



Hyde Park & Woodhouse GreenLight Spring 2015

Labour's trolleybus – public inquiry ends

After over 70 days of evidence the trolleybus inquiry finished in October. Here are the facts that emerged:

- The trolleybus would not reduce congestion.
- It would not reduce CO2 emissions.
- It would make air quality worse.
- Hundreds of mature trees would be cut down.
- It would significantly encroach on Woodhouse Moor.

It is now the Inspector's job to write his report and submit it to the Transport Secretary. That probably won't happen until May 2015. The Green Party has been opposed to the trolleybus from the outset and our members played a large part in campaigning against it. Activist Chris Foren spent many days at the Inquiry questioning council officers.



Chris Foren

LibDems refuse to end bedroom tax

Just before Christmas the House of Commons voted on the abolition of the Bedroom Tax. The LibDems abstained from voting. They could have repealed a measure that has caused serious hardship to thousands of tenants, many of whom are disabled. Because of an act of Liberal cowardice this most unfair law remains in place.

The tax affects some of the most disadvantaged people in our society: cancer patients, people with mental health problems. What's more – it doesn't work. Government figures show that only 4% of people hit by the tax have moved to a smaller house. There simply are not enough small homes to go round. The bedroom tax must be seen for what it is: another way of making the poor clear up the deficit.

Losing on the swings (and the roundabouts)

Children in Woodhouse are losing out. Currently two playgrounds are closed and have been for a long time. The play area on Little Moor has seemingly been abandoned by the city council. Another playground on Hartley Crescent has been shut for months because of suspected subsidence. We understand council officers have suggested fixing the problem at Hartley Crescent and have found money to do this but are waiting for a decision from councillors. Many of the houses in the local area have no gardens. How long are children going to have nowhere to play while they wait for councillors to make up their minds?



Need to get in touch with the local Green Party?

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Michael Hayton to stand in Leeds Central

Michael Hayton has been selected to run in the Leeds Central constituency on May 7th. Michael said “my campaign will concentrate on offering alternatives to austerity and fighting cuts to vital local services.”

If we all voted for what we believed in, we could have Green councillors and a Green MP. This is already beginning to happen in Headingley where we came a close second in the last election. Our membership has had a huge surge and we are picking up a lot of enthusiasm for the Green Party on the doorstep and at our local stalls. If you are tired of the three major parties then vote for progressive change. Let's vote for a party we believe in.



Residents call for crackdown on litter and noise

Hyde Park & Woodhouse residents continue to call for more action to reduce noise and litter in the neighbourhood. We asked local resident Dawn Carey Jones for her views. She said “We need proper allocation of resources in Hyde Park and Woodhouse to deal with our specific problems of noise from too many bass-heavy house parties and a massive amount of litter. If these issues were taken more seriously then Hyde Park and Woodhouse would become the wonderful place to live that it almost is.”

Greens want to see better arrangements for street cleansing in Hyde Park & Woodhouse. We also believe that the council should be more pro-active in tackling noise nuisance without necessarily waiting for a resident to complain.

Are you sure you're registered to vote in this election?

The rules on voter registration have changed. It is now possible to register online. Make sure you don't lose your right to vote – take a look at www.bitetheballot.co.uk. They tell you how to get registered. All you need is your National Insurance number. This should be on your payslip or on communications from the Job Centre or other benefits office. You have the choice to opt out of the “open register”. This is available to commercial companies. Opting out does not affect your right to vote. It's worth remembering that working class people had to struggle hard to get the vote. And it's less than a century since women were able to vote. Let's use it.

Asylum – a Green compassionate approach

Did you know that the UK is home to less than 2% of the world's 17 million refugees? The tabloid Press often describes asylum seekers as scroungers and criminals. Of course, the vast majority are law-abiding people who want to make a contribution to life here. Many refugees to the UK, and their children, are locked up in detention centres for no proper reason. Lois Mortimer says

“I joined the Green Party to combat an increasingly inhumane and negative attitude to immigration. In the Green manifesto I found integrity and compassion for those forced to seek refuge from their country of origin, and a pledge to address the underlying causes of this migration: war, the arms trade, environmental devastation, the consequences of past colonial actions and human rights abuses.”

5 Key Green Party Policies

- **Fight against austerity.**
- **Stop NHS privatisation.**
- **Increase minimum wage to a living wage.**
- **Public ownership of railways.**
- **Stop tax avoidance to reduce inequality.**

And Lois has taken action: for the last 18 months she has provided accommodation in her house to a refugee from Zimbabwe.