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General election

There is going to be a **General Election** on Thursday, 12 December.

A **General Election** is when we vote for someone to be our **Member of Parliament (MP)**.

**Members of Parliament (MPs)** are people who:

- Make laws
- Speak up for their local area
- Check that the Government is working properly

MPs are in different political parties, like the Green Party, Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and others.

The party with the largest number of MPs will form the next Government.
The Green Party

The Green Party is a political party.

We believe in:

- Looking after our planet so all life can do well
- Stopping pollution which harms our planet
- Recycling and re-using things so that we waste less
- Looking after nature and the countryside
- Being fair to everyone
- Helping everyone to live good lives, not just make more money

This document explains what the Green Party would do if it was part of the next Government. It is called a manifesto.
The biggest problem we have to face is **climate change**.

**Climate change** means that the weather around the world is changing.

The world is getting warmer.

This is causing:
- Worse storms and flooding
- A rise in the sea level
- Wildlife to die

Climate change is caused by pollution.
Most of the pollution comes from burning, coal, oil and gas.

At the moment we burn coal, oil and gas when:
- We make electricity
- We drive our cars and other vehicles
- We fly in aeroplanes
- We heat our homes

We need to make a big change in the way we do things.

If we don’t do these things soon, the climate will get worse and life will get much harder for many people.
The Green New Deal

The Green Party plans to stop this pollution by 2030 by:

- Making our electricity from the wind, sun and waves
- Making our homes and buildings warmer so we don’t have to spend so much on heating
- Having electric cars and public transport

This will be a lot of work. It will create a lot of new jobs.

The Green Party plans to:

- Train people so they can do the new jobs
- Build thousands of homes which:
  - Don’t cost too much to rent
  - Are warm and cheap to heat
The Green Party would give local Councils the power to get on with this work.

We will work with trade unions and give more money to areas where many people are poor or don’t have a job.

Trade unions are organisations where workers help each other and make sure people are being treated fairly.

We will change how the banks work. We want them to lend money to companies that are helping to stop climate change.

We will look after nature and make sure there are enough places where wild creatures and plants do well.
We will change the way that farmers work so that:

- There is less pollution from farms

- Wildlife is kept safe

- They plant trees which:
  - Help to stop climate change
  - Help to stop flooding
Basic Income for everyone

The Green Party would give a Basic Income to everyone.

Basic Income is a plan to give everyone a certain regular amount of money which is enough to live on.

Basic Income would be instead of benefits.

You would not have to apply for it, or fill in any forms.

You would not get less than you get now from benefits. You might even get more.

You would be able to work and earn more money without losing your basic income.
By giving everyone a basic income the Green Party would:

- Make it easier for people who live on benefits now

- Stop people having to worry about whether their benefits are going to be taken away

- Help people who only earn a low wage

Basic income would save the Government money.

It is much cheaper to run than the way we currently give people benefits.
Brexit is about the UK leaving the European Union.

The European Union is 28 countries in Europe that work together and support each other.

The Green Party wants us to stay in the European Union.

We have been working with Green Parties in other countries to make the European Union better for everyone.

The Green Party thinks that we are better to all work together to improve things for everyone in Europe.
A fairer way to vote

The way we vote now means that many people don’t have a say. We want to change the way votes are counted.

We want to get people in Parliament and Local Councils who can speak up for all the different views of local people.

We want to let people vote to say who should be in the House of Lords.

The House of Lords is part of Parliament. They help to make laws and keep a check on the Government.

We want people to be able to vote for who is in the House of Lords.

We want young people to be able to vote in elections. 16 and 17 year olds should have a say because it is their future.
Shaking up Government

The Green Party would change the way Government works.

We would get rid of some of the old jobs in Government and instead:

- Have someone responsible for making the Green New Deal work
- Have someone responsible for dealing with climate change
- Make all parts of Government think about how people will live in the future
- Think about how people live good lives - not just about making money
- Be fair to people who need to come here because they might be killed in their own countries
- Help people to speak up if they think things are being done in an unfair way
The Green Party would give local councils the power and money to:

- Help local people get the training they need for the Green New Deal

- Build the homes they need locally

- Help homeless people more

- Help people who need support to live
A Greener Britain

The Green Party would do many other things if it won the General Election, including:

- Make our **public services** work for people in a better way

**Public services** are services that are run by Government organisations. They include:

- The NHS
- Schools, and colleges
- Local Councils
- Housing associations

- Increasing the lowest wages to at least £12 an hour and making sure everyone gets good conditions at work

- Giving the NHS a lot more money so that health services get back to what they were
• Giving more money to schools so that there can be more teachers and teachers can give children more of their time

• Protect and help our nature and countryside so that people can enjoy it in the future

• Making sure that animals are treated well

• Making sure that everyone from all the different communities are treated in a fair way

Communities are groups of people living in the same place or that share something in common.

• Changing the way we deal with people who break the law by:
  • Finding ways to stop crime happening in the first place
  • Helping people who have broken the law to change so they don’t do it again
• Make it lawful to buy and use certain drugs. This would stop drugs being sold by violent criminals

• Help other countries to work together to create peace

• Help poorer countries to make life better for their people

• Make big businesses pay their fair share of taxes

• Help small businesses

• Increase the amount of waste that is recycled so that:
  • Less goes to big rubbish tips
  • Less is burned, causing more pollution
For more information

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