

# GREEN TIMES



The Green Party - working with community groups across the South Hams

SPRING 2013

## Policies



Local Green Party Councillors: Robert Vint (L), Jacqi Hodgson (R) with Caroline Lucas

**Sustainable Transport**  
- supporting key  
cycle path  
developments and  
other initiatives to  
provide  
relief from the current  
frustrations of our  
local transport  
system



**Waste as a valuable  
resource - Zero  
waste, no incineration**



**Local jobs and local  
investment in  
services for those  
affected by welfare  
cuts**



**Spending wisely to  
live within our means  
both environmentally  
and financially**



**Working towards a  
fairer society with a  
real vision for change**

[www.southhams.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.southhams.greenparty.org.uk)

**Devon County Council  
Elections Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
2013 - use YOUR vote**  
Cllr Robert Vint will be running  
for Totnes Rural division and Cllr  
Jacqi Hodgson will be running  
for South Brent and Dartington  
division in this important election.  
The main issues they will be  
highlighting during the election  
campaign will be sustainable  
transport, waste/resource  
management, local jobs and local  
investment in services to support  
those most affected by the welfare  
cuts; working towards a fairer  
society with a real vision for  
change. Key local campaigns they  
are supporting are **Zero Waste /  
no Incineration** and the **Totnes -  
Littlehempston Cycle Path**. They  
are attending various local  
meetings and events to discuss  
these issues with local people.  
Working in partnership with  
community groups and local  
projects has been key to the work  
of our local elected Green Party  
Councillors. As District  
Councillors Robert, Jacqi and Alan  
Gorman work well as a team and  
punch well above their weight.  
They have been very active  
participants on the Renewable

Energy Task and Finish Group that  
has been developing planning  
guidelines for wind turbines and  
solar arrays. On the Planning  
Committee, they have pressed  
endlessly for the highest possible  
percentages of affordable homes  
in new developments and higher  
sustainability codes for new  
houses being built. They have  
been very active with officers and  
local groups trying to ensure that  
the lights promised for the Skate  
ramps in Borough Park happen,  
that rough sleepers do have a bed  
available to them on cold nights,  
pressed for more sustainable travel  
and have called for a serious  
rethink about how we deal with  
our waste. Greening up local plans  
and decisions is a vital part of the  
work that all these Councillors do.  
Having a vote on any council opens  
a door to having a view taken on  
board. Where we have teams we  
can have much stronger influence.  
They welcome your views.

**Whichever candidate you wish to vote for, it's really important to use your vote.** If you are unable to vote in person on the day, you can apply for a postal vote or give someone else your proxy vote. The **LAST DATE** for receipt of postal vote applications is **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**. You can check that you are registered to vote and get application forms etc, at this weblink: <http://www.southhams.gov.uk/>





# Manifesto for Devon

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION 2 May 2013



**RICKY KNIGHT**  
Barnstaple North

On **Thursday 2nd May 2013** you will have the opportunity to vote for Green Party Councillors to represent you on **Devon County Council**. *The Green Party is putting up more candidates than ever before across Devon.* This manifesto provides a set of distinctive and deliverable policies that elected Green Councillors will work hard to implement. The Green Party is the only Party that can offer the bold yet desirable solutions to the many social, economic and environmental challenges facing us. Our manifesto is guided by our commitments to social and environmental justice. We believe in equality, a prosperous and resilient local economy and community participation.

## ECONOMIC STABILITY

Green Party County Councillors will strive for economic stability, equality and sustainability and focus on the needs of the least fortunate. Our priorities will be to create more quality jobs and fairer pay levels, which enhance quality of life and in turn increase productivity and profitability for local businesses and enterprises. We believe a resilient economy is built on locally based economic activity which keeps money circulating in communities. We will:

- ▶ Introduce a **Living Wage** for all County Council employees.
- ▶ Introduce the **Living Wage Employer Mark** to Devon, based on the successful scheme in London
- ▶ Move towards a circular economy; one which uses and re-uses materials, encouraging re-manufacturing, less consumption and less waste.
- ▶ Support the growth of innovation in the renewable energy generating sector, manufacturing and the knowledge-based sector.
- ▶ Lead a Devon-wide **Buy Local, Buy Green** campaign to prioritise procurement of local and sustainable produce.
- ▶ Support **Farmers' Markets** through more permanent market sites, improved infrastructure, increased frequency and wider promotion to help them flourish.
- ▶ Support the **Transition Town** movement across the county and publicise ideas, initiatives and achievements to build more resilient local economies.



