

GreenView

The green newspaper for Norwich



Keep Our NHS Public

The Green Party is campaigning against Government plans that will break up the NHS and allow private companies to take over NHS services. The Government is planning to get rid of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and put groups of GPs in charge of purchasing care from private companies and public health care providers.

Health care professionals have raised many concerns about the Government's Health and Social Care Bill. In response to lobbying, the Government has back-tracked on some aspects of the plans but the following proposals still remain in place:

- **Privatisation:** Private companies will be allowed to bid for NHS work. This could result in private companies creaming off the most profitable work, leaving the NHS under greater financial strain as it is



Above left: Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Deputy Leader, speaking at a recent Norwich rally to protect public services from cuts and privatisation.



left to cover the unprofitable work.

- **Quality of care:** There will be competition between private and public health care providers as they bid to supply services. This could mean that the cheapest services are provided, rather than the best quality for patient care. Private companies are likely to be driven by the profit motive, rather than the need to provide quality of care.
- **Not a national service:** This is the biggest shake-up of the NHS since its foundation in 1948. The NHS will become a market of competing private and public health care providers, rather than a single public health service. The Government will no longer have an obligation to ensure that comprehensive healthcare is available throughout the country.

Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Deputy Leader, said: "The NHS should be based on high quality patient care, not market principles and private profits. Privatisation of NHS services is likely to reduce the quality of patient care.

"The Government claims these changes will save money. However, previous Labour and Conservative

Governments have brought in more privatisation to the NHS – such as PFI schemes and internal markets – and these have resulted in billions of pounds of extra costs."

Green Party Leader Caroline Lucas MP said: "I will be scrutinising the amendments to the legislation and pushing for changes wherever possible, but my fear is that this Bill is still rotten to the core – and riddled with problems that have not been addressed."

➔ For more information or to support the campaign to keep the NHS public see www.keepournhspublic.com

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If you sign up via the website www.gpnorwich.co.uk Ecotricity will make a donation to Norwich Green Party (£40 for electricity and £20 for gas). This is at no cost to you and the money will help fund Norwich Green Party's campaigning activities.

You can also register with Ecotricity by phone:

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Please quote Norwich Green Party.



The Green Party is the main opposition to the ruling Labour Cabinet at City Hall. The Green Party increased its number of seats to 15 at the local election in May 2011.

Greens Oppose Dangerous Cuts to Care Inspections

Green Party Councillors are campaigning against planned cuts to inspections of Norfolk's care homes. Norfolk County Council is planning cuts of £180,000 to the Quality Assurance Service, which monitors the quality of social care in Norfolk.

Green Councillor Stephen Little said: "Whilst there are many excellent care providers working in Norfolk, the recent BBC Panorama investigation into abuse in care homes shows how important it is to maintain regular inspections and safeguard vulnerable residents."

Summed Up

65 billion

...Amount (in £s) that NHS in England will pay private companies for PFI hospital buildings that cost £11 billion to build.

...Cost (in £s) to UK taxpayers of bailing out RBS and Lloyds banking groups.

...Total amount (in £s) spent by UK households on household energy and transport in 2010.

...Combined annual GDP (in US dollars) of the world's ten poorest countries.

4.8 billion

...Amount of tax (in £s) that Vodafone is alleged to have dodged paying.

...Level (in £s) of Government cuts to public services in 2010.

...Amount (in £s) that volunteers contribute to UK economy every year.

...Annual cost (in £s) to NHS of obesity-related health problems.

...Number of people worldwide living on less than \$10 a day.

Time for Dentistry Reforms say Greens



The Green Party is supporting calls for NHS dentistry to be reformed to protect patients' rights. Under the current system some dentists are misleading patients about their rights to NHS treatments and are charging for expensive private treatments instead. For example, some dentists are charging £600 for complex treatments that should cost £200 for NHS patients.

The problem has arisen since the Labour Government introduced a new pricing structure in 2006, which changed the way dentists are paid for NHS work. Dentists working under NHS contracts can provide both private and NHS treatments, but are supposed to treat NHS patients at fixed NHS prices, not private rates.

Adrian Ramsay, Green Party Deputy Leader, said: "The great majority of honest dentists are finding it hard to cover costs under this system due to insufficient Government funding, while less honest dentists are over-charging patients. The Government needs to scrap the current system and employ dedicated NHS dentists on a fixed

What are your rights?

Everyone is entitled to dental treatment on the NHS. Treatment is free for some people including children, the unemployed and pregnant women. For those who pay for NHS dentistry, there are three fixed payment levels depending on the treatment:

- **Band 1 - £17:** includes an examination, diagnosis and advice, plus X-ray and scale and polish if needed.
- **Band 2 - £47:** includes all treatments in Band 1, plus fillings, root canal treatment and extractions.
- **Band 3 - £204:** includes all treatment in Bands 1 and 2, plus complex treatments like crowns, dentures and bridges.

salary. Dentistry ought to be free at the point of delivery but at the very least the Government must protect NHS patients from being charged the full market rate. The problems in dentistry illustrate why the Government should not go ahead with plans to mix together NHS and private services within the rest of the health service."

