

NORTH NORFOLK GREEN NEWS



4 GREEN MP'S!

Siân Berry, MP for Brighton Pavilion,
Carla Denyer, MP for Bristol Central,
Adrian Ramsay, MP for Waveney Valley,
Ellie Chowns, MP for North
Herefordshire.

This newsletter is an introduction to the North Norfolk Green Party. As a group, we are keen to discuss 'Green' science, news and issues, as well as local, national, and international policy. 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. Hope you enjoy!

4 JULY: WHAT A FANTASTIC DAY FOR THE GREEN PARTY!

At the General Election in June the Green Party fielded candidates in all except 1 of the 575 seats in England and Wales, a record number. **We got 1.8M votes and won four seats;** we came **second in 40**, and saved our deposit (5% of the vote) in 359 seats; all of these were records for the Party! This comes on top of our results in the local elections in May 2024 where we made a record 200 gains – the highest ever growth in the party's 50 year history, and gained majority control of a local authority for the first time; the win in Mid Suffolk which laid the foundation for **Adrian Ramsey's spectacular victory to become the MP for Waveney Valley** in June. Greens hold 813 seats in over 170 different councils as well as having two Green members of the House of Lords and 3 members of the London assembly.

The **Green Party** is now a credible force on the British

political stage and nearly 2 million people voted for environmental and ecological sanity and honesty and fairness in politics.

This election really highlighted the **stupid and undemocratic** system that we use for voting; First past the Post. The Labour Party got 1/3rd of the vote but 2/3rds of the seats and a huge majority in Parliament; **The Green Party got 6.7% of the vote and only 0.7% of the seats.** The Greens are part of a renewed call for a fairer proportional representation voting system.

Green councillors make a difference wherever they are elected and keep Councils aware of the urgency of addressing the climate and ecological emergency. Even in North Norfolk where the Liberal Democrats are in control and the Council has declared a climate emergency we should be at the table and helping. **NNDC has no Green councillors yet but we can change that! Remember, the Green Party can win!**



WHO IS ADRIAN RAMSEY, OUR NORFOLK GREEN MP?

Born and brought up in **Norwich**, Adrian joined the Green Party in 1998 at the age of 16 and by 2003 he was a Councillor in Norwich. He became **deputy leader** of the party in 2008. In 2021, Adrian was elected as **Co-Leader** of the Green Party with Carla Denyer, who's also a new MP for Bristol Central.

Adrian has served as the CEO of two national environmental charities and has worked as a senior lecturer in environmental politics and economics. He lead MCS Charitable Foundation which advocates for renewable energy and green homes.

Adrian Ramsay, won the new **Waveney Valley** constituency which is half in Norfolk and half in Suffolk, with 20,467 votes, a 5,494 majority. The **nature crisis** was one issue that Ramsay vowed to push Keir Starmer's Labour

government to be braver on, the other was the disappearance of NHS **dentists**.

"Two big issues come up locally," said Ramsay as he celebrated his victory by meeting voters in Diss town centre. **"One is restoring the natural environment**, starting with pressing for proper action to get the water companies to clean up their act on the endless scandal of sewage in rivers. While Labour is a little better than the Conservatives on energy, they don't really get the nature agenda. I want to help them, work constructively with them, influence them in a positive way to address that issue.

"Secondly, dentists: **we don't have a single dentist in Norfolk and Waveney who is taking new NHS patients.** People can't get access to treatment. That needs national action from government."

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



LIZ DIXON, DIARY OF A CANDIDATE

My first job was to read the manifesto, several times, so I could really use this opportunity to get the Green message out in North Norfolk. The constituency is very unusual in the number of hustings that were organised, we had six plus a radio debate. In Broadland they only had one! The first one was at Gresham School, four candidates turned up, sadly, no sign of Labour! One point that came up was that the Green Party would be **adding VAT onto school fees as well as removing the charitable status of private schools**. If you can afford the £42,000 a year (much more than the average salary of £35,000) to send your child there you can certainly afford to pay tax on that purchase which will go towards the 94% of children that go to a chronically underfunded state schools.

