

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

5 MAY 2022



Fairer, greener communities.

As the cost of living rises and we face the challenges of climate change, the Green Party wants to create more jobs, make our homes warmer and end our dependence on fossil fuels. Green priorities for Norwich are to:

1. Tackle the cost of living crisis

Greens would insulate thousands of homes to bring down energy bills and help people facing rising living costs. Hundreds of jobs could be created in the Norwich area by 'retrofitting' homes through adding insulation and installing renewable energy sources such as solar panels and air source heat pumps. This will lower carbon consumption and make homes more resilient to our changing climate, reducing dependence on imported energy. Greens want to establish a retrofitting taskforce to make this happen. Building new homes to the highest possible environmental standards will also provide more skilled, better-paid job opportunities.

2. Work with communities

Greens want to help residents make the most of their areas, helping them to establish community gardens and support their neighbours. Our plan to create a grant scheme for community centres would allow them to pay for energy efficiency measures. We would also make sure the council carries out its duties to look after your area, such as by clearing up fly-tipping and cleaning streets properly.

3. Act on climate change and air-quality

Greens are leading on work to address the climate crisis. The challenge is enormous. We want to see more investment in renewable energy, wide-scale schemes to retro-fit houses, the end of expensive road building and a stronger focus on public transport, cycling and walking. A better transport system will mean better air-quality: clean air is vital

for children to grow up healthy. Greens are supporting school streets and 'no idling' signs as every child needs a safe journey to school. Informing people of the health and climate dangers of solid fuel burning is also essential.

4. Protect nature and biodiversity

As part of the fight against climate change we need to look after our environment, for example, by creating 'green wedges' across the city to act as corridors for wildlife such as bats and hedgehogs. Green spaces create habitat for plants and animals as well as recreational spaces for people. Planting and care of city trees is vital, and Greens recognise the value of and need for extra care for the city's rivers, especially the River Wensum which is an important chalk stream.

5. Build a fairer society

Greens want to see more fairness in all aspects of society. Building and maintaining good quality, affordable housing is a priority. As part of the global community, we want to welcome people from Ukraine and other refugees to our city. Working with unions for fairer wages for Norwich, we are at the forefront of the campaign for a Universal Basic Income. We want to see a more welcoming and open council which involves residents in decisions before changes happen. All areas of Norwich should be equally pleasant to live in, so issues like graffiti, fly-tipping and the anti-social behaviour related to drug use need solutions. Greens also understand that addiction cannot be punished away, but needs to be dealt with as a health problem to support those most vulnerable.