



The green newspaper for the Norwich South constituency

## A Green MP for Norwich South?

**N**orwich South residents could make history at the General Election by returning Adrian Ramsay as their Green Member of Parliament. In the most recent election in the constituency, the County Council poll on 4th June, the Greens obtained more votes across Norwich South than any other party – and by quite some distance. The Greens took 35% of the vote, with the other three parties each placed between 19% and 25%.

This is the third year in a row where the Green Party has finished in first place across the Norwich South General Election constituency on local election vote share. A similar voting pattern at the General Election would see Adrian Ramsay replace Charles Clarke as the local MP.

Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Candidate for Norwich South MP, said: "We are not complacent about the General Election in Norwich South, but the results from the last three years in this constituency show that we are strongly in contention for winning the seat at the forthcoming poll."

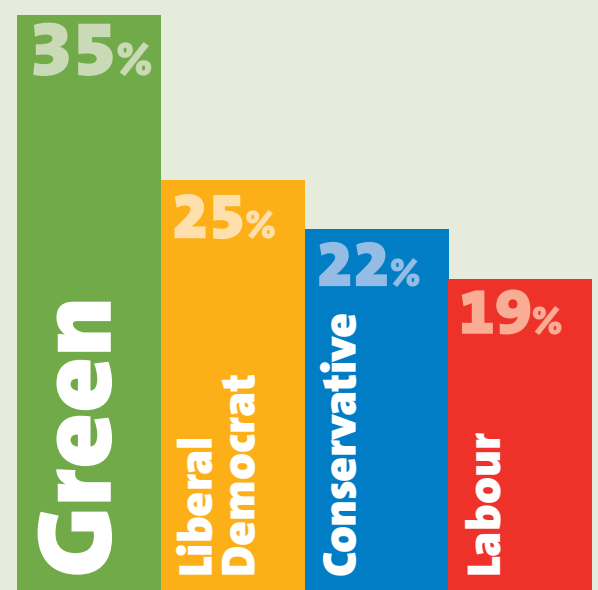


Photography by Daisy Bentley

"We urgently need a fresh Green approach at Westminster. Regardless of who forms the next Government, Norwich could make a real impact at the General Election by returning one of the first Green MPs. As an MP I would fight to protect public services from privatisation, to create new jobs in green industries and for a truly accountable, well-regulated banking system that will stop the credit crunch from happening again."

### Norwich South Vote 2009

Votes cast across your General Election constituency in the June 2009 local elections



The Green Party has now finished first across Norwich South on local election votes for three years in a row.

A similar voting pattern at the General Election would see Adrian Ramsay replace Charles Clarke as your MP for Norwich South. Everyone receiving this newspaper is in the Norwich South constituency.

### Adrian Ramsay factfile:

- Born and brought up in Norwich
- Local councillor in Norwich South since 2003
- Currently Leader of the Opposition at City Hall
- Deputy Leader of the Green Party nationally
- Adrian's local priorities include:
  - Cheap and reliable public transport
  - Protecting Norfolk from over-development
  - More affordable, well-insulated housing
  - Protecting local public services

### Norwich North By-Election: Green Vote Trebled

In the by-election to elect a new Member of Parliament for Norwich North on 23rd July Green Party Candidate Rupert Read achieved a vote share that was three and a half times higher than the Green vote at the last General Election.

The Greens are much less strong in Norwich North than in Norwich South so were well behind the winning candidate, Chloe Smith. However, the level of increase in vote was very encouraging for the Greens, who are already ahead on local election vote share in Norwich South. That is a constituency where they do have a strong chance of winning at the next General Election.

## Save Wind Turbine Factory

**B**ritain's only wind turbine factory, Vestas on the Isle of Wight, is threatened with closure. 600 jobs are at risk as the firm plans to close the factory for commercial reasons. The Green Party is calling for Government action to save the factory and to create thousands of new jobs around the country in renewable energy production.

