



Malvern Hills Green Party E-Newsletter

Issue No. 18

April 2013

County Council Election Special

Help Urgently Wanted with Leafleting

We have 7,200 four-page election leaflets to put through every letter box in Malvern Link, Dysons, North and West Malvern in the next fortnight in good time for polling day on May 2nd. And we plan a follow-up delivery (with a final reminder leaflet) in the few days preceding polling day.

Volunteers are urgently sought to help us distribute these election leaflets in our two target electoral divisions of Trinity and Link to help get our leading candidates John Raine and Clive Smith elected.

Just an hour or two of your time delivering door to door will make a big difference and will be really appreciated. The more hands we have the quicker and easier the job will be.



We want to commence delivery of the main leaflet as soon as possible – i.e. from Saturday 13th April and complete it by Sunday 21st April if possible. Now we have the light Spring evenings, early evening deliveries can be an alternative for those unavailable in the day-time. And we plan to deliver the follow-up leaflet between Friday 26th April and Wednesday May 1st.

If you can help with either or both deliveries, please contact John Raine or Julian Roskams as soon as possible on j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk or jdr@eticapress.com (or by phone on 01684 565052) and we will allocate you a few streets and provide you with the appropriate number of leaflets.

Many thanks in anticipation!

As well as John and Clive in our two target-to-win seats, we have four other Green candidates standing - Bob Dowler (Tenbury); Jan Dyer (Chase); Will Jenkins (Langland); and Peter Sandland-Nielsen (Powick).

Will you display a poster for us?

It would be great if you would help us by displaying a poster board for us at your gate or provide you with a poster for your front window. If so, please contact John or Julian (as above) and we will bring one round (we will ensure all poster boards are securely fixed and will remove them immediately after the election).

Four key electoral priorities for these elections

1. Investing More in Young People

- Investing in children and young people – in their early years, through school years and towards adult life – is the most important responsibility of our County Council.
- Doing more for young people will help to develop stronger, more caring and inter-generational, communities, which, in turn will help to minimise problems of anti-social behaviour and crime in our society.
- We should invest far more in the provision of affordable child-care.
- Each new housing development (including Malvern Vale) should have its own community nursery and primary school (the assembly halls of which can also serve as facilities for youth clubs and other community activities in the evenings).
- We should also commit more resources to youth services provision, and not simply leave the responsibility to the voluntary/independent sector.
- The County Council should abandon its plans to build houses on the land adjacent to the Malvern Cube (the Youth Centre) so that young people can continue to benefit from the surrounding space for outside activities.

2. Improving Social Care and Support

- More of us are living longer and the County Council has a vital role in planning and overseeing adult social care and support provision.
- At present too few people, and particularly elderly and vulnerable people living alone, know where to turn for help when they need it.
- Interaction and communication between the different agencies and tiers of local government – social services, housing associations, health care, and other community services – must be strengthened to ensure that each individual's needs are understood and met appropriately and promptly.
- The County Council is best placed to take the lead and co-ordinate more 'joined-up' social care and support provision (including aids and adaptations in peoples' homes before accidents happen).



Worcestershire County Council/Tenth Division
On 2nd May vote for

John Raine

your Local and Green councillor

Why vote for me?

- I am local: The Raine family has lived in this electoral division for thirty-four years.
- I have almost twenty years' experience as a councillor: District Councillor for West ward for 13 years, and previously Park Councillor (West Malvern) for 6 years (including as Chairman for three).
- I also have considerable other public service experience: Chair of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); previously Malvern Hills Conservator; School Governor at Hanley Castle High School, and member of West Mercia Courts Board; a serving member of the Criminal Justice Council for England and Wales.
- I understand local government: My paid work is as a professor at the Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham where I direct programmes for local authority staff and councillors and through which, over more than 30 years, I have learned much about how local government should be improved.
- I am committed to our local community: Organiser at St James', West Malvern and supporter/organiser of numerous local events (e.g. the West Malvern Jubilee Festival in 2003, from which 'West Fest' was born). An active member of Transition Malvern Hills, leading their Energy Group.
- I have a strong record of achievement:

- Planning:** Design and Heritage Champion and previous Chair of Planning Committee for the District, as well as Chair of the AONB. I am leading the challenge to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDCP) and advocating instead a more distributed growth strategy for our area. This will reverse urban sprawl and prevent further traffic congestion in Malvern Link and 'rat-running' in Cowleigh, Dyson Parrys and Malvern Vale. I have championed better quality housing design with higher energy efficiency (e.g. inclusion of solar thermal panels in Malvern Vale) and overturned insensitive development plans in Hornold Avenue.
- Parking:** Advocate of civilian parking enforcement (CPE) to end the unregulated all-day on-street parking that is so bad for trade in our town (our first parking attendants should be starting work in the Autumn).

Photo: John Raine, Kelly (now married) for 200 houses

Visit our website: www.malvern.org/greenparty/gp
Please contact John (j.raine@malvern.ac.uk) if you would like to offer help in the election.
For details on displaying a poster or obtaining leaflets.



