

# Local Manifesto 2014



Vote  
**Green Party**  
for the common good



# A Green Voice for Islington

Elected Greens punch above their weight for their communities at every level of government

A Green Voice on Islington Council will:

- work for an economy which puts people first
- hold the Town Hall to account
- promote equality and diversity
- protect our environment and our health

**Vote for the Common Good  
Vote Green Party on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**

# London

In London, two Green Assembly Members have:

- secured funding to set up the London Living Wage, which has put £60m in the pockets of low-paid workers
- ensured that City Hall, Transport for London, the fire brigade and the police publish transparent information on the pay gap between the highest and lowest earners
- secured reforms to training and tactics for 'Stop and Search' and policing of protests
- helped introduce a scheme for civil partnerships which paved the way for national legislation

**WHAT ELECTED GREENS CAN ACHIEVE**

# Islington

In Islington, between 2006 and 2010, just one Green councillor introduced:

- the country's first 20mph speed limit for all residential streets
- more apprenticeship places for school leavers
- a council-run repair service for everyday household goods
- funding for new allotments, tree planting and food growing schemes
- a UK-first council policy for more sustainable stormwater drainage from new developments
- including plastics in the council's doorstep recycling

**WHAT ELECTED GREENS CAN ACHIEVE**

# Affordable homes for ordinary Londoners

London's housing market is failing across all sectors.

Green councillors will work to:

- ensure housing developments provide much more social housing and are for homes not investment
- carry out an audit of all council estates for potential systematically to insert new social housing on roofs, car-parks etc – and consult existing residents on the benefits they would like to receive as part of the plan
- increase protections for private sector tenants, such as an 'approved landlords' register
- ensure transparency in Council dealings with tenants and leaseholders

**AN ECONOMY WHICH PUTS PEOPLE FIRST**

# Fair wages you can build a life around

Islington has already adopted the Green Party's policy for a London Living Wage.

Green councillors will:

- push the Council to award contracts only to businesses that:
  - pay the Living Wage
  - reject zero-hours contracts
  - do not pay 'fat cat' salaries to bosses, with a limit of ten times the lowest paid employees
- work with local businesses to encourage them to pay their employees a Living Wage and reduce their pay gap

**AN ECONOMY WHICH PUTS PEOPLE FIRST**

# Protecting our public services

Islington Greens have already helped save the Whittington and the Sobell Centre.

Green councillors will push the council to:

- protect public sector jobs and minimise the use of agency staff paid with public money
- oppose the sell-off of NHS services to private interests
- put fairness and care for the vulnerable first and involve local communities in deciding on budget allocations

**AN ECONOMY WHICH PUTS PEOPLE FIRST**

# Investing in jobs and small businesses

The Council is one of Islington's major employers and has the potential to make a greater contribution to local employment and skills.

Green councillors will:

- push the Council to award contracts to local businesses and call for its contractors to maximise the number of jobs and training places they create locally
- press for changes to planning rules to provide affordable spaces for small shops and protect high streets and town centres
- support Buy Local schemes
- encourage mixed developments offering local employment opportunities

**AN ECONOMY WHICH PUTS PEOPLE FIRST**

# An active opposition

A Green voice on the Council would ensure a robust opposition where necessary, resist unhealthy dominance by any one party and bring a breath of fresh air.

Green councillors would :

- scrutinise the Council's budget and policy proposals and challenge plans for cuts and privatisation in health and social care
- support the Council where we think they are doing the right thing
- look to publish all Freedom of Information requests and responses on the Council's website

**HOLDING THE TOWN HALL TO ACCOUNT**

# Devolving power to local communities

Greens believe Council decisions should be made as close as possible to where their effects will be felt.

Green councillors would push the council to:

- involve local communities in participatory budgeting and policy-making
- give more say to locals on new developments and encourage housing associations and co-operatives to lead developments with local people
- make Islington schools more accountable to all stakeholders and promote public education to equip all our children to play their full part in a co-operative and inclusive community

**HOLDING THE TOWN HALL TO ACCOUNT**

# Communities built on respect and equality

The more that people have a stake in society, the more communities flourish and the less we suffer crime and anti-social behaviour.

Green councillors will look to:

- expand Safer Neighbourhood Teams and end counterproductive 'Stop and Search' tactics
- target specialist support services at helping offenders find a place in society
- promote services to deal with childhood mental illness
- extend homework clubs in libraries
- press for new developments to provide walking and cycling through-routes and accessible open spaces

**PROMOTING EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

# Fighting discrimination on our streets

Government and press rhetoric often stigmatises migrants and creates a climate of animosity against communities who have come to live and work in our city. Greens are proud of London's diverse history and culture and Green councillors will:

- continue to fight for equal rights for women and for BME, LGBT and disabled people
- speak out against prejudice wherever we find it
- reaffirm the contribution that refugees, asylum seekers, and economic migrants make to Islington

**PROMOTING EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

# Cleaning our dirty air

Air pollution causes 4000 premature deaths in London every year. Green councillors will press for:

- the Mayor of London's forthcoming Ultra Low Emission Zone to include the whole of Islington – with help for lower income car-owners and businesses to make the change
- the Council to combine transport and public health responsibilities under a single Executive Member
- the Council to enforce policy against idling car engines, particularly outside schools, and encourage more planting around playgrounds
- transport and parking policies which support a reduction in car journeys

**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT  
AND OUR HEALTH**

# Safer and more pleasant streets

Islington has already adopted the Green Party's policy for a 20mph speed limit on all council-controlled roads.

Green councillors will continue to press for:

- the 20mph speed limit to include all Transport for London roads in the borough
- prioritising trips on foot and by bike, with safer, more convenient cycling and walking routes between schools, shops, services and residential areas
- our streets to be valued as public spaces, maximising opportunities such as trees, planting, seating and play
- convert on-street parking to secure, sheltered cycle parking where residents request it

**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT  
AND OUR HEALTH**

# Preserve green spaces

Green councillors will support a greener Islington - naturally! In particular we will aim to:

- strengthen the Council's inadequate tree protection policy
- double the number of trees with protection orders on private land
- create more green links, pocket parks and growing spaces to maximise community access to green space
- ensure new street trees are large, long-lived species if possible with regard to adjoining services/structures
- monitor and enforce the Council's commitment to prevent loss of permeable land
- consult with users on controlling barbecues in Islington's parks and open spaces

**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT  
AND OUR HEALTH**

# Fight climate change

The recent floods have brought home to many people that climate change is real and is happening.

Green councillors will aim to:

- investigate funding options for better insulation and more solar panels on Council housing blocks
- push for local 'green energy' co-ops
- install individual meters for estate heating
- help residents make the most of the government's struggling Green Deal programme
- allow tenants the right to a water-saving shower
- expand car clubs, to reduce the need to own vehicles
- resist expensive waste deals that will trap the borough into producing mountains of landfill waste

**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT  
AND OUR HEALTH**

# VOTE FOR THE COMMON GOOD VOTE GREEN PARTY ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2014

Find out more at  
[islington.greenparty.org.uk](http://islington.greenparty.org.uk)



Or join us, online, at  
[join.greenparty.org.uk](http://join.greenparty.org.uk)

Published & promoted by Michael Coffey of 15 St Peter's Street, N1 8JD  
on behalf of Islington Green Party