

PORTSWOOD GREEN NEWS



Key priorities for Southampton

Don't forget the **Green Party 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



Chris Bluemel,
Green party local election candidate for
Portswood, is campaigning for policies to
reduce the number of empty shops

Small businesses

Local businesses are the backbone of the local economy and community. However, recent years have seen a sharp reduction in the number of small businesses, and many areas are now dominated by a small number of big high street brands. The Green Party will promote and support local businesses by giving preference to local businesses in renting out retail space, and keeping rents on these spaces low. We will oppose further applications for supermarkets, and proposals to extend the opening hours of existing ones, due to the negative impact these have on local businesses.

We recognise that empty retail units create a poor public image, and we will make all possible efforts to get these back into use. Where council-owned spaces remain empty for a long time, we will open them up to use by appropriate not-for-profit organisations.

Real policies - real principles

www.greenparty.org.uk



Keeping warm without costing the earth

The high cost of energy is a big concern to many Southampton residents – after all, everyone wants to keep warm without paying through the nose to do so. Unfortunately, under the Coalition government, the number of households living in fuel poverty risen sharply. The UK has a target of eradicating fuel poverty completely by 2016 – a target which is likely to be missed.

But Green councillors everywhere are taking their own action. The Kirklees Warm Zone, the country's first universally free insulation scheme, was initiated by Green Cllr Andrew Cooper and has been copied right across the country. The Southampton Green Party would take urgent action to improve the energy performance of the built infrastructure within Southampton, starting with council buildings and council housing stock.

Chris Bluemel, Green Party candidate for Portswood, said: 'Improving the energy efficiency of peoples homes would have benefits across the community. Not only will it reduce carbon emissions, but people living in warmer homes will be healthier, and they will save money, which they are instead able to spend in the local economy. It is a win-win situation.'

B&Q site

We have learnt that the B&Q store on Portswood Road is to close, and that a development company has come forward with plans to redevelop the site into student accommodation. Whilst we are happy that such a site is used for this purpose, we believe that the development currently planned needs to be reworked.

The Greens would expect new student accommodation here to be built to high architectural and environmental standards, and to have plenty of green space around it. We do not want to see another over-dominant building like the Gateway student accomodation development in Swaythling.

We believe the building should be smaller, and that there should be more green space. What do you think should happen on this site? We would like to hear from you.

Protecting Tenants in Portswood

The Green Party believe that individuals and communities have the right to choose the kinds of property and household in which they live. We will not be drawn into condemning homes of multiple occupation, as some of the other parties have, because we believe that it is a basic right of people to choose to live communally if they wish to. We also recognise that this is the most financially viable living arrangement for many people, such as university students.

Where there are issues with individual properties we will use existing legislation to deal with them. Councils already have powers to deal with excessive noise and litter, and houses left in a state of disrepair, and the Greens will have no hesitation in making use of these powers when necessary.

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



2015 General Election

The Green Party are contesting the General Election, with candidates in every constituency in the South East. We have selected Angela Mawle, Visiting Fellow in Public Health at the University of Southampton's Medical School, as the candidate for Southampton Test.

Here are a selection of the policies from our manifesto.



Angela Mawle

Fairer taxation

The minimum threshold for paying income tax will rise to £10,000.

New taxes on the value of land, and on financial transactions between financial institutions, will raise around £50bn between them, enabling most of the cuts implemented by the Coalition Government to be reversed.

The 50% tax rate on the highest earners, dropped by the Coalition Government at enormous expense to the country, will be restored.

Keeping Public Services Public

We will immediately halt the creeping privatisation of the National Health Service, and keep all healthcare provision firmly in the public sector. The failure of the UK's first NHS hospital to be run by a private company should serve as a stark warning of the risks incurred with such arrangements. Doctors and nurses should be answerable to patients, not private shareholders.

We will begin the renationalisation of the UK railway network, beginning with the train operator franchises. Each franchise will, on expiry, return to public ownership. The above-inflation increases in train fares will be brought to an end.

Balancing the Books

The Green Party believes that certain cuts need to be made, but not to social services for vulnerable children or adults, youth clubs, Sure Start centres, local government or the NHS.

Instead we will:

cancel much of the UK's capital military expenditure, including the replacement of Trident, estimated to cost £75-100bn over its lifetime. The UK does not face any conventional military threats, and our military operations abroad generally cause more problems than they solve.

end the Government's financial support for the arms industry, including the taxpayer-funded arms fair and the financial guarantees provided for arms exports. It is not fair for the taxpayer to carry the risk of these deals.

abolish plans for new roads and the High Speed 2 railway. The money will be reallocated to smaller-scale projects to improve cycling infrastructure and public transport schemes which are cheaper, more sustainable, and spread their benefits across more of the population.

KEY PEOPLE IN THE GREEN PARTY



Natalie Bennett, Leader

Natalie Bennett was elected the leader of The Green Party of England and Wales on September 3, 2012, after a varied career as a journalist, during which she worked for several mainstream newspapers including the Guardian, the Independent, the Times and the Telegraph. Within the party she's been an active worker on policy, on issues ranging from the abolition of the Corporation of the City of London to abortion rights, proportional liability on the roads, to job-share MPs and a 40% quota for women on major company boards, the treatment of women offenders and the rights of asylum-seekers and sex workers.

Jenny Jones, Lord Jones of Moulsecombe

Jenny Jones, Baroness Jones of Moulsecomb joined the House of Lords in 2013, having been chosen for this appointment in a ballot of all Green Party members. She has also been a Green Party member of the London Assembly since 2000 and was elected as the first Green member of Southwark Council, from 2006 to 2010. She was the Green Party candidate for Mayor of London in 2012. Her work has a strong emphasis on civil liberties, sustainability and localism. Before her election, Jenny Jones was an archaeologist working mainly in the Middle East and a former chair of the Green Party Executive.



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

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