3. *Managing Waste Better*

- It is a nonsense that one tier of local government (the district) is responsible for collecting the rubbish and recycling and the other (the county) for its disposal. Such a split only encourages short-term, fragmented thinking, and inefficiency.
- The County Council's support for the expensive 'EnviroSort' plant for mechanical separation of (co-mingled) recycling materials is resulting in lower grade recycling products and too much is lost to landfill.
- The County is now also endorsing the building of a huge incinerator (energy-from-waste plant) at Hartlebury. Quite apart from concerns about noxious emissions and traffic implications, this is likely to prove a disincentive to recycling as more recyclable materials are likely to be burnt simply to feed the hungry plant to ensure its efficient operation.
- We need a more 'joined-up' and holistic approach to waste management in Worcestershire. This will be better both for the environment and for taxpayers.



4. *Developing Community Transport*

- We cannot go on as we have been, withdrawing subsidies from lesser-patronised rural bus services and making access more and more difficult for those without personal transport. Instead we must develop community-level transport schemes that serve local people better.
- The new housing planned for north east of Malvern and south and west of Worcester will only make existing traffic congestion in Malvern Link, Powick, and on the Worcester South Bypass, a whole lot worse. With only limited government money available for road schemes, and with fuel prices set to escalate as global oil supplies dwindle, we need fresh approaches to our transport problems.
- We have good rail links to Worcester, Hereford, Birmingham and London; and the County Council should press Network Rail and the train operators to open more station halts, to serve more people with additional local stopping train services.
- We should also invest more in community-based car/electric bike clubs so that those needing to make journeys less frequently can do so by borrowing the vehicle they need from the pool when required.
- Funding such car and bike clubs should be a planning obligation on developers of all larger new housing projects.



Affording these priorities

How will we afford the above priorities? Your candidates argue that best the way to finance these priorities in the current austere financial climate is to dispense with a tier of local government by decentralising the local and community-oriented services of the District Council (such as local planning, leisure and recreation) to parish and town councils, while concentrating the more strategic services (such as waste management, housing and social care and street maintenance, at a South Worcestershire or county-wide level. Cutting out the District

Council, which anyway now has relatively few service delivery responsibilities of its own as a result of several years of contracting out and agreeing shared service arrangements with other councils, would save an annual net budget of at least £10million as well as releasing significant saleable buildings and other capital assets.

For more details of our candidates and their election priorities, visit www.malvernhillsgreenparty.org and read our candidates' leaflets.



Up-and-Coming Events

Saturday 20th April 10.00am - 2.00pm, Repair Café at The Malvern Cube (former Youth Centre) – Bring your damaged or broken furniture, electrical and electronic appliances, and household items along and have them repaired by our expert volunteers, or get the repair advice you need. Blade sharpening and toy and garment repair services included.

Tuesday 23rd April at 1.30pm in Worcester Guildhall: 'Trashed: No Place for Waste' – Special Viewing of Jeremy Irons' new film about the consequences of our waste policies and practices. Free admission and with refreshments provided. Please email wildens23@sky.com to book places for this event.

Saturday 27th April, 11.00am – 1.00pm; Green Councillors' Surgery at Elim Café West Malvern

Thursday 2nd May – County Council Election Day! Please don't forget to vote! (whether by postal vote or at the polling station).

Thursday 9th May 8.00pm - Malvern Hills Green Party Monthly Meeting at the Great Malvern Hotel. Please note this month's meeting is a week later than usual because of the County Council elections.

...and Looking Ahead

September 21st 'Malvern Hills Communities Fair' – A date for your diaries! Saturday, September 21st. Transition Malvern Hills and Malvern Hills Repair Café are organising a Green Fair in Malvern – the Malvern Hills Communities Fair! The aim of this one-day event is to raise awareness of and celebrate local environmental initiatives, particularly the efforts of those individuals, voluntary groups and businesses who are contributing to the sustainability of the Malvern Hills communities.

Netherlands 500

Julian Roskams is undertaking a bike ride of 'up to 500 miles' around the Netherlands, starting 3rd May, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. He has so far had pledges of nearly £600 towards his target of £1000. If you are able to help, then you can donate online at <http://www.justgiving.com/JulianRoskams>



Contacts

Chair and Treasurer: Jan Dyer
E: greenleafjan@gmail.com

Membership/Supporters Secretary: Mel Platt
E: hounds142@yahoo.co.uk • T: 01684 560922

Elections Agent/Press Officer: Julian Roskams
E: jdr@eticapress.com • T: 01684 565739

Elections Nominations Agent: Richard Perkins
E: rsperkins@freeuk.com • T: 01684 568989

Minutes Secretary: Isabel Jones
E: isabel.jones486@btinternet.com • T: 07854 522114

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Will Coleman
E: colemanjenkins@btinternet.com • T: 01684 578009

Campaigns Co-ordinator: Anna Stenning
E: anna.stenning@gmail.com • T: 01684 578009

As well as the E-Newsletter, keep up to date by visiting the Branch's website:
<http://www.greenparty.org.uk/localsites/malvern hills.html>

We also have a Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Malvern-Hills-Green-Party/171627822885633>



Green Party