Adrian Ramsay commented: "If the Government is serious about tackling climate change and meeting renewable energy production targets then it must ensure that the factory on the Isle of Wight stays open. It must also take action to kick start manufacturing of wind turbines and solar panels elsewhere in the country.

"In Germany there are 250,000 jobs in renewable energy – ten times the number here, despite the huge potential the UK has for harnessing the natural power of the sun, wind and waves. We need Government action to massively increase renewable energy production in the UK to ensure that British manufacturing benefits and new jobs are created."

# No New Coal Fired Power Stations

**T**his December, Government ministers from around the world will meet in Copenhagen to make a new global agreement on tackling climate change. It will be the successor to the Kyoto Protocol. Ahead of the negotiations, the Green Party is calling on the UK Government to take a lead in policies to reduce carbon emissions and to abandon its plans for seven new coal fired power stations.

Adrian Ramsay, Deputy Leader of the Green Party nationally, said: "At the Copenhagen negotiations, UK Government ministers need to be making the case for a strong global agreement to reduce carbon emissions to safe levels and prevent runaway climate change. However, our ministers will not have the moral authority they need in these negotiations if Britain is not doing its bit at home.

"One in six homes in England is now at risk of flooding due to climate change, and low-lying Norfolk will be especially hard hit. It is in the UK's interest for our Government to lead the way on reducing carbon emissions, but Labour ministers are giving the go-ahead to a new generation of coal fired power stations, at Kingsnorth (in Kent) and six other sites. Together they will churn out 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

"The Government claims that future technologies will be able to capture carbon from power stations – but these untested technologies won't be available for years, if at all. The Green Party is calling for the Government to ditch the dirty coal and invest in clean, renewable energy from wind, waves and solar power.



"In order for this to be sufficient we also need action to reduce energy use. Green Party proposals for a nationwide home insulation scheme would do just that, whilst saving people money on fuel bills at the same time. Green Party economic policies would also reduce energy use by creating an economy where far more of the goods we use are produced locally and where old goods are repaired and reused."

▶ To add your voice to the campaign see: [www.nonewcoal.org.uk](http://www.nonewcoal.org.uk)



## Renewable Energy in Norwich

**R**enewable energy systems at the Greenhouse on Bethel Street will be on public display during Heritage Open Days in September. The solar panels at the Greenhouse show how clean energy can be created onsite in urban buildings. The Green Party is calling for Government action to make onsite renewable energy generation far more widespread.

Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Candidate for Norwich South MP, said: "Green Councillors are pressing the City Council to include solar panels in new affordable housing and to make them a requirement of planning permission for private developments. This would make a major contribution towards meeting the city's carbon reduction targets.

"Approximately a third of the power from large power stations is lost when it is transported long distances, so local renewable energy production has to be a major part of energy provision in the future. Government must make it more affordable for more people to have solar panels installed in their homes."

During Heritage Open Days (10th to 13th September) the Greenhouse is one of several organisations providing information on building design and energy. There is also a fun heritage trail on Sunday 13th (see advert).

▶ For more information about the Heritage Open Days please visit: [www.heritagecity.org/hods](http://www.heritagecity.org/hods)

▶ For more information about the Greenhouse please visit: [www.greenhousetrust.co.uk](http://www.greenhousetrust.co.uk)

**GREEN BUILDINGS EVENT**  
10th-13th September  
10am - 4.30pm

**The Greenhouse**  
**OPEN BUILDING**  
exhibition and information

including: Energy Savings Trust Warm Homes  
Good Energy Norfolk Solar

Sunday 13th September  
**THE GREENHOUSE**  
**TRAIL**

Follow the route and find the answers  
to the clues along the route.  
Enjoy the walk, have fun, learn and join in.  
Start anytime after 10:30am  
and finish anytime  
up until 4:30pm

**The Greenhouse**  
42 - 46 Bethel Street  
Norwich NR2 1NR

# £19m Extra Cost of N&N Due to PFI

Local economist Chris Edwards recently published a report which showed that the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital costs taxpayers £19million more per year under the Private Finance Initiative than it would

under a traditional public funding arrangement. Dr. Edwards showed that a net saving of £217million of public money could be made during the remaining life of the contract if the hospital were fully returned to public ownership.

