



Green Party

Winchester

A GREEN THOUGHT

Traffic - Time to be Bold

This:



Not This:



Winchester's Movement Study has put together the results of its surveys and data collection. After such a long period of work and such promise of radical rethink the initial output is underwhelming. There is a worrying undertext suggesting that the County and City Councils are prepared to shoehorn the survey data into their existing prejudices.

The long-running scandal of inaction on air pollution in Winchester has been due to a bone-headed assertion of a need for a 'balance' between doing the right thing and the wrong thing; between cleaning the air and some bizarre idea that economic benefit arises from poisoning it. They are doing it again.

But the opinion survey does conclude: *'Ultimately, therefore, the consultation provides a mandate to be bold and not tinker around the edges'*. Cleaning the air is a legal and moral imperative and is not to be balanced against uninformed prejudice. **Time to act.**

A party lost in mist on Scafell takes a downward path but shortly discovers it is on the wrong side of the mountain heading toward a cliff. Should it carry on or rethink its trajectory? Two years after the Referendum Mrs May's Cabinet is still incapable of agreeing what Brexit means and the cliff edge is imminent.

Arch Brexiteer David Davis himself once said *"If a democracy cannot change its mind, it ceases to be a democracy."*

Now we see how terribly uncertain our future is it must be right to ask people if they really want to go on or find another way.



Winchester Greens with national party leaders at the People's Vote march in London on the 23rd June.

Kicking the Plastic Bottle

Never do anything now that you can't put off for 25 years. In the latest greenwash from central government it seems we are required to celebrate a halt to the production of avoidable plastic by 2042. How old will you be by then? Fortunately commercial concerns are more susceptible to public pressure than this government - supermarket Iceland says it has much more ambitious plans to stop using plastic disposable packaging.

Kicking Wasteful Practice

Kings School is showing the way. It stopped serving 'take away' lunch in disposable polystyrene trays and pupils are now using collapsible containers together with complimentary re-usable cutlery which neatly fits inside. Staff bring their own cups to work instead of using disposable coffee cups. It has been a huge success. There is a book swap and they donate over 800 unused text books to 'The Book Rescuers'. The school has just been re-accredited with the Eco Schools 'Green Flag' award.

Bar End Nonsense

Whatever your views on the necessity for a replacement leisure facility, the scale of the ambition or the proposed siting, one thing is very clear - the City Council has not thought through the transport implications. In the haste to force this project through the Council has resorted to vague hand-waving and highly implausible assertion about the traffic effects. Does anybody seriously believe that City Bridge will actually have reduced traffic as a result of the greater part of the City's population being on one side of it and the leisure centre on the other? Most people accessing by public transport will now have two bus journeys instead of one and it would cost a family much more than going by car. Winchester Greens think the balance should be redressed by offering free public transport to the facility, paid for by realistic car parking fees

in the planning of either the event or the workshop that led to it, though at least one Green Party member was involved (in a non-partisan way) in both. Nevertheless it was good to see Steve Brine at the event and we hope his interest will help bring about a long-overdue change in the attitude of the Council to cycling and walking in the City. Healthy modes of movement have been shamefully side-lined for years by a Council wedded entirely to meeting the supposed needs of car drivers and those who imagine an economic benefit arises from choked and choking streets. If Steve Brine is really interested in this issue he will put his voice firmly behind the ambition to civilise the streets of the City. He would be very welcome on such a bandwagon.

Taking Cycling Seriously

Since the increasing value of cycling to a healthy and sustainable transport system is recognised within the Movement Study, we hope that some serious action will be taken to encourage it.



Council telling us



Council helping us

Just like Trump

Our MP Steve Brine left a comment on our Facebook page accusing us of 'fake news' and being 'just like Mr Trump!' in response to us writing that he had been 'jumping on the bandwagon' at the Cycle Winchester event in May. He accused us too of not seriously engaging with the issue of cycling. Now Mr Brine may well be an advocate of cycling, but as far as we can tell he had no involvement