**SHARON PAVEY**  
Honiton St Michael's



**ANDREW BELL**  
Exeter St. David's



**ANNA PRESSWELL-CLARKE**  
Ashburton and Buckfastleigh

## PUBLIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Green Party County Councillors will oppose cuts to public services. We believe they are not only morally wrong but also financially short-sighted. Many public services save far more money than they cost, because they prevent social and health problems. We will seek

to increase the status of working in the public sector, to increase wages and reduce excessive private profit in health and care sectors. We will:

- ▶ Work to ensure the highest **quality services** are delivered to all the people of Devon in all their diversity.
- ▶ Focus on returning services in-house wherever possible.
- ▶ Focus on vulnerable people as a priority and ensure that care is based on need.
- ▶ Embrace **trade unions** as important partners in forming policy regarding public service delivery and in achieving and maintaining fair pay and conditions for employees within public services.
- ▶ Invest in the workforce to increase training opportunities and **job satisfaction** for those doing 'unskilled' jobs and we will recognise and celebrate the value of such work.

## PLANNING

Green Party County Councillors will seek planning solutions that help Devon maximise its natural and human resources while preserving and enhancing the environment. We will:

- ▶ Consider the impacts of all planning decisions on **future generations**.
- ▶ Ensure that **flood risk assessment**, water supply, energy conservation, energy generation and carbon emissions are central to planning decisions.
- ▶ Challenge regional economic and housing growth forecasts to agree more realistic and sustainable projections.
- ▶ Prioritise development on brownfield sites and prioritise social needs when making decisions about how to use these sites.
- ▶ Balance the needs of our **rural heritage** and **National Parks** with local economic needs such as supporting the region's growing renewable energy



**ROBERT VINT**  
Totnes Rural



**KATIE REVILLE**  
Ivybridge

generating, manufacturing and knowledge-based sectors.

- ▶ Involve local people appropriately when considering strategic planning decisions.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Green Party County Councillors will ensure that the people and businesses in Devon get the help they need to reduce their fuel bills and, where possible, to generate their own energy from renewable sources. We will lead by example by making the Council dramatically reduce its own energy use and will work with others to ensure that the County is better prepared to deal with more frequent extreme weather events. We will:

- ▶ Ensure the development and use of **renewable energy technologies** and oppose nuclear and fossil fuel based energy generation.
- ▶ Prioritise the development of renewable energy technologies which are community owned.
- ▶ Instigate a county-wide **energy efficiency and insulation** programme targeting residents living in fuel poverty as a priority.
- ▶ Ensure that 100% of electricity used in DCC offices is sourced from renewables by 2015.
- ▶ Work with others to deliver an education and media campaign to keep climate change at the forefront of people's minds and encourage behavioural change across all sections of the community.

## TRANSPORT

Green County Councillors will seek to create a transport network in Devon that is integrated, affordable, safe and accessible for all. We will push for measures that have been shown to decrease traffic levels, reduce health-damaging levels of air pollution and provide funding for sustainable transport solutions. Our priorities will be on increasing the safety, convenience and comfort of walking and cycling and improving public transport. We will:

- ▶ Set traffic reduction targets to reduce the impacts of congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions.
- ▶ Introduce a **Workplace Parking Levy** (WPL) on all large employers in major urban areas to secure funding for green sustainable transport solutions.
- ▶ Ensure transport considerations are integral to all new housing, business or industrial developments; ensure that anyone could live or work happily in such a development without a car.
- ▶ Improve cycle provision and integration between cycling and public transport through, for example, introducing secure **Cycle Park & Ride** sites at major bus interchanges.
- ▶ Make **20mph** the default speed on all residential streets across the County; create **Home Zones** in all new developments.

- ▶ Establish a dialogue with the public on transport planning, health and safety issues including school pupils and college students and public transport user groups.

## WASTE AS A RESOURCE

Green Party County Councillors will operate a waste hierarchy that places waste reduction at the top, followed by reuse and then recycling. We will push for all residual waste to be dealt with in an environmentally safe manner, be a source of revenue and provide energy. We will continue to oppose sending any waste to landfill or incineration. We will:

- ▶ Reverse all further planned incinerators and terminate all incineration contracts where possible.
- ▶ Implement alternative technologies to deal with residual waste, such as **plasma gasification** and **anaerobic digestion**, for the safe, efficient, sustainable conversion of waste into electricity, gas, soil conditioner and building materials.
- ▶ Establish **community ownership** of small waste-treatment plants so that local people benefit from the energy generated and gain financial returns.
- ▶ Provide incentives to encourage the public and businesses to reduce, reuse, repair and minimise waste.
- ▶ Work with supermarkets and other retailers and the communities they operate in to reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.

