



GREEN VIEW

LETCWORTH GREEN PARTY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: RICHARD WISE

SPRING 2011

MEET MARIO

“My name is Mario May and I am part of the Green Party Campaign Team for Letchworth. Many thanks to those

residents who have completed our residents' survey. If we haven't knocked on your door yet we aim to do so



over the coming months. We look forward to meeting you and if you have any concerns you would like to discuss with us then please don't hesitate to get in touch” (PTO for my contact details).



Mario May welcomed LGC Heritage Foundation's decision to reassess what to do with The Wynd

and the new consultation. He says, "In times of economic uncertainty it would be unwise to build more shopping space when we haven't filled the units we have".

Mario is in favour of supporting small local businesses that keep more money in the town rather than letting it drain away to the big corporations.

He says, "It is really vital for Letchworth now and in the future to have a vibrant local culture and economy".

To give your thoughts about The Wynd go to www.thenextsteps.co.uk or call 01462 476 047

GOVERNMENT U-TURN ON FORESTS

The Green Party has warmly welcomed the Government's statement that it is to scrap the proposals for the UK forest sell-off.

Letchworth Green Party Campaigner Mario May commented, "There was a massive outcry against this proposal from diverse groups concerned by the threat of commercial development, loss of public access and damage to wildlife". "However," added Mario, "we should remain vigilant as this proposal has not been cancelled, merely postponed". Mario expressed the hope that the coalition will also change their other unpopular policies, especially their cuts to care services provided by local councils.



BLACK SQUIRREL CREDIT UNION

This is a community-based organisation, a safe, local and ethical alternative to huge banks. Money is kept in the local economy. It works for everyone, from people on lower incomes who may have difficulty getting loans from banks or problems accessing their facilities, to those on higher incomes who want a secure and ethical savings scheme.

For more details telephone: 01462 681691

Web: www.northherts.gov.uk/communities/organisations



WHAT DOES NORTH HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL DO?

Many people ask us what NHDC actually does. 13.7% of your council tax goes to this authority and they are responsible, among other things, for:

- * Benefits & Social Housing
- * Building Control
- * Planning Permission
- * Waste & Recycling
- * Car Parking
- * Environmental Health

It is high time there was Green representation in this area, and not just for our environmental policies. Many forward-thinking councils around the country already have Green councillors. If the Green Party were proportionally represented in the district, there would be at least three councillors on NHDC.

KEEP COSY AT HOME

With energy prices soaring, keeping the heat in by reducing draughts will cut bills, reduce your carbon footprint and make your home more comfortable.

Fuel poverty has doubled in the past five years and is only set to get worse. Mario May says, "Fuel poverty is unacceptable in this day and age, especially for the elderly and infirm. It is simply outrageous that energy companies making billions in profits are allowed to add to the problem at a time of austerity".

For a long time, the Green Party has been pushing for a massive roll out in home insulation. Failure to do this has led to our getting left behind in terms of energy dependence and modernisation, as well as many homes still being damp and draughty to live in.

Your home may be eligible for free insulation!

Call the **Energy Saving Trust** to find out.



This is especially important given the government's aggressive cuts programme. The Energy Saving Trust give free advice and information just ring

**0800 512 012 or go to
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk**

LETCHWORTH GREEN PARTY CONTACTS



Rosemary Bland

Tel: 01462 671837



Mario May

Tel: 01462 484518

If you have any concerns about local services please get in touch with Rosemary or Mario.

You can also email us on:

nhandsgreenparty@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit our website at:

<http://northherts.greenparty.org.uk>

You can also take part in our online survey by going to:

<http://northherts.greenparty.org.uk/localsites/northherts/survey1.html>

LOCAL ACTION

- * **Street lights** - we have reported malfunctioning or day-burning lights which have been wasting money.
- * **Road safety** - we have repeatedly contacted the council and police regarding speeding traffic.
- * **Supporting pedestrians and cyclists** - we have been calling for better gritting and clearing of our pavements during icy weather. It is unacceptable that roads are cleared for cars while people on foot, those using pushchairs or wheelchairs, as well as cyclists, have to struggle on the ice.
- * **Potholes** - reporting hazards like this one on the right in Sollershott East.



**Mario May
on Sollershott East**