

### **Towards a Green Masterplan for Southampton**

The Greens have criticised the existing Southampton Masterplan as 'the very antithesis of sustainability, both economically and environmentally'. The Masterplan proposes vast new developments of office blocks and shopping centres, even though the city centre already has empty office space and shopping centres.



Given the failures of both East Street and Bargate shopping centres, and the trend towards online shopping, continuing to build Southampton's image purely on shopping is a high-risk strategy. The Greens believe that enhancing public spaces, and protecting and promoting our heritage have the potential to generate most sustainable, longer-term benefits for the city.

### **A fresh approach to transport and air quality**

The frequency of gridlocks on Southampton's artery roads indicates that existing approaches to transport are not working. Air pollution is now a major public health issue, with limits being breached in several places, traffic reduction strategies are the only answer.

The provision of safe cycle routes to parallel the major artery roads would go a long way towards improving public health and reducing congestion. The Council should also introduce a low emissions zone in the city centre.

### **Do you live in or close to Priory Road?**

We have learnt from both our own observations and those of residents that this road has become a 'rat run' through use as a short cut by people who do not live there. As the road is not wide enough to be a main road, this is creating dangerous situations such as pavement driving.

We are keen to explore solutions to this issue, and would like to know what you think should be done. Please use the form overleaf to let us know.

## Supporting local enterprise

The Greens are proud that Portswood has a thriving high street, and we want to keep it that way. Unfortunately, several factors are making it hard for small businesses to survive in the present climate, including the recessions, high rents, and competition from larger stores.

Local member Chris Bluemel who was the Green candidate for Portswood in 2015, has stated his commitment to protecting the high street. 'Some of Portswood's shops offer products and services which are unique, and have served local people for years or even decades. It would be a travesty to lose them, especially when their loss is preventable.

'Whilst some factors are out of our control – such as the recession and the rents charged by private leaseholders – we believe that we have a duty to help small businesses stay open where we can. We will look at all options, for example, reducing rents in the case of council-owned leases, or providing short-term loans where appropriate.'

## Improving Access to the Waterfront

Southampton & District Green Party have begun a campaign to improve access to the Waterfront. We believe that public access to riverside and waterfront areas is very limited for a port city with two beautiful rivers and a history entwined with the sea. A team within the local party is looking at current and proposed waterfront access points, assessing where they are, what they offer and how they could be improved. We are also looking to identify areas where currently it is denied but has the potential to be opened up.



Green Party volunteers prepare to survey the waterfront at Chessel Bay

**Do you have an interest in public access to the waterfront? We'd love to hear from you, and you would be welcome to become involved with the campaign.**

If you are interested in learning more about the Green Party or would like to comment on Priory Rd or our waterfront campaign please fill in your details:

Name.....  
Telephone.....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....  
Email.....  
Comments:

Post to: 12 Fernside Close Southampton SO16 4AW  
Email [coordinator@southamptongreens.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@southamptongreens.org.uk)  
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