## DECISION-MAKING

The Green Party believes the highest form of democracy is direct participation, which requires open and informed debate. We believe people should be able to contribute ideas and evidence that lead to policies and decisions which best serve society, the environment and broad democratic interests. The Green Party believes that local authorities run by single party cabinets are not in the best interests of local democracy and support a return to a **committee system of local government**. We will:

- ▶ Offer local people a greater say in designing, delivering and monitoring local services by giving them power to set up **local neighbourhood councils** with devolved community budgets and decision-making powers.
- ▶ Provide fully **open and transparent government**, ensuring Council records and information are easily available.
- ▶ Ensure open access to information on all public and private organisations performing public functions and/or operating with public funds.
- ▶ Encourage cross-party cooperation and oppose a system of whipping councillors into line; Green Councillors will call on other parties to support this.

# Waste = Resource Cllr Jacqi Hodgson

The Green Party is firmly behind Zero Waste and against incineration. Waste is a valuable resource; products and materials that have had considerable amounts of value added in manufacturing can be reused and repaired many times before they need to be recycled back to their basic materials. Very sophisticated technology is now available to ensure we can separate and sort materials for recycling and minimise the residual to a fraction (which can be dealt with through gasification and plasma treatment), producing materials that can be



brought back into use and generate energy. **DCC need to be listening to their communities** and supporting their willingness to be part of the solution. Local people have shown huge enthusiasm and creative thinking towards reuse and support many of the opportunities to reduce waste, buying, reusing and repairing secondhand goods, making compost and sorting their waste for recycling. Local groups such as Devon Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (DAIA), Friends of the Earth South Hams and Transition Town Totnes (TTT) have produced well researched proposals for Zero Waste that can support a local economy. Lets hope some common sense prevails and we start utilising the opportunities the resources in our bins offer.

## Green Party

### Green Councillors

South Hams Green Party now has eight Councillors holding three seats on South Hams District Council, four seats on Totnes Town Council and four seats on Dartington Parish Council. Councillor Jacqi Hodgson is now Deputy Mayor of Totnes.

### Green Economy

In the current climate of austerity, cut backs and serious concerns about the impacts of the welfare changes, the **Green Party** is the only political group with a strong vision for the future that is underpinned with real **socialist** values and **environmental** care. Investment in urgently needed infrastructure rather than endless cuts proved to be the way out of the great economic depression in the 30's; we can do this again with investment in national and local initiatives such as **renewable energy, home insulation, proper waste management** and better **public transport** and **health services** that will not only provide better services but also create vitally needed jobs.

# Cycle Path Cllr Robert Vint

**Totnes - Littlehempston**  
Both Cllr Robert Vint and Cllr Jacqi Hodgson are keen advocates of cycling and are putting this campaign high on their agendas for promotion and pressing for development during the county election campaign. "Election time is a great opportunity to highlight issues that can get buried under arguments; as a keen cyclist I fully understand that we need to make this vital link happen if we are to encourage people out of their cars and promote safe cycling for children" said Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson.

The local campaign supported by hundreds of keen cyclists, many of them local people, has been rumbling on for over 3 years and even has a DCC budget allocated for it to be developed. However it has become stuck because a couple of landowners are concerned about security of cyclists using the route in the dark. Cllr. Robert Vint says: "This cycle route is essential and will benefit residents, the environment and the local economy. Working together we can design a path that will also meet the needs of walkers and local landowners".

## Arts & Crafts Auction



also  
Bargain Basement - Blind Auction  
Children's Art Workshop  
& Great Green Raffle

Totnes Civic Hall  
Sunday April 21st 2013

Viewing starts at 2.00pm  
Auction starts at 4.00pm

All welcome; come along and enjoy a glass of wine and preview the sales.  
Guest Auctioneer Tony Gee

A South Hams Green Party Fund Raising Event  
Please call if you would like to donate an item for the auction 01803 840526  
www.southhams.greenparty.org.uk

## CAN YOU HELP THE GREEN PARTY?

- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION
- I WOULD LIKE HELP WITH EVENTS
- I WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER LEAFLETS/CANVASS
- I WOULD LIKE A POSTAL VOTE
- I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE GREEN PARTY

Name & Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to: The Green Party, c/o 4 Cott Meadow, Dartington TQ9 6HB

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