PORTSWOOD GREEN NEWS

March 2016



Making Priory Road safer – come and have your say

Tuesday 22 March, St Denys Community Centre, 8:00pm

Since our last leaflet, a number of residents have got in touch with us to express concern at continuing traffic problems along Priory Road. It is clear that many more vehicles are using this road than can safely be accommodated, and this is leading to dangerous situations. It has also been reported that it is being used for parking by people attending events elsewhere, leading to further congestion.

There are a number of possible measures which could be taken,

including restrictions on speed, access and parking. However, it is vital that the implementation of these measures has the support of the whole community.

We have therefore decided to hold a public meeting where concerns can be heard in full and solutions explored. Free refreshments will be available.



Key priorities for Southampton

Don't forget the **Green Party priorities in Portswood**:

Protect services for children, elderly and vulnerable people Reduce high levels of air pollution in the ward Reverse cuts to libraries and library staff Make roads safer and improve public transport Maintain Green spaces and enhance the urban environment



Green Party Candidate Selected for Portswood

The Green Party has selected **Kieren Brown** as its candidate for Portswood in the 2016 local elections. Kieren grew up in Southampton and is currently studying Environmental Sciences at The University of Southampton. He has a passion for protecting the environment and making the city greener and safer for everyone, and is opposed to the council's proposals to fine homeless people.



Kieren promises, "If you elect me I will turn back the tide on the way the city treats its vulnerable people. We will stop punishing people who need help, protect social care and make sure children's services get the money they need to support the most vulnerable in the city."

It's Time to Get Real on Air Quality

Evidence continues to emerge as to the seriousness of Southampton's air pollution problem.



The city is one of the top 10 most polluted cities in the UK, and it is estimated that at least 100 people in the city die each year from the effects of air pollution. It is now highly likely that a low emissions zone will be introduced in the central area of the city, although the full details are yet to be established.

Kieren Brown, the Green candidate for Portswood, supports the creation of a low emissions zone, but believes that more measures are needed to reduce the total number of motor vehicles entering these areas. "The development of a park & ride facility close to the M27, and the provision of safe cycle routes from all parts of the city to the centre, have the potential to bring about reductions in traffic levels, and therefore improvements in air quality and public health in our city."

Greens Oppose Public Space Protection Orders

The Greens have criticised plans by Southampton City Council to implement 'Public Space Protection Orders', which could see homeless people fined for begging, as a wholly inappropriate and inhumane response to a complex social problem. PSPOs, which are proposed for several areas including Portswood High Street, would see police given the power to fine or arrest homeless people.

Kieren Brown, Green candidate for Portswood, has opposed the plans. "Threatening homeless people with fines that they will almost certainly be unable to pay will do nothing towards solving homelessness in Southampton. A more effective solution would be to improve outreach services to help get homeless people into alcohol and drug treatment programmes."



Young Greens and other party members at a campaign day in Portswood

The EU Referendum

On Thursday 23 June 2016, you will have the opportunity to vote in the referendum on whether or not we should remain in the EU. Kieren Brown endorses the Green Party's position that we should stay in, because the EU provides us with both economic and environmental benefits. The environmental protections of the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, and the Environmental Impact Assessments have benefited us. In 2014, the University of Southampton received funding from the EU for research, granting 14 PhD students the opportunity to work with European organisations. A departure from the EU would definitely decrease the number of international students who bring fantastic diversity to our city. This is why Kieren will be voting for Britain to remain in the EU, and he hopes you will join him.

KEY PEOPLE IN THE GREEN PARTY



Caroline Lucas MP

Caroline Lucas remains the Green voice in Parliament, after being re-elected for Brighton Pavilion in 2015 with a majority of over 7,000. She continues to campaign on a wide range of issues, from the creeping privatisation of the NHS to the cuts in Government support for renewables. Most recently, she stood with junior doctors in opposing the new junior doctors contract, and proposed an amendment to the Housing Bill to include a Rent Commission to tackle high rents.



You can find out more about her work at: http://www.carolinelucas.com/

Keith Taylor MEP

Keith Taylor is the Green MEP for the South East of England. Keith sits on the European Parliament's Committees on Transport & Tourism and Environment, Public Health & Food Safety. He is also a member of the European Parliament's delegation to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Vice President of the UK's Local Government Association Group in the European Parliament, Vice Chair of the Parliament's



Intergroup on animal welfare, a member of the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights and Vice Chair of the European Alzheimer's Alliance.

You can find out more about his work at: http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/

If you are interested in learning more about the Green Party please fill in your details
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