

Spring 2007

# Green View

News from your Regional Green Party



Welcome to the first ever issue of GreenView, a newsletter hand-delivered to you by your local Green Party. In this first issue, we focus on the burning issue of our time: the threat posed to us all by global over-heating, the result of humanity burning too much oil, coal and natural gas.

## TOUGH ON THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

What causes dangerous climate change? The blame lies with those politicians and big businessmen who demand ever more consumption of resources. As the speed of life gets faster and material goods are produced almost too fast for us to be able to throw them away, business and transport demand ever increasing amounts of the fossil-fuels which fuel climate chaos.

...Meanwhile, is our throw-away society making us *happier*? More *secure*? For most people the answer is: No. The Green Party believes that *there has to be a better way*.

## IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS....

Are you tired of congested streets, of too many plastic bags, too much packaging and litter, too much airplane noise, too much materialism, too little peace and quiet, too few green spaces? *...It doesn't have to be like this*. It's time to turn our 'consumer society' into a green *conservator* society.

- We could have consumer goods of *quality*, built to last rather than programmed to break down as soon as the guarantee runs out; produced using renewable energy rather than fossil fuels; and built with British labour, providing local jobs, rather than being imported from the other side of the world using up yet more fossil fuels.

- We could have homes which, through generating renewable energy, are securely-warm all year-round, and are net exporters of energy, so that you get a *cheque* from your electricity company rather than a bill.

- We could have *real closer-knit communities*, *local shops*. We could have work and home being closer together, and lower crime - rather than dormitory suburbs and a tiring commute to a job in a distant city.

- We could have *safe streets* for walking and cycling and for kids to play in, rather than rat-runs and mega-highways.

- The many of us who over-work could cut down on our stressful working hours, giving us more time to spend with family and friends, and better *quality of life*.

## HOW A BETTER FUTURE CAN BE MADE

All these things are technically possible, but some politicians will tell you that they aren't politically possible. *But if you vote Green this May 3rd, we will start to make the necessary changes on May 4th*.

All new homes should be provided with renewable energy and be better-insulated: Green Councillors in Norfolk and Watford have had success in pushing for new homes to be built (and for Council houses to be repaired) to the highest-possible standard. Public transport, cycling, and walking need much greater investment: **Green** members of the London Assembly have made this possible through their support for the Congestion Charge, and through getting the Mayor to agree the greenest city budget in British history.

At present, many people are forced to use their cars a lot, to drive long distances to access medical services and post offices: Green Councillors in Mid-Suffolk have pushed for decent public transport, to reduce car-dependency -- and have enabled a new local *NHS* dentist to open up, so people don't have to travel so far to get the *NHS* treatment they have paid their taxes for.



## OUR VISION IS CLEANER, GREENER ENERGY

*Imagine if you too had a strong Green voice on your local Council.*

You could defeat plans for building an incinerator in your area, as Norwich Green Councillors have done, and greatly increase recycling levels instead.



Photo: The Norwich Green Party with their 9 City Councillors, the night of the last local election. The same thing could happen on your Council to within a few years.

You could cut light pollution, as Braintree Green Councillors have, by getting unneeded lights turned out at night – and saving energy keeps Council Tax down, too!

You could get developers to include more renewable energy and more affordable housing in new developments, as Kirklees and Norwich Green Councillors have done.

You could successfully fight against mobile-phone masts being erected in your area, as Green Councillors all over the country have done.

One more or less Councillor from another Party won't make any real difference. *A strong Green voice on the Council would make all the difference.*

## THE FUTURE'S GREEN

All across the East of England, more and more people are turning away from the tired old 'main' Parties, and from the spin of Blair and Cameron, and turning toward a Party that you can *trust*, an *ethical* Party, delivering a *secure* future: the Green Party. Together, we can prevent climate chaos, *and create a happier, healthier future:*

*Jill Weston* is a Green Councillor in Welwyn Hatfield: "I left the Labour Party in disgust over Iraq. Labour is on the way out – the future's Green."

*Dawn Castle-Green* is a former Norwich LibDem Councillor: "When I saw the LibDems sitting on the fence on whether to build yet another Tescos or whether to support vibrant local shops instead, I realised that it was time to join the Green Party. Only the Greens have the vision to lead us through the challenging times ahead."

...People still sometimes say that a Green vote is a wasted vote. But really, the only wasted vote is a vote for a Party that you don't believe in.

*Vote for what you believe in.* The Greens are standing for election here, in your ward. ...This year, if you like what we are saying, and if you think our message is timely, then please join the many who are already turning our way...*Vote Green Party.*

If you need further information, *please contact Eastern Region Green Party Election Agent Cllr. Rupert Read*, on 01603 219294, or [greenrupertread@fastmail.fm](mailto:greenrupertread@fastmail.fm), or visit [www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk) (You can *join* the Green Party here, online). If you wish to make a donation to support the distribution of more copies of this leaflet, please send cheques payable to 'Eastern Region Green Party' to Rupert Read, 17 Merton Road, Norwich, NR2

**ONE WORLD, ONE CHANCE . . . Vote Green, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