Chris Edwards launched his report at a recent press conference chaired by Adrian Ramsay, Deputy Leader of the Green Party nationally. At the press conference, Councillor Ramsay called for an end to PFI schemes and privatisation in public services.

Adrian Ramsay said: "This is a financial scandal. It seems that millions of pounds that should have been spent on public health care have gone into the deep pockets of finance companies.



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"Green Party policy is to buy back PFI contracts. If elected as an MP, I will press for an end to wasteful privatisation schemes. We need accountable public services with transparent funding arrangements that ensure taxpayers' money is used effectively in the short and long term."

▶ To read more about Chris Edwards' report please visit: [www.uea.ac.uk/dev/faculty/Edwards](http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/faculty/Edwards)

## Rule Out Incineration, Say Greens



Green Councillors are pressing the County Council to rule out building an incinerator in Norfolk to burn our waste. The County Council recently announced that its plans for a waste treatment plant at Longwater had fallen through. The ruling Conservatives at County Hall are now looking at other options for disposing of residual waste and they have refused to rule out incineration.

The proposed plant at Longwater would have broken down residual waste to increase recycling and composting. It would have reduced the amount of waste going to landfill without burning any.

Andrew Boswell, Leader of the Green Party County Councillors, said: "There are still major health concerns about incineration. The ruling Conservatives at County Hall should reject building an incinerator anywhere in Norfolk and also rule out sending Norfolk's waste elsewhere for incineration. It would be unethical to pass on the problem to another county.

"What we need is investment in improved recycling facilities, so everyone can easily recycle the full range of materials, and the creation of a Resource Recovery Park where materials and goods can be reused and repaired."

## Greens Call for Free Dental Care



The Green Party is calling for major improvements to National Health Service dental care to ensure that everyone has access to basic dentistry. Under Green proposals, expensive dental fees would be scrapped, basic dental care would be free and dentists would be given the resources they need to ensure equal access for all.

Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Candidate for Norwich South MP, said "In the past few years, many dentists have left the NHS and converted to private practice, due to Government funding arrangements. Many people I've spoken to in Norwich now can't get a local NHS dentist place, resulting in some people travelling further, some going private and paying more and some not being able to afford dentistry at all."

The Green Party recently contacted every Primary Care Trust in England for information about dental services. This research revealed that around half the NHS dental practices in Norwich are not taking any new patients – similar to the national average. It also showed that less than half the adult population is accessing NHS dentistry.

The high cost of dental care puts many people off visiting the dentist. A recent survey by Which found that 8% of the population have resorted to doing their own dentistry, such as pulling their own teeth with pliers.

Adrian Ramsay continued: "Even when people can access NHS dentistry, the charges are high – over £30 per year just for check ups and far more when work is needed. This is a lot of money for people on low incomes who just fail to qualify for free dental work under Government rules. We need a dental system that is truly free at the point of delivery and accessible to all."

▶ If you are unable to find an NHS dentist locally, you could ask NHS Norfolk to help find you a place: (01603) 257000

### 16,000

- Number of children dying every day around the world from hunger-related causes.
- Cost (in £s) of feeding 250 African children for a whole year.
- Amount (in £s) that Labour MP and 'climate change envoy', Elliott Morley, claimed on a non-existent mortgage.
- Number of mortgage applications being refused by UK banks every month.

### One in Five

- Children leave primary school without basic maths and English.
- Parents won't get their first choice school for their children.
- Students fear insolvency because of debts.
- Young people experience a stress-related mental illness.

