

# Green View

Hitchin Walsworth Edition  
Summer 2015



## Your Views

**Richard Cano** and his Green Party team have been out and about in the area delivering a survey to residents in order to find out what is important to people. When you receive the survey, please take the time to complete it (it only takes a couple of minutes). It will help Richard to understand what issues need action in and around Hitchin.

Richard said, *"I want to make a real difference to the people of Hitchin by listening to residents' views and changing things for the better. I decided the best way of achieving that is by gaining the support of residents with the help of my local Green Party team. We share the same passion about taking action from grass roots level and working to improve our lives and our environment for the better."*



If you would like to complete the survey now, it can be found online here:  
[http://tiny.cc/green\\_survey](http://tiny.cc/green_survey)



## Jazz Evening

Live music from popular local band "Jazzface", supported by "Straight No Chaser". Entry is free and everyone is welcome. There will be a raffle and a fun quiz, with a prize for the winning team. Please come and join us.

Wednesday 22 July from 8pm at The Half Moon, 57 Queen Street, Hitchin, SG4 9TZ.

## Contacting Richard

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**



## Local Buses

Bus routes 81/A (Hitchin Westmill to Purwell), 97 (Hitchin to Stotfold/Arlesey via Letchworth) and 98 (Hitchin to Baldock via Letchworth) are under threat. If Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) cuts go ahead, the 81/A will start later and finish earlier. Buses 97 and 98 will not run after 7.30pm Monday to Friday and not at all on a Sunday. Other changes mean that the last and first buses on weekdays will only cover part of the routes. Bus routes 23 and 700 will also be affected. At present only the number 89 bus is unaffected.

The cuts to services are due to happen by September 2015, with timetables being updated in early July.

HCC subsidises around 11% of our local bus services to fill in gaps in the commercial network. County Councillors met in May to vote on recommendations from a 2014 consultation and agreed to reduce the subsidy in order to save £1.471M. Petitions against the cuts had over 20,000 signatories. In spite of this, the Council still voted for the cuts (42 to 30). The decision will change 760,000 journeys around Hertfordshire.

Cutting these bus services will impose a curfew and increase stress for those without alternative transport and who depend on public transport. It has a negative environmental message (and impact) and is not necessarily compatible with housing or other developments supported by the Council.

The cuts undermine HCC's own policy, as published on their website, which promises to reduce traffic growth and encourage people to walk, cycle and take public transport. The Council pledges to improve accessibility to public transport and to encourage new transport in "sustainable modes", specifically referring to the promotion and support of bus services.

The desire for cuts is caused by the reduction of revenue support grants from central government, but there will be savings elsewhere in the transport budget that could allow local bus services to be retained.

Richard commented, "*Cuts to local buses makes a nonsense of the Council's own Transport Policy. It directly conflicts with the overall intention of road traffic reduction and causes hardship and inconvenience to service users. Cutting public transport goes against Green Party Policy. I believe local bus services should not be reduced, but instead re-regulated and coordinated with other forms of public transport, like trains, to provide a well-planned, more accessible service which is reliable and affordable.*"

## 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.