



# A Green Thought

News and Ideas from Winchester Green Party

## Community Solar Project – Here!

Winchester Green Party is launching a community solar project for local people who are thinking of installing photo voltaic panels on their roofs, to act together as a group. Government payments for home-produced electricity are quite generous at the moment so now is the time to act. Could this be the scheme for you?

- We all save at least 10 per cent on the cost of installation (typical standalone cost is around £8K)
- If 14m<sup>2</sup> is installed on your roof an annual return on investment of 8 per cent - around £950 - can be expected
- We receive expert technical advice and group support. To see a successful example, take a look at: [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org).

We need just 10 participants to get started. The first move will be to explore the options together without obligation. If you are interested - whatever your political persuasion - phone:

Rob Parker on 01962 890160, [rxeparker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rxeparker@yahoo.co.uk)

or

Peter Soulsby on 01962 620146, [petsols@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petsols@hotmail.co.uk)

*"Its actually quite simple. If you've got any money sitting in the bank earning tuppence, take it out of the bank, put 16 solar panels on your roof and you will earn 10 percent tax free."* Deborah Meaden on Dragons' Den, 31st July 2011.

Meanwhile, the City Council's plan to put solar panels on council houses seems in the balance. The Council's Cabinet (Housing) Committee meets on 22 September to decide on the issue - reports available via: [www.winchester.gov.uk/Cabinet-Housing](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/Cabinet-Housing)

## Hyde Church Lane - Campaign Update

Hyde Church Lane is the narrowest road in Winchester still open to all traffic. A recent survey by local residents found that over 700 pedestrians and cyclists, including small children and elderly people, use the Lane per day. Although the City Council's compromise solution to

## About us

At the last City Council election our candidate in the St Bartholomew Ward, Alison Craig, increased our vote-share from 12.5 to 17.5 per cent, one of the best results for the Green Party in Hampshire.



Alison Craig



Mary Tiles

Mary Tiles stood in the St Michael Ward, achieving over 7 per cent at her first election.



Alan Weeks

County Councillor Alan Weeks, who defected from the Lib Dems in June to become Hampshire's first ever Green Councillor, has recently attended a Winchester meeting. Formerly the chairman and campaign manager for the New Forest Lib Dems, Alan is lending his expertise to boost Green efforts locally.

close just one end of the Lane – the Worthy Lane end – to vehicles has reduced traffic, it has resulted in cars driving faster, endangering both pedestrians and cyclists.



Winchester Green Party campaigning with local residents for the total closure to cars and lorries of Hyde Church Lane

Alison Craig says, 'Hyde Church Lane is an accident waiting to happen, and making it one-way is no solution at all. This is a classic example of putting the convenience of motorists before people's safety.'

Responding to our concerns, the City Council has booked some road speed monitoring to be done by Hampshire County Council, by (we are assured) the end of September. We will make sure it happens, and will continue to press for a phased complete closure of the Lane to dangerous road traffic.

## Cuts in Bus Services - Going Backward

Conservative-led Hampshire County Council has fully imbibed the spirit of George Osborne and with great gusto removed a major chunk of support for bus services in the County.

Consistent figures are hard to come by, but the official paper on which the HCC transport committee voted puts the existing bus support at £5.4 million. The cuts of £2.1m it details constitutes a reduction to local bus subsidies of 39 per cent. This does not count the Rural Bus Subsidy provided by central government, which is also cut.

This is, according to the Southern Daily Echo, at the same time as HCC is adding £48m to its capital reserves. It is also at the same time Ken Thornber justifies spending £7m on pay-outs to retiring senior officers, more than double the statutory requirements for redundancy.

All City and County transport planning documents (including the Local Transport Plan, the Winchester Transport Access Plan, and Blueprint) glibly talk of the need to increase the use of public transport. The reality is the exact opposite.

Greens in Winchester are campaigning for:

- A Hampshire transport strategy which would achieve at least 15 per cent of travel-to-work journeys by bus;
- Reinstated bus subsidies, with free hop-on, hop-off bus travel in town and city centres, to reduce congestion;
- Low- or zero-emission buses.



The Big Lemon bus company in Brighton, a Community Interest Company, has led the way by mobilising local communities and providing zero-emission bus services (fuelled by reused cooking oil) on routes people need.

## Auction Of Promises – all welcome

If you'd like to support Winchester Green Party, come to our Auction of Promises on Thursday 6th October, at the King Alfred, 7pm. We'll start with food and drinks, then at 8.30pm there'll be the chance to bid for our fantastic prizes, for example:

- A flight for two in a Hampshire hot air balloon
- A tour of a wind farm
- A makeover of your allotment or vegetable garden – half a day of expert digging and advice

Tickets including the meal are £10 and must be booked in advance – contact Laura House: 07857915719 ; [lkhous87@gmail.com](mailto:lkhous87@gmail.com)

To attend just the Auction is free but you need to book a place – contact Laura. If you are unable to come along but would like to put in a bid in advance, Laura can send you the full list of Promises. All profits to Winchester Green Party.



**Green Party**



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If you have views on anything written in this newsletter, or would like to know more about your local Green Party group, contact us via our website: [www.winchester.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.winchester.greenparty.org.uk)