



YOUR HITCHIN

HITCHIN GREEN PARTY NEWSLETTER

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GREENS OVERTAKE LIB DEMS

The Green party has pushed the Lib Dems into fourth place in Walsworth.

In the County Council elections in June Green candidate Giles Woodruff polled over 800 votes in the Hitchin North county division. The Green vote share has more than doubled here over the last four years.

European elections

In the European elections, the Green Party was very close in the Eastern Region with 8.8% of the vote almost being enough to overtake UKIP for the final seat.

Thank you to all who voted Green!

County Council Election June 2009
Hitchin North Results

Conservative	1,501
Labour	1,495
Green	804
Lib Dem	655
Other	171

Hitchin Town Hall

As reported elsewhere, NHDC are pressing ahead with plans to convert our Town Hall into a district museum. We raised concerns in April that this might lead to the loss of the main hall for community use, and this appears likely to be the case. Local organisations including Hitchin Forum, Keep Hitchin Special, Hitchin Society have joined together to fight this and we are supporting their efforts. Giles Woodruff noted, "many events at the hall (such as the monthly ceilidh) bring people together".



The Cadwell Lane crossroads has long been notorious, but at the other end of Woolgrove Road the Walsworth Road crossroads is increasingly of concern.

Over the years traffic has increased significantly. Cars frequently slip the red lights. It has been suggested to us that these crossroads should have filter lights to give cars time to turn safely. Local Green supporter Adina Farmaner (pictured right) said, 'I find driving through these crossroads treacherous, something should be done before there's an accident'.



What do you think?

see our contact details overleaf

How you can make your voice heard

- Visit the Hitchin Initiative office in Churchyard to sign a petition to keep the Town Hall for community use (by 12 October), or give us a call and we'll bring one round for you to sign. At the time of going to press there were 2,600 signatures.
- Join many other people attending NHDC's Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet meetings (7.30 pm on Tuesday 13 October and 8.00 pm on 20 October respectively, both at the council offices in Gernon Road, Letchworth) to show councillors the strength of local feeling.

GREENS DEMAND WASTE PROPOSALS BE MADE PUBLIC

Major plans are being made by Herts County Council that affect what we do with our rubbish. Six companies are putting forward proposals for a new waste treatment plant. It looks likely these will all be for incinerators (often spun by councils as "energy from waste"). No decision has been taken about the site - it could be anywhere in the county.

At the last HCC Cabinet Waste Panel meeting Green Party councillor Ian Brandon from Watford highlighted a major concern. Large expensive incinerators typically require a 25 year contract for councils to supply minimum amounts of waste. So even if incineration were proven safe, it prevents us increasing recycling rates - we will have to burn what we could recycle.

We have to do something because landfill is

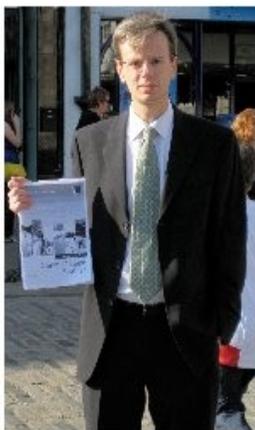
running out. However, other options such as anaerobic digestion reduce consumption, re-use resources, create jobs and reduce climate change impacts.



Ian also challenged the council officers' report. This said that information relating to the proposed site and technology might need to be kept confidential until a decision is made. He urged it to be put into the public domain as soon as possible.

Herts Without Waste is a network of groups and individuals, working to persuade Hertfordshire local authorities to introduce more sustainable ways of dealing with waste. It will need help to raise the public profile of the issue in the county as decisions are made. If you would like to get involved please contact David Ashton on 01438 871315.

NHDC: ALL TALK, NO ACTION



In 2007 North Herts District Council agreed to develop a Climate Change Strategy. They have now come up with something woefully inadequate:

- * There is little thought given to how to achieve anything meaningful.
- * The allocation of responsibilities between council departments is not even discussed.

At three council meetings in June Green Party member Giles Woodruff (pictured) gave evidence against the strategy. Arguing that tackling climate change involves more

than just recycling, Giles accused the council of producing a strategy which lacked both imagination and focus - particularly on planning and development

See for yourself:

Look at NHDC's strategy at: http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/climate_change_printers_proof-2.pdf
If you agree it's a glossy PR exercise which doesn't commit to any concrete actions then please contact your Conservative councillors and tell them what you think.

CONTACT US



Rosemary
Bland

Giles
Woodruff

Richard
Wise

Over the coming months we will be asking you about the issues that concern you. In the meantime if you have any matters you would like to raise then please get in touch with us. And, if you see us out and about, don't hesitate to stop us for a chat about your thoughts for the area - we look forward to meeting you.

Why not get involved, or join a rapidly growing party. We need your support for positive change. Help to deliver a few newsletters is always really welcome.

Walsworth Green Party Contacts

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Visit our websites

National Green Party Website
<http://www.greenparty.org.uk>
North Herts. Green Party Website
<http://northherts.greenparty.org.uk>