

NORTH NORFOLK GREEN NEWS



Welcome from the North Norfolk Green Party. We are keen to talk about 'Green' science, news and issues, as well as our local, national, and international policies. We want to let you know about ideas, events, and possibilities for all of us to live a healthier, happier life. We want to build a better future for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren. Sent with love.

GOOD NEWS!

It has been a record-breaking year for Bitterns in the UK with 283 booming males recorded in 2024, a 20% increase from the last year and the biggest jump since monitoring began in 1990.

IS THIS WHAT PEOPLE VOTED FOR?

The Chancellor has confirmed the UK government will go ahead with **huge cuts** to financial lifelines **for sick and disabled people** next year, particularly through cuts to the health element in Universal Credit and to Personal Independent Payments. **This cannot be right when millions of disabled people already face hunger and hardship**

Trussell Trust analysis of new data from the UK government shows there are a shocking **3 million disabled people facing hunger** – skipping or cutting back on meals because they can't afford essentials. Food banks see this reality every day. Three in four people turning to a food bank are disabled or live with someone who is. The government's own data found **over 1 million disabled**

people used a food bank in the last 12 months. The Trussell Trust's research consistently shows that this is driven by extremely low incomes – particularly due to the inadequacy of our social security system. Cutting vital financial lifelines is a choice which will make many disabled people's lives much worse.

A fifth of all disabled households will be worse off. This is an appalling prospect. The UK government is asking a group who should have our collective support to bear the burden of the fiscal challenges we face as a country.

The Green Party is totally opposed to using the poorest and most vulnerable in society to balance the books. We believe that there should be a tax on extreme wealth and making



Corporations pay the correct amount of tax on money earned here.

Whichever way you look at this **these cuts and where they fall are a mistake.** But there's still time to change course. If we're to turn the tide of hunger and hardship, we need our parliamentarians to stand up and use their voice before it's too late. If not, we will all pay the price.



BENJAMIN COURT CAMPAIGN

The campaign to get Benjamin Court re-opened for reablement continues in a time of change for the NHS. The government has decided to close NHS England and bring its role back into central government and cut funding for the 42 local integrated care boards (ICBs) by 50%. The hope of the Campaign is that these changes may bring **the running of the NHS under better democratic control** and that they will be more ready **to listen to the voice of local people** about their health needs.

People in North Norfolk feel that their **needs have been ignored by the ICB** in favour of those of Norwich. The hope of the Save Benjamin Court Campaign is that the organisational changes may bring the running of the NHS under better democratic control and that they will be more ready to listen to the voice of local people about their health needs. **They have made a film** which was premiered at Cromer Community Centre in April. It can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NMF8U6KTHg> or search for **Benjamin Court – The Dossier**

**IF YOU WANT A GREENER, FAIRER, MORE COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY
THEN DO DIFFERENT AND VOTE GREEN.**

ADRIAN RAMSEY NORFOLK'S GREEN VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

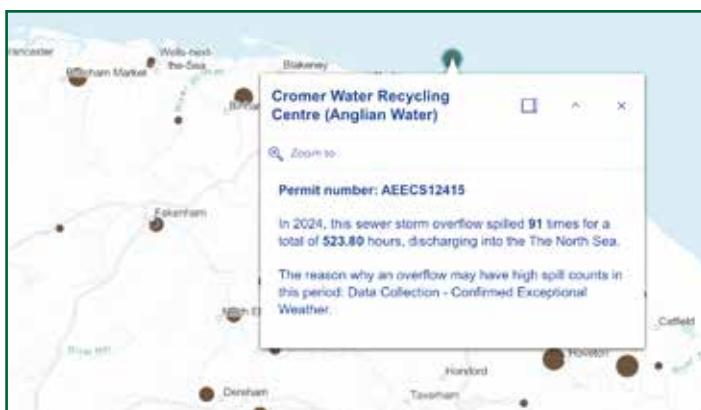


Greens are leading calls for urgent action to **end Norfolk's dental desert** and invest in new dentist services, and for the government to incentivise existing dentists to offer NHS services. With no dentist accepting new NHS patients in North Norfolk, people are being left footing a hefty private bill or without dental care at all. There have even been reports of people pulling out their own teeth. **Adrian Ramsay** has raised this repeatedly in Parliament, calling on the new Labour government to take **urgent action** and review the NHS dental contract to encourage more dentists to offer NHS services.

Adrian Ramsey also challenged Ed Miliband's '**Growth vs Nature**' policy: Labour talks about growth being held back by people's concern for nature, this sidelines communities who are **working to protect their area** and protect the environment from being trodden on by a planning system that should be there to protect them, but the government is looking at removing those safeguards.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

A team at University of Bonn found **89%** of people across the world wanted their national governments **to do more to fight global heating**. More than 66% said they were willing to give 1% of their income to fight the climate crisis. Crucially, however, they thought only a minority of other people – 43% – would be willing to do the same. **The Green Party** is the only Party to take climate change seriously!



DISCHARGE DISGRACE

The Green Party is campaigning hard to **clean up our rivers**, billions of pounds have been taken out of water companies in the form of bonuses and dividends since they were privatised, leaving us with polluted rivers and seas. We want to see the **water companies nationalised** with every penny of bills being invested in cleaning up the mess and reducing household water bills. To see just how bad it is where you are visit <https://theriverstrust.org/sewage-map> and do support The Rivers Trust in the great work they do.

LOCAL COUNCILS SCRAPPED & ELECTIONS CANCELLED

Local elections scheduled for May in nine council areas in England including Norfolk, are being postponed for at least a year to allow local government reorganisation to go ahead. This decision means that more than **five million people across the country will lose the chance to vote** in local elections this year including all of Norfolk. Green Party co-leader and Norfolk MP Adrian Ramsay said: "It is hard to think of anything **more anti-democratic than cancelling elections** ahead of a significant change in local democracy. It is straight out of an authoritarian playbook. The Green Party is urging the Government to **protect democracy**, allow these elections to take place and get around the table with elected representatives of all parties to discuss how to make devolution work for people in local areas across the country."

Norfolk's eight councils will be abolished in the biggest local government shake-up for 50 years. The government's Devolution White Paper is also likely to mean **Norfolk and Suffolk will share an elected Mayor**. Under the reforms, two-tier areas that have District Councils and County Councils, such as Norfolk and Suffolk, will be abolished and replaced by new unitary councils and a Mayor, abolishing a two-tier system to replace it with another two-tier system! A mayor would have control over big ticket items such as housing, planning and transport with **possibly five councils to cover Norfolk and Suffolk**. The government said most new unitary authorities will cover populations of 500,000 or more, making it unlikely that Norfolk, with fewer than a million people, would get more than two. At the moment there is a **huge amount of uncertainty** about the areas that the new councils will cover; exactly what powers will be in which of the two bodies, and when there will be elections.

The abolition of District authorities has raised concerns about **councils being distanced from the communities** they represent, in future Cromer could be managed from Great Yarmouth or Kings Lynn. The **cost** of making the changes will **run into millions** although there are hopes that there will be savings by reducing duplication but the loss of staff that know their area is a concern.

JOIN US

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED:
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