# Independent Body Should Oversee MPs' Expenses



## Adrian Ramsay writes...

I have written to Sir Christopher Kelly, the person conducting the review of the MPs' expenses system, to outline the Green Party's views on expenses and our proposals for reform of Parliament more generally.

The main point I made is that the MPs' expenses system should be established and monitored by an independent body, such as the Committee on Standards in Public Life, not by MPs themselves. This is essential to restore public confidence in Parliament. I argued that the principles of the new system should include preventing MPs profiting from second homes and making it a criminal offence to knowingly overclaim.

I also believe that simply reforming the MPs' expenses system is not enough. The lobbying power of big business over MPs needs to be regulated and contained. There should also be elections to the

House of Lords. We need to bring an end to the system where people can sit in the Upper House of Parliament following a party political appointment.

The Green Party has also long supported giving electors the opportunity to recall an elected politician from office, and trigger a by-election, through a petition signed by a certain proportion of constituents. Decentralisation of power is also crucial: more decisions should be transferred from Westminster to local councils, and residents should have the opportunity to participate more in decision-making on local issues.

These reforms are crucial to create a political system where MPs are accountable to the public and where residents can clearly see how they can influence public decision-making.



## As MP for Norwich South I would:

- Retain my home in the constituency
- Rent a basic flat for overnight accommodation in London
- Publish details of all expenses incurred on my website
- Hold regular surgeries and public meetings for residents to attend
- Respond to all e-mails, letters and phone calls from residents

## Can You Help?

To win the Norwich South constituency at the General Election, we need more help with our campaigning from people who support the Green Party. If you can help with leafleting or paperwork, please return the reply form opposite.

We particularly need help with donations towards the campaign. We rely on donations from our supporters to fund our campaigning. We don't get donations from big businesses because some of our policies are not very popular with

them. For example, we want to see re-regulation of the banking sector, action to close tax havens, legislation to contain the power of supermarkets and an end to GM crop production.

£50 would pay for 1000 letters to residents on a local campaign. £150 will pay for a newsletter in one part of the constituency. An early donation of whatever you can afford will help us get off to a good start in the campaign. Please make cheques payable to 'Norwich Green Party' and sent to Samir Jeraj, c/o 27 Clarendon Road, Norwich, NR2 2PN.

## Should Adrian Attend Your Residents' Meeting?

Adrian is already campaigning on a range of local issues across the Norwich South constituency. He is always keen to meet residents and hear about the issues that concern you. If you would like Adrian to attend a meeting of your local group or residents' association, either to speak or just to listen, please call (01603) 611909 or e-mail [enquiries@norwichgreenparty.org](mailto:enquiries@norwichgreenparty.org)

## Can you help Norwich Green Party gain an MP and more councillors to tackle the issues raised in this newspaper? Your help can make a difference!

Yes, I will help by:

- Voting for Adrian Ramsay at the next General Election to elect a Green MP for Norwich South
- Voting Green at future local elections
- Displaying a window poster at election time
- Displaying a garden poster board at election time
- Delivering some leaflets in my area
- Doing some paperwork, such as stuffing envelopes
- Coming to a Green social event (tick to request details)
- Making a donation (cheques payable to 'Norwich Green Party')
- Joining the Green Party (tick for details)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

Please return to: Norwich Green Party, 27 Clarendon Road, Norwich, NR2 2PN.

The Green Party will contact you using the details you have supplied. If you do not wish to receive information from the Green Party please tick this box:

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**Farmers' Market: second Sunday of every month**

### Contacting Norwich Green Party:

Please get in touch if you have any questions about Green Party policy, would like to raise a local issue or are interested in helping.

Phone:  
01603 611909

E-mail:  
[enquiries@norwichgreenparty.org](mailto:enquiries@norwichgreenparty.org)

Post:  
27 Clarendon Road,  
Norwich, NR2 2PN.

ONE WORLD. ONE CHANCE.

Vote Green Party



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