

Green Party press release for Local elections 2021

With a vote for the Winchester Green Party locals can demonstrate their desire to a transition to a green wellbeing economy that is based on local businesses and neighbourhoods.

Many vulnerable people had to rely on local communities during the pandemic. We want to strengthen local initiatives and local businesses. Buying locally produced products is good for our communities and reduces the waste of natural resources.

The biggest challenges of our times will be the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. Our candidates therefore want to transfer the content of the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) bill into local actions.

We want to use the space of inner-city car parks to build council houses following Passive House (ultra-low energy buildings) standards.

We should limit new housing developments to the need for council and truly affordable homes on brownfield sites only. We should not build housing developments for capital investment on green land as this will only create a new housing bubble and destroy our valuable countryside for ever.

Green councillors will build better alternatives to car driving between Winchester and surrounding villages and towns:

- Safe cycle and walking routes.
- Bus network with at least half hourly bus service during peak times with the first bus running before 0600 and the last after 2300. Make bus tickets affordable and competitive to car use, including simplified ticket zones.
- Redesign key junctions and roads to promote active travel and public transport, i.e. Oliver's Battery junction.

Green councillors will introduce a citizen's assembly to learn from our local people how our local councils should best tackle the climate emergencies – an emergency declaration achieves nothing without the action required.

Young people have suffered immensely during lockdown. The most vulnerable amongst them have suffered more abuse and many missed out on education and training opportunities. We need more investment into young people – the future of Winchester:

- Build more schools and colleges to enable reduction in class size,
- Create youth facilities and workers for every village or ward in Winchester district,
- Build free outside sports facilities in every neighbourhood (like Oliver's Battery sports park).

A vote for the Winchester Green Party is for a sustainable future where we can all live a healthy and happy life.