

TORRIDGE GREEN PARTY

GREEN INFO

JANUARY 2023

SATURDAY 28th JANUARY PROTEST ABOUT RIVER AND SEA POLLUTION

Assemble at Castle Green in Barnstaple from 10 15am. The plan is to march up the Strand and along the High Street, ending at Selaine Saxby's office near Butchers' Row. This is supported by Surfers Against Sewage.

MASSIVE INCREASE IN GREEN COUNCILLORS SINCE 2010

In the last twelve years we have gone from 100 Green Councillors to nearly 550 and only last week won Plympton on Plymouth City Council with 44.9% of the vote. Positive and encouraging news. *Can Torridge be part of the next jump in number in May - see the next item.*

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS THIS MAY

We will be telephoning you if you are a member to ask how you can help in the run up to the District Council Elections. We will be campaigning actively in our target wards - most of which are three seat wards but a Green candidate and posters in non target wards would be welcome and can deliver a pleasant surprise. Can you help by putting up a poster in your window, a stake board in your garden, delivering leaflets or offering yourself as a candidate. If you are a supporter and would like to help, please email me to let me know.

We will be finalising the list of candidates at our next meeting on 25th February. We already have two District Councillors - Peter Christie and Peter Hames. Rosemary Gent has put herself forward for Littleham and Monkleigh and we hope Wendy Lo-Vel will be well enough to stand again in Northam having come so near to winning in the by election in December 21. If we add just one more councillor there will be a Green Group on the Council which effects committee membership and increases our voice at Council meetings to ensure policies are climate friendly.

Peter Christie and Peter Hames have been working hard for the last four years bringing Green Policies to the fore such as Active Travel with North Devon to beef up cycle and walking routes, surveying Council owned buildings to put solar panels on the roofs, and pushing for electric Council vehicles to replace diesel ones. Lots of small but significant changes that work to reduce climate

change.

VOTER ID - VERY IMPORTANT - DON'T IGNORE