Have Your Say on Council Services



From 20th July to 12th October Norwich City Council is running a public consultation on

how it should deal with national Government cuts to its budget. Residents are being asked for views on different services run by the City Council and what they think are the priority areas.

The Government has cut the City Council budget by £2.9 million. The ruling Labour administration says this is bound to affect delivery of frontline services as it is over 10% of the council's

net budget and many 'behind the scenes' savings have already been made.

Claire Stephenson, Leader of the Green Party City Councillors (pictured), said: "The ruling Labour cabinet delayed putting together a budget until after the recent local election. Now that spending cuts are being considered it is vital that residents and interest groups have a say on the impact of cuts to services that they use. The decisions that the council eventually makes must reflect the needs and views of local residents."

➔ For more information about the consultation please go to www.norwich.gov.uk or phone the City Council on 0344 980 3333.

Scrap metal collections

REASONABLE QUANTITIES OF SCRAP METAL WANTED

Please call Roy on (01603) 811686

A chance to clear out your garage at no cost to you. This is a new initiative to increase recycling of scrap metal and raise money for Norwich Green Party.

Limited capacity to collect materials. Volunteers wanted to help with collecting or storing materials.

Materials wanted include: brass, copper, lead, stainless steel, aluminium, electric cable, car batteries, car parts, cutlery, white goods.

Proceeds will go towards Norwich Green Party's campaigning activities

BOOKSALE

Every Friday & Saturday
10 – 4.30pm
42-46 Bethel Street



DONATE BOOKS

and support the environmental work of
The Greenhouse Trust
CHARITY NO 1037992
www.GreenhouseTrust.co.uk

Greens Oppose Waste Incineration

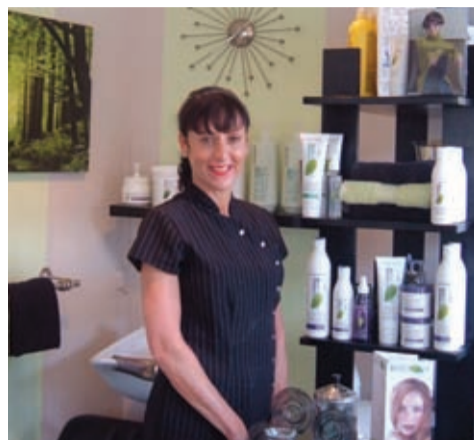
Green Party Councillor Andrew Boswell has challenged plans for a waste incinerator near Kings Lynn. Councillor Boswell has written to the council's Chief Executive after it emerged that a detailed briefing was given to ruling Conservative Councillors but not shared with opposition councillors during the decision-making process.

Andrew Boswell said: "Incineration is not the way to deal with Norfolk's waste. The council's focus should be on enhancing recycling and re-use facilities. The rest of the waste could then be dealt with using anaerobic digestion, which reduces landfill without burning materials."

The County Council is running a consultation on the planned incinerator. **To have your say please write to the Cabinet member for Environment and Waste, Bill Borrett, at bill.borrett@norfolk.gov.uk or County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH.**

Green Businesses in Norwich

Norwich has a higher than average proportion of independent and green businesses operating locally. From the Norwich Lanes and the market to repair shops, local cafes and solar energy companies, independent businesses help keep money in the local economy. Yet we know the business environment is often difficult for small businesses, particularly with competition from supermarkets and other large chainstores. Here are some examples of independent businesses operating locally and Green Party policies on supporting small firms and building a green economy.



SUE HELPS runs the **Freshair** Beauty and Barbers salon on Avenue Road in

the golden triangle. Sue brings a personal green ethos to the running of her business. She uses botanical, paraben-free shampoos and conditioners and she will soon be stocking organic colours. She also works to keep waste, energy and water use down, with a strong focus on recycling. Freshair offers a student discount.

Sue said: "At Freshair we are professional and affordable. Being green doesn't need to cost more."

▶ **Tel: 01603 621854**



MIKE HILL (right) is the co-owner of the new **River Green Café** at The Street

in Trowse. During the day River Green is a relaxed café and deli bar. In the evening and on Sundays there is a full vegetarian dining menu. The café seeks to use local suppliers but the menu is inspired by international cuisine. A range of local ales and organics wines is available.

Mike said: "We aim to provide healthy, enjoyable food that treads lightly on the planet."

▶ **www.rivergreencafe.co.uk**
or tel: **01603 622448**



TONY PARK runs **Arthur's Organics**. He delivers organic fruit, vegetables and groceries to households in and

around Norwich. Most of the fruit and vegetables Tony sells are grown in East Anglia and his main supplier is based in Attleborough. Tony's vegetable boxes start at £7.50.

Tony said: "I run a small business and I like to support other small businesses and local producers through my supply chain. This is good for the local economy and helps keep down pollution from transportation of goods."

▶ **www.arthursorganics.co.uk**
or tel: **01603 259659**



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01603 259659
www.arthursorganics.co.uk

Arthur's Organic Deliveries



Lucy Galvin, 45, was elected as a Green Party City Councillor for Wensum ward in May 2011. She lives off Dereham Road with her husband, three children and dog!

