



Chapel Allerton

Green Light

News from the Green Party in Chapel Allerton, Chapeltown, Sheepscar & Scott Hall

March 2015



Meet Mags

Hi, I'm Mags Shevlin, and I'm delighted to be your Green candidate for Leeds City Council on Thursday 7th May 2015.

Many of you will be thinking about who you're planning to vote for in the general election on 7th May, but **have you thought about your local council vote?**

Voting Green in the local election doesn't only mean voting to bring green issues to the fore. It also means voting to defend local services, parks and facilities, protect the NHS and stand up for small local businesses and decent wages. (Turn over to read about Green campaigns in your area.)

More and more voters are turning to the Greens as a party focused on addressing problems and making life better for ordinary people. The 'Green surge' has arrived in Leeds, with our Yorkshire membership quadrupled in a year.

A bit about me: I have lived in the area for 20 years and work for a housing charity in Chapeltown, which means I'm constantly hearing about local issues. I have a son who went to school in the area. I have a background in community work and mental health and set up Leeds Urban Harvest.

If you have suggestions, concerns or campaigns about Chapel Allerton and the Chapeltown area, or you'd like to get involved with your local Greens, email leedsNEgreens@gmail.com.

Get involved!

Do you want to help make your area a better place? So do we! Here are a few simple ways you can support your local Greens to make a difference:

Come along to the Leeds NHS march on 28 March and say hello to the people with the big Green banner.

Volunteer to support our local group. We're a great bunch, but we need extra help with leaflet drops, local campaigning etc.

Join the Green Party at www.greenparty.org.uk

Make sure you're on the electoral register at www.leeds.gov.uk and click link near top on left.

Standing up for the NHS

The NHS may not be perfect but it's a lot better than what's on offer in most other countries, and it's under threat from privatisation and cuts.

On 28 March there will be marches across the country to **Save our NHS**, including one in Leeds city centre. Can you join us to protest policies that jeopardise everyone's free and fair access to healthcare?

Leeds Greens will be there, speaking out against the government's moves to privatise the NHS and starve it of much-needed funds. This includes worrying plans that would mean US corporations can buy up parts of our health service and profit from our ill health.

The Leeds march starts outside Leeds City Art Gallery on the Headrow at 11.30am. Find the Greens by the big green banner.

Inkwell Garden saved?

Leeds Greens have welcomed the withdrawal of an application to build a block of flats on a community garden used by charity Leeds Mind. Inkwell Garden is a much-loved resource used by mental health service users and for community projects. However, its fate is still uncertain and discussions are ongoing.

The Greens are continuing to support Leeds Mind to help find a solution that will allow vulnerable service users and the community to benefit from the garden for years to come. Find out about Inkwell and show your support at www.inkwellarts.org.uk.

Build on Brownfield sites - not Green ones

Leeds Greens supported the Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods to defeat a planning application to build on this wonderful, much-used green space. But we are still concerned this ancient woodland could be under threat.

Affordable, quality housing for all is a core Green policy, but not at the cost of our green spaces. We're campaigning to bring into use thousands of unused houses and flats that are currently lying empty, and to make it easier to develop 'brownfield' sites.

Find out more
about the Green Party at
www.greenparty.org.uk



Use waste ground for local business

Have you wondered what's happening with the waste ground next to Yorkshire Bank in the centre of Chapel Allerton? You might be surprised to know it was bought by supermarket giant Morrisons over a year ago, but nothing has happened since.

Given the need for housing, jobs and services, the Greens are campaigning for the site to be used to benefit local businesses, not another big supermarket. We want to see small shops, cafes and businesses thrive, not another supermarket in the centre of our community.

Calling for a living wage

The Greens are campaigning nationally for a living wage, which we think would have a huge effect on people in Leeds. Housing benefit applications have doubled in Leeds in the past five years thanks to a rise in 'zero hours' contracts and under-employment. We know most people living in poverty are working, so although employment has risen, something is clearly going wrong. Evidence shows increasing minimum wages helps to address poverty and inequality without posing big problems for businesses.