

Green View

Hitchin Walsworth Edition
Spring 2015



Introducing Richard Cano

Local Headteacher, **Richard Cano**, has been selected to stand as the Green Party candidate for Hitchin Walsworth in the North Hertfordshire District Council election on 7th May.

Richard has worked in Walsworth for 15 years, and understands many of the issues that concern local people. He is active in the local community and is passionate about residents having their say on the issues that concern them most. He has been campaigning with local groups against the current proposals to build 600 more homes on Greenbelt land.

Upon his selection as candidate, Richard said, *"I choose to stand for the Green Party because I believe that we need our elected representatives to put the interests of local people before that of big businesses."*

Former Green Party candidate for Hitchin Walsworth, Gavin Nicholson, said, *"With the local Green Party's membership tripling in the last year, we can now call on members with great experience in the community. I warmly congratulate Richard on his selection; I know his local knowledge of Walsworth will make him an outstanding Councillor."*



Housing Crisis

North Hertfordshire District Council has announced plans to build 600 homes on Highover Farm. When responding to these plans, Richard said, *"I know for a fact that all the schools which serve the Walsworth area are full for most year groups. The 600 homes proposed falls just short of the requirement for the housing planners to ensure that a new school is built to serve*

all the families that move in. We need North Herts District Council to put families first when it comes to new housing projects. If this plan goes ahead it would mean another cost saving exercise, which would impact negatively on our community. Families deserve a fairer deal."



Cut Transport Fares

The Green Party has announced plans to cut rail and bus fares by 10%, handing back £1.8 billion a year to hard pressed travellers.

The cost of this policy would be met by scrapping most of the Government's £15 billion new road building programme.

The Green Party believes that public services should be run in the interests of those that use them, not the minority who happen to own them. Shareholder dividends, debt write-offs, and complex layers of contractors and sub-contractors together cost the taxpayer an estimated £1.2bn a year.¹

Only by bringing the railways back into public hands can they be run in the interests of passengers.

See more at:

<http://greenparty.org.uk/news/2015/01/05/green-party-calls-for-10-cut-in-train-and-bus-fares-with-increased-public-investment>.

¹<http://www.tssa.org.uk/en/campaigns/better-rail/better-rail-resources/rebuilding-rail-report.cfm>

Contacting Richard 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 — for the Common Good

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Promoted by Richard Cano, c/o 15 Hampden Road, Hitchin, SG4 0LD, on behalf of himself.

Save Walsworth Community Centre

North Hertfordshire District Council has recommended closing our Community Centre, and possibly demolishing it, rather than spend £160,000 on necessary improvements. The building is a huge asset, regularly hosting various clubs and groups, such as dementia support, the Townswomen's Guild and the Hitchin Christian Association.

Our Community Centre in Walsworth does not have to close. It has been part of our local heritage since 1852. I will be putting pressure on the Council to relieve its plans to sell off the land.

Your support is needed. Volunteers are required to come forward who are willing to give some of their time to help with this project. We also need experts and professionals who could offer their services 'at cost' or free of charge in undertaking the necessary work to help the community. This would greatly reduce the cost of the Council's estimate of £160,000.