

OUR GREEN FUTURE



Cowslips – the county flower
of Northamptonshire – at
Weekley Hall Wood © Dez Dell

LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2021



Northamptonshire Green Party

FOREWORD

The past year has shown the strength and resilience of our community. As we emerge from the pandemic; as our local businesses begin to re-open their doors and we start to see our loved ones again, we can do better than simply going back to normal. Normal for Northamptonshire was a mismanaged County Council that went bankrupt and lost millions of our money. Residents across the county have quite literally had to pay the price through steep council tax rises – all whilst services have been slashed.

There is an alternative. We can have a **fairer, greener, healthier** new start. A Green future.

On 6 May 2021, you have the opportunity to vote for 3 councillors who will join the new unitary authorities in North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. Elected Greens will work to build a safe and supportive community, with inclusive and life-long education, affordable and efficient housing, a green and thriving local economy, a cared for and protected natural environment, future-proofed social care, and accessible and clean transport.

Dez Dell
Coordinator
North Northamptonshire Green Party

Steve Miller
Coordinator
West Northamptonshire Green Party

COMMUNITY: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE

- Foster a culture of accountability and transparency in the new unitary authorities
- Encourage employers to pay a Real Living Wage to all employees; lead the way by ensuring that this is the case for employees in the new unitary authorities and for sub-contracted workers
- Allow for meaningful and open consultations with residents; seek to achieve this by establishing citizen assemblies which will bring decision making closer to the people it most affects
- Work cross-party to call on central government to grant a local trial of Universal Basic Income – an unconditional, monthly payment to every legal resident, which will help cover the costs of living and provide our community with the freedom and security to flourish
- Put words into action and ensure that the Climate Strategy Plan for Northamptonshire is implemented, so that our community can have **a green future**
- Work with police to promote community policing, including Street Watch schemes
- Support #Citadel in Kettering – an evidence-based, harm-reduction and public health approach to addiction; seek to expand the project across the county
- Review Public Spaces Protection Orders across the county to remove draconian conditions such as curfews for under-18s and bans on scooters, cycles and skateboards, whilst keeping sensible provisions in place such as fines for dog fouling

EDUCATION: INCLUSIVE AND LIFE-LONG

- Protect educational spaces across the county
- Support schools in delivering mental health provision and ensure Special Educational Needs services are well-resourced
- Work with employers and education providers to encourage apprenticeship uptake
- Foster relations between Northamptonshire's student population and local residents by encouraging volunteering in the community
- Maintain, and where possible, increase funding for the Northamptonshire Adult Learning Service

HOUSING: AFFORDABLE AND EFFICIENT

- 
- Safeguard our green spaces when considering new housing developments
 - Provide the necessary oversight to ensure that new developments are genuinely affordable
 - Require all new housing to meet the highest standards of energy efficiency – ideally the Passivhaus standard – and strive for Net Zero emissions
 - Ensure new developments are accessible by active travel and public transport to shops and services
 - Call on central government to grant funding for retrofitting homes across the county
 - Seek to revitalise abandoned and empty properties into affordable social housing
 - Work to extend the supported living scheme for homeless individuals, so that everyone in our county can have a place to call home – accompanied with rehabilitative support where required

LOCAL ECONOMY: GREEN AND THRIVING

- Adapt to the rise in remote working by encouraging the growth of business hubs for employees to work from, which will revitalise our town centres and combat loneliness
- Actively support our small businesses and independent traders, including through business rates relief
- Work with business groups across the county to ensure investment – particularly in the green industries of the future – which will create high–quality, high–paid jobs for residents
- Protect our countryside by ensuring that commercial and warehouse units are built in appropriate and strategic areas

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: CARED FOR AND PROTECTED

- Address flooding by not building on flood plains, taking pre–emptive action to clean out blocked drains and gullies, and implementing natural flood prevention measures
- Develop renewable energy solutions including wind and solar power, air source and ground source heat pumps, and community–owned energy schemes
- Tackle fly–tipping across the county through stronger enforcement measures and making sure waste services are accessible
- Boost biodiversity through protecting wild areas, re–wilding schemes, planting more hedgerows and trees, encouraging organic countryside management and discouraging pesticide use
- Unify recycling schemes across the county; re–evaluate unsustainable plans for incinerating waste; call for a trial of a deposit return scheme

SOCIAL CARE: FUTURE-PROOFED

- Allow the councils to bring adult social care services back in house – reducing the amount paid to third parties and increasing the quality of support given to those in need
- Increase funding for adult day centres, allowing for the councils – with the help of volunteers – to support the adults in our community who need help
- Call for additional funding so that social care in the home can be provided for all people over 65
- Support early years provision, specialist children's support and youth centres with the necessary resources
- Ensure there is a long-term plan in place for the social care budget

TRANSPORT: ACCESSIBLE AND CLEAN

- Favour walking and cycling infrastructure across the county and ensure that temporary active travel measures due to Covid-19 – such as widened pavements and cycle lanes – become permanent features
- Ensure existing local Low Emission Strategy plans are implemented
- Support School Streets initiatives where feasible; work in all cases to tackle air pollution around schools from idling cars
- Ensure all active travel networks meet government standard LTN1/20
- Work to restore bus subsidies and work with providers to retrofit buses with clean-fuel alternatives
- Develop charging infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Ensure roads are well-maintained for the safety of all users; provide the necessary scrutiny for all major highway and road infrastructure tenders

MEET OUR CANDIDATES

Here are just some of our 41 Green candidates standing for election across North and West Northamptonshire on May 6:



EMILY FEDOROWYCZ
ALL SAINTS, KETTERING

“

Voting Green is the only way to look after people and planet. I'm standing for the first time to bring a younger voice to the council and fight for issues big and small with some fresh energy and positivity.

“

As a councillor for Kingsthorpe, I would speak up on the issues that residents care about – such as the library closure, speeding traffic and more support for public transport.



CHRIS WILLIS
KINGSTHORPE NORTH



STEVE MILLER
KINGSTHORPE NORTH

“

Residents have told me that their voice is not being heard. I'd like to be that voice – to speak up for our community and to help make it a safer, greener and cleaner place.

“

Greens work incredibly hard in our community and, by electing us on May 6, we will be able to make even more of a positive impact on Northamptonshire's future as councillors.



DEZ DELL
BRAMBLESIDE, KETTERING

northants.greenparty.org.uk

 **facebook.com/NorthantsGreens**

 **[@northantsgreens](https://twitter.com/northantsgreens)**

Northamptonshire
 **Green Party**

Promoted by Steve Miller on behalf of the Northamptonshire Green Party – both c/o
43 Lynton Avenue, Northampton, NN2 8LX