The next two hustings were in North Walsham, the first one in the Church, which was attended by about 200 people and the next in the Community Center for a debate focusing on climate change and the environment. Rather disappointing that the Reform candidate did not attend – so insightful that one of the parties doesn't have any policies on the biggest long-term issue we are going to have to face.

North Norfolk was selected out of all of the constituencies in the county for an hour and a half **live debate on BBC Radio Norfolk** in their studios in Norwich which was also live streamed. I finally got to meet the Labour candidate but that was the one and only time. It was lively debate especially between me and the Reform candidate about migration. That evening I was off to the Wells Art Center, during that debate a question came up there about gender issues, a subject close to my heart, which attempted to stir up division and dislike of a tiny minority who are our neighbours, our friends, our colleagues, and our family. Another day, another hustings, this time in Cromer Parish Hall with over 200 people where we had a different approach, it was most like speed dating your candidate, a great idea but we had problems making ourselves heard. The final one was in Stalham Methodist Church where we had a similar format, both the attendees and the candidates found the conventional way of answering questions in turn to the entire audience to be best.

Nationally, it didn't take long for it to become clear that Labour were heading for a massive victory but we had no idea on how the Green vote would go but, one by one, **our four target seats were declared and we won each one!** Two of our new seats were taken from the Conservatives, it shows there's a big desire to move away from their divisive and uncaring policies and towards ones to ensure better public services, stronger communities and a restored natural world.

THE PROBLEM WITH FIRST PAST THE POST

The 2024 Election should be welcomed as a much needed end to a dying government bereft of ideas, competency and, more importantly, public support. It should also be hailed as a milestone in the progress of the Green Party which now sends four MPs to sit in Parliament to help in shaping our laws. However it was a mixed result for democracy itself.

At a time when the public perception of politics is as poorly regarded as it has ever been it should not come as a surprise that the **turnout for the vote was 59%**, down from 67% in 2019. Prior to 1997 the average turnout was over 70% and even over 82% in the early 1950's.

People are not disillusioned with politics itself, you only need to spend time on social media to see that, but they have **less faith in having their opinions being reflected in the electoral process**. The Labour party won a landslide majority with 411 seats, 2/3 thirds of the total number of parliamentary seats. But only 33% of the people voted labour.

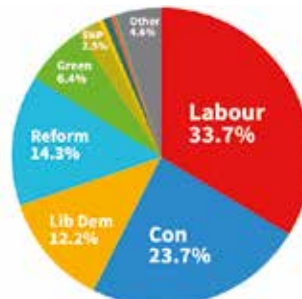
It is clear **Britain must let go of the outmoded 'First past the post system'** if the people are to truly feel engaged with their government. The only justification for this system is it creates 'Strong government' but this is at the expense of vast majority of the people. How can this be democratic?

The **Green Party would hold about 40 seats** in a Proportional representation (PR) based voting system on the current numbers, that would likely rise if people didn't have to vote tactically. Of course it would mean collaborating with other political parties but that would promote a grown-up political system for the people to engage with.

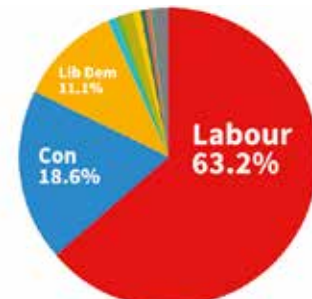
PR favours all the other small parties too and it is a hope that pressure can be brought on Labour and Conservatives to concede this **vital reform**. The Greens will play their part in trying to make this happen in the next 5 years. But we may have to wait until a future hung parliament to realise this.

2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

How we voted



Percent of Seats



Labour: 33.7% of the vote = 63.2% of the seats and 100% of the power.

JOIN US

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED:
contact@northnorfolk.greenparty.org.uk or liz.dixon@northnorfolk.greenparty.org.uk (membership secretary)

IF YOU WANT TO DONATE: contact:
treasurer@northnorfolk.greenparty.org.uk
 or scan the upper QR code.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE GREEN PARTY:
<https://join.greenparty.org.uk>

IF YOU CAN HELP LEAFLETING OR CANVASSING:
[Stephen Green: elections@northnorfolk.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.Green@northnorfolk.greenparty.org.uk)

FOLLOW US: Facebook: @NNGreenParty
 or X: @nngreens

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST: scan the lower QR code

