to fluoridation, with Southampton City Council's previous support crumbling, Public Health England's position was rapidly becoming untenable. Chris Bluemel said: 'I am obviously delighted that Public Health England recognises that it has no support for the scheme, but it is a matter of regret that the organisation spent so much time and money trying to pursue it. The Greens have and always will oppose the fluoridation of water supplies.'



## **GREENS SUPPORT A LIVING WAGE**

The Greens agree with the principle that work should pay. This means that anyone in work should be able to earn enough money to provide for themselves and their family by earning a living wage, currently £7.45 an hour. It is not only the Greens who support a Living Wage – Boris Johnson has described it as 'good business sense'.

Brighton & Hove City Council already pays a living wage to all of its staff, and has adopted a 10:1 maximum pay ratio – the Chief Executive cannot earn more than ten times more than the person at the bottom. There is no reason why Southampton City Council cannot do the same, and set an example to all other employers across the city.

### **Primrose Cottage**

### **Gardening Co-operative**

Registered in England 30959 R.

Member of Co-ops UK.

General Gardening

Patios, Fencing, Shed building/repair

Permaculture set-up and maintenance

02380 433312

[Nigel@clark.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:Nigel@clark.orangehome.co.uk)

Working for a greener world

# KEY PEOPLE IN THE GREEN PARTY



## Caroline Lucas MP

Caroline Lucas is our Green voice in Parliament, and has topped various polls to be named 'MP of the Year', 'Most Influential MP' and 'Most Ethical Politician'. She sits on numerous cross-party committees, and has campaigned across a broad range of issues. She has put forward bills to give people more control over public services, close tax loopholes, and bring the railways back into public ownership. Most recently, her campaign for a review of drug laws resulted in a debate in the House of Commons.

## Keith Taylor MEP

Keith Taylor is the Green MEP for the South-East. Along with fellow Green MEP Jean Lambert, he has been working to take on the unaccountable power of the City of London, and to reform the EU to make it more democratic and less of a vehicle for enriching big business. Keith has worked on many issues, including - arguing for proper regulation of bankers' bonuses and for an end to rewards for failure, - opposing fracking in the South East, calling for tougher action on air pollution, and campaigning for an end to the EU's more wasteful practises such as the monthly relocation from Brussels to Strasbourg. Keith sits on the Committee on Petitions which gives EU citizens the opportunity to challenge the EU on how laws are being implemented in EU member states. To find out how you can do this, visit:



<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/home.html>

If you are interested in learning more about the Green Party please fill in your details:

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