



**Nick Crawley** is the **Green Party** candidate for the **Armley ward** in the local council elections on **7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**.

About Nick:

- local man who lives in Armley with a view of Gotts Park, though originally from Sheffield.
- works in Horsforth as an accountant.
- fluent in German and Russian, and lived in Russia for two years until 2012 when he returned to Yorkshire.

Nick joined the Green Party to fight against social injustice and growing inequality in the UK, where those who most need society's help are faced with **benefit sanctions** and the **Bedroom Tax** while others hide their money in **offshore tax havens** and tell us the country is broke. Nick is very much a Green with an old school belief for **fair play**, **improving city life**, and **living within our means**.

## Two Chances to Vote Green in May 2015

On 7<sup>th</sup> May there will be two elections. One is the local Leeds City Council elections. The other is the General Election where you get to choose your Member of Parliament. As well as being able to vote for Nick as your councillor in Armley, you can vote for Andrew Pointon the Green Party candidate for Leeds West constituency in the General Election.

## Time for a change

- *Do you feel let down by the three main parties?*
- *Are you fed up with politicians in general?*
- *Have you even given up voting altogether?*

**The Green Party** is a positive change. We believe in **social justice** and have policies to help improve the lives of ordinary people and make sure we pass on a decent planet for our children and grandchildren to live in. Our existing councillors work hard all year round for you, and know that your support cannot be taken for granted.

Many people nowadays feel that **all politicians are the same** and there is no point in voting because it doesn't change anything. **The Green Party is different**. We want services to be run in the public interest, not for private profit. Greens call for:

- The nation's railways to be taken back into public hands - renationalised.
- A real **crackdown on tax avoidance**. Companies that trade in the UK should pay corporation tax here.
- More **progressive income tax**. The wealthy should be asked to shoulder more of the burden.
- **More social housing**. We want new houses to be built on brownfield sites to tackle the housing crisis.
- **Universal Basic Income** – one benefit for all to end sanctions, fraud, and expensive means testing.
- A **Green New Deal** – a programme of public investment to get jobless people back to work.

If you want to know more about the Green Party, or want to join or help please contact Nick. If you have any issues you need help with you can contact Nick too.

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## The Green Party in Leeds.

- Greens were instrumental in the **Wrap up Leeds** scheme launched in 2012 which made **free cavity wall and loft insulation** available to 15,000 households, a valuable contribution to tackling fuel poverty and emissions.
- **Greens against cruel Bedroom Tax:** part of the government's Welfare Reform Act, it reduces housing benefit for some of the poorest in society by up to 25% for those considered to be "under-occupying". We believe that this cruel tax should be abolished as the only real solution is building new social rented homes across Leeds.
- The three Leeds Green Councillors **do not claim all the allowances** they are entitled to. They have repeatedly voted for Councillors' allowances to be reduced, but were beaten by the other parties voting for increases.

## New Year's Day Free Bus from Armley Town Street

The Green Party took to the road again on New Year's Day to run its free hourly bus service. Green Cllrs Ann & David Blackburn organised the mini-bus which was sponsored by local businesses. Our voluntary drivers, including Andrew Pointon the Green Party General Election candidate for Leeds West, took on passengers old and new. In all 203 passenger journeys were logged plus 2 dogs! The bus ran hourly from Armley Town Street, through parts of Armley, Farnley and Wortley and on to City Square, and then the reverse of the route. The Green Party has run this New Year's Day service now for 18 years.

## January Council Meeting

The three Green Party councillors are against the Council's proposal to close three residential homes / day centres. One of the care homes earmarked for closure is Middlecross in Armley. Green Cllr Terry Wilford planned to speak on the proposed closures during the Full Council Meeting but the meeting ran out of time due to the time limits imposed.

Green Cllr Ann Blackburn spoke in support of the proposed thermal efficiency improvements to council housing (next year's programme includes £2.5m for this work). She also spoke in support of the proposed installation of solar PV panels to appropriate council houses (next year's draft Investment Programme proposes £3m for this work). These measures will help reduce energy bills and the city's carbon footprint.

## If elected as councillor for Armley Nick would:

- oppose all cuts to council services
- support and protect Armley's municipal and community sports facilities (golf, football, rugby, cricket, tennis) as well as the library
- campaign for reopening of former railway stations (Armley Station, Canal Road Station)
- encourage other bus companies to come to Leeds and break First's rip-off monopoly, and support West Yorkshire Joint Authority getting a Quality Contract and effectively reintroducing re-regulation of buses
- campaign to secure funding to better insulate our homes, reducing our energy bills and reducing our environmental impact

**Vote Green Party  in the Council and General Elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Vote Nick Crawley**

**For the common good #votegreen2015**