

Green View

Hitchin North Edition



Gavin Nicholson for Hitchin North

A by-election for your Hertfordshire County Council seat will be held on **Thursday 12th September**.

Local campaigner **Gavin Nicholson** has been chosen as your Green Party candidate. Gavin lives locally on Walsworth Road and works as a computer programmer. Over the past year he's been out and about talking to residents about the issues that matter you.

Walsworth Road – Hitchin Railway Junction

Local residents have told Gavin that since Tesco opened near the railway station, the junction with Walsworth Road has become more dangerous. Parking on double yellow lines outside the shop reduces visibility and increases congestion.

Hitchin Green Party wonders how Tesco got planning permission so easily without due thought for how it would affect traffic in the area. Green Party campaigner Gavin Nicholson said, "As an immediate measure, parking restrictions must be enforced, for safety and to ease traffic flow.



Gavin Nicholson, Green Party campaigner at the Walsworth Road – Hitchin Railway junction.

"Looking ahead, it's time to redesign this junction. One idea would be a roundabout with a dedicated adjacent pathway, providing space for both cyclists and pedestrians. But we would like to hear what you think too."

Equal Pay

The Green Party knows that all people are equal; no matter your race, sexuality, religion or gender. We find it shocking that women in full time jobs earn 17% less than men, and in part time jobs that figure rises to an even more appalling 36%. It is now 43 years since the Equal Pay Act was passed, so it's clear that we must go further.

A Green Government would make childcare more affordable to allow women the opportunity to return to work; childcare costs more here than anywhere else in the world apart from Switzerland. We would also make it easier to take equal pay cases to court, unlike the current Government who have made it harder and more costly.

Saving our Bees (and Economy)

Without bees it would cost UK farmers an estimated £1.8 billion a year to pollinate our crops. That would mean our food would cost more and our economy would take a big hit. This is just one of the many reasons why it is so worrying that three bumblebee species are already extinct, and a quarter of British bees are listed as threatened species.



But you can do something about this at home. Planting nectar rich flowers will provide our bees with much needed food. We will be campaigning for the planting of flowers on verges and open areas throughout Hitchin. This can even prevent Graffiti as bare walls can be clothed with climbing plants, such as Clematis.

Let Schools Teach

We should put an end to the constant testing of children in primary schools. We have become obsessed with tests and the surveillance of pupils' ability to retain a number of facts and their abilities in a small range of 'core' subjects like literacy, maths and science.

Of course these subjects are important, but the focus of primary schools should be on offering a well-rounded education. That means problem solving, the arts, humanities and physical education should be just as important.

The Coalition Government wants to take our schools in exactly the wrong direction. They really must start listening to the experts: teachers and the children themselves.

Contacting Gavin and the Green Party

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have an issue we could help with or would like to know more about your local Green Party.

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Visit our website at **<http://northherts.greenparty.org.uk>**

Facebook: North Hertfordshire & Stevenage Green Party

The Green Party — the alternative vote, not "more of the same"

Protecting your Privacy

Our civil liberties are increasingly being eroded by stealth - the revelations that the US security services have access to your email, Facebook and Twitter accounts through a programme called PRISM only highlights this.

It is easy to discount our fears and assure ourselves that government surveillance is necessary to prevent terror attacks. However, that argument simply isn't enough to justify such an invasion of privacy. Just because we cannot see who is watching us doesn't mean we shouldn't be deeply alarmed.

Legislation in the US, such as the Patriot Act, can lead to companies being required to transfer data to the US in breach of EU and national law. We are campaigning with other Greens throughout Europe to stop the processing of personal data and its movement without your consent.