

Manifesto for District Council Elections 2015

Introduction

On 7th May, more people than ever will have the opportunity to vote Green.

East Cambridgeshire Green Party is part of the Green Party of England and Wales - a fast growing movement. Membership stands at nearly 60, 000 - more than UKIP or the Liberal Democrats - and the party has elected representatives at every level of British politics.

In local politics, the Green Party has elected councillors on over 50 local authorities. We are the largest party on one city authority and are official opposition on a number of others including Liverpool and Norwich.

In East Cambridgeshire, the Green Party has grown massively in strength in the last year. Membership has more than trebled and now stands at over 120. This has translated into more Greens standing for office in this year's district elections.

Green Party candidates for East Cambridgeshire:

Haddenham: Max Counter and Tom Winch

Ely West: Andy Cogan and Colby Smith

Littleport East: Anthony Browne

Ely North: Andrew Allen

Ely East: Gemma Bristow

Burwell: Alan Warner

Sutton: Andrew Cohen

Stretham: Dave Pitt

Our priorities for East Cambridgeshire

1. Decent homes

The district is an unaffordable place for many young people to live. We would take action to ease this problem. If elected, East Cambs Green Party councillors would actively support national party objectives ensure everyone has an affordable place to live.

We would work to expand the social rented sector and bring empty homes back into use. We will require developers to build more affordable housing as part of new developments and support new Community Land Trusts so local people get far more say in what gets built. We also support capping rents and introducing longer tenancies to provide greater protection for renters.

2. Better transport

Transport provision in East Cambridgeshire could be greatly improved. Cuts to funding for buses, high fares, absence of long term support for community transport and very patchy investment in walking and cycling have left people reliant on the car or unable to get around.

The Green Party will fight for investment in better, more affordable bus services, get behind new rail stations at Ely North and Soham, and invest in the infrastructure to make walking and cycling safe and convenient for shorter journeys. We will fight for sustainable transport to be a central part of the design of new housing developments, rather than sprawling car-dependent estates which characterise so much new development. We'll also make sure there is long-term support for community transport, which many people rely on.

3. Healthcare closer to home

Nationally, the Green Party supports a publicly funded, publicly provided health service free at the point of use. We would end the creeping privatisation of the NHS, repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and make mental health a much higher priority with resources to match this status

Locally, we will campaign to bring healthcare closer to home. We will push for more non-emergency services to be delivered in the local community and at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely.

4. Local economy

East Cambridgeshire Green Party understands that high streets are at the centre of their communities both economically and socially. We would oppose edge of town developments which have the effect of hollowing out our town and city centres. East Cambs Greens would reverse cuts to budgets for promoting the district to visitors. We would encourage local employers to pay a living wage, and argue for local improvements such as relocating Ely's tourist information office to the high street. This move would allow it to have a more rounded role in promoting the area.

Get in touch

For more details about East Cambridgeshire Green Party, our campaigns and our candidates, please contact us:

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East Cambridgeshire  **Green Party**