

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 Southampton

Reverse cuts to libraries and library staff

Make roads safer and improve public transport

Maintain Green spaces and enhance the urban environment



Traffic Dangers on Priory Road

Many residents have spoken about the issues of Priory Road (north section) becoming very congested during the morning and evening rush hours. Chris Bluemel, Green Party candidate for Portswood, has seen at first-hand that this is posing a clearly identifiable risk to pedestrians and cyclists, as well as undermining the quality of life to Priory Road residents.

Chris believes that there are a number of possible solutions, but all of them would involve some restrictions of access to motor vehicles, and so we will only implement them if they have the support of residents. Possible measures are:

- Kent Road, Priory Road north and Aberdeen Road to have signs prohibiting motor vehicles, except for access.
- Closing off the roadway under the railway bridge on Kent Road, so that it can only be used by cyclists and pedestrians. The majority of commercial vehicles are in any case unable to pass under this bridge.

Would you support either of these measures? Or do you have any other ideas? We'd love to hear from you.

Real policies - real principles

www.greenparty.org.uk



Improving Southampton's Environment

High levels of litter are an obvious sign of a degraded environment, but the Greens believe that Southampton needs to go far beyond cleaning a few pavements. We believe that environmental quality and public health go hand-in-hand. We will take urgent action to tackle the problems of litter, and explore ways of changing attitudes of those who drop rubbish, but we will also seek to increase the amount of green space across the city in recognition of the roles that this can play in improving the city's environment, the habitats of wildlife, and the wellbeing of the individual.



Tackling climate change in Southampton

The Greens believe that Southampton should live within its ecological limits, and this means greatly reducing its carbon footprint. We believe that the council must start by putting its own houses in order, so we pledge immediate action to increase the energy efficiency of all buildings owned by the council. Although some initial capital investment will be needed, such a scheme brings the potential for long-term savings in the running costs of council buildings, thereby releasing money to be spent elsewhere.

The Greens will also bring all council housing stock up to current energy efficiency standards, reducing bills for residents and generating employment for local people at the same time.

A new start for cycling

Chris Bluemel believes that an increase in cycling levels would represent a low cost route to improving public health, reducing air pollution and improving the city's public image. At present, there are some good cycle routes but they are patchy and not always clearly signed. Chris proposes that all of the major trunk roads leading to the city centre, including Thomas Lewis Way, would have a parallel cycle route, thus providing safe cycle routes to the city centre from every part of the city. The cost would be far lower than most transport infrastructure projects, and it is likely that a grant could be applied for from the UK's Transport Innovation Fund. We are also proposing to apply 20mph limits to most residential roads and shopping streets in Southampton.



Chris cycles everywhere in Southampton, and believes we need to provide safe cycle routes for everyone. What improvements to cycling infrastructure would you favour? Please get in touch if you have an idea

Reasons to vote Green

- 1. We will fight to for a publicly funded, publicly provided NHS. We will end the creeping privatisation of the NHS and repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012.**
- 2. We will end austerity and restore the public sector, creating good jobs that pay at least a living wage. We will pay for this with a new wealth tax on the top 1%, a Robin Hood Tax on the banks and the closure of tax loopholes.**
- 3. We will abolish the cruel and unfair bedroom tax. We will also build 500,000 new social rented homes and bring empty homes back into use to ensure everyone has access to an affordable place to live. We will cap rents and introduce longer tenancies to provide greater protection for renters**
- 4. We will take serious action on climate change by working with other countries to ensure global temperatures do not rise beyond 2 degrees. We will phase out fossil fuel based energy generation and nuclear power, and invest in a public programme of renewable generation, flood defences and building insulation**
- 5. We will scrap university tuition fees - removing a financial barrier that is unfairly preventing many young people from reaching higher education. We will promote a comprehensive system of local schools offering mixed ability teaching staffed by qualified teachers.**
- 6. We will return the railways to public hands to stop profits being put before passengers. We will introduce an immediate cut in fares of 10% to give passengers a much needed financial break, and increase investment in our public transport system to ensure passengers are provided with a quality service at a price they can afford.**

KEY PEOPLE IN THE GREEN PARTY



YOUR CANDIDATES IN SOUTHAMPTON

Chris Bluemel, local candidate for Portswood

Chris Bluemel is 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. Chris believes that the Coalition Government have been running the UK for the benefit of the richest 1%, at the expense of both people and the environment.



Angela Mawle with Green Party leader Natalie Bennett

Angela Mawle, parliamentary candidate for Southampton Test

Angela Mawle is the Green candidate for Southampton Test in the 2015 parliamentary elections. Angela's background is in Public Health, and she 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.

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

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