Please tell us why you wanted to stand for election.

I love living in Norwich. I wanted to give something back to the city and use my skills and experience to help represent residents.

Why did you join the Green Party?

When I looked into it, I found Green Party values were my values. I believe in democracy and people respecting each other, working together and taking decisions for themselves. I believe that we are part of nature and should respect, not endlessly exploit it. I think every person should be entitled to basic material security and that the success of a society is not just about money.

What have you been working on during your first few weeks as a councillor?

Lots of different things! So far I've worked with 30 residents on varying issues: from council tenants urgently needing repairs to helping a new community vegetable garden find its way through the planning system. I have also asked people for their views on the County Council's planned streetlight switch off and fed that back to county officers.

What jobs have you done in the past?

I trained as a journalist and worked on local papers in the UK, then abroad including as a volunteer for Christian Aid. One of my favourite jobs was press officer for the Broads Authority. That's where I learnt all about national parks and now I work with protected areas across Europe, and nearer home for the Norfolk Coast Partnership.

Green Party Policies for Small Businesses

Policies for national Government:

- Reduce business rates and corporation tax for small businesses.
- Simplify PAYE by merging National Insurance into Income Tax.
- Encourage lending to small businesses through local community banks.
- Create opportunities for small businesses through Government renewable energy and home insulation schemes.

Policies for local councils:

- Ensure councils buy local goods and services wherever possible.
- Extend support for Norwich Lanes and Buy Local.
- Work with local colleges to provide skills training for green industries.
- Ensure new retail developments include units for small businesses.

Council Pledge Needs Practical Action



recently produced a report highlighting ways in which Norwich can reduce energy, fuel and water use in order to lessen its impact on the environment and help tackle climate change.

Green Party Councillors have welcomed the report and called on the City Council to follow it through with practical action that will reduce energy use and help individuals save money on fuel bills.

Claire Stephenson, Leader of the Green Party City Councillors, said: "The City Council has acknowledged the seriousness of climate change but hasn't yet taken much practical action. Only recently, a proposal to redevelop Anglia Square was agreed even though

it doesn't comply with current requirements for carbon reduction and insulation. This shows that the council needs to tighten planning guidelines to help reduce carbon emissions from the city.

"Green Councillors are pressing the City and County Councils to invest in solar panels for public buildings and council houses. This will create lasting skilled jobs and help keep fuel prices down, both for the council and for households."

Pactical action is needed by the City Council if Norwich is to address the issues raised in a recent report on climate change, say Green Party Councillors.

The Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change

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t. 01603 622448
a. River Green Cafe, The Street, Trowse, Norwich NR14 8AH

Contacting Norwich Green Party:

For more information or to offer help please get in touch.

Phone: (01603) 611909

E-mail: enquiries@norwichgreenparty.org

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

Surgeries: The Green Party Councillors hold the following surgeries. You can come along to raise a local issue or problem. No appointment needed.

First Tuesday of each month, 5pm to 6pm at Inner Space, Maude Gray Court, St Benedicts Street

Second Monday of each month, 6pm to 7pm at Belvedere Community Centre, Belvoir Street.

Government Must Help People Save Energy



Adrian Ramsay writes...

MPs are currently considering proposals from the Government on how households can reduce their energy use. The main proposal in the Energy Bill is a scheme where homeowners, landlords or tenants can opt to have their homes insulated with no initial charge and then pay back the costs through future energy bills. Over time people would save money on energy bills.

I welcome this discussion but the Government will need to significantly step up its efforts if it is to make a big impact on reducing energy use. Firstly, the scheme would get a much greater take-up if organised proactively on a street-by-street basis, which would mean a lower cost per house. Secondly, action is needed to encourage landlords to take up the opportunity – for example, by improving the minimum energy efficiency standard needed to be able to rent out a home.

Over 5 million households in the

UK are in fuel poverty – meaning that they spend over 10% of their income on heating their homes. Many people living in the most poorly insulated homes just can't afford to keep warm. Yet the Government is phasing out funding for energy efficiency schemes for people on low incomes.

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas supported a number of amendments to the Energy Bill, including a plan to give councils responsibility for reducing energy use in their areas. This plan was voted down by Conservative and LibDem MPs, including Norwich South MP Simon Wright – even though Mr Wright had pledged support for local carbon budgets before he was elected.

If the Government is to take energy efficiency and fuel poverty seriously then it needs to push ahead on all these fronts: minimum standards for rented homes, giving councils responsibility for carbon reduction at local level and organising home insulation on a street-by-street basis to make it easier and cheaper for people to participate.

Adrian Ramsay is the Deputy Leader of the Green Party nationally and a local campaigner in Norwich.

Can you help Norwich Green Party?

Yes, I will help by:

- Voting Green at future elections
- Displaying a window poster at future elections
- Displaying a garden poster board at future elections
- Delivering some leaflets in my area
- Doing some paperwork, such as stuffing envelopes
- Helping with fundraising activities
- Coming to a Green social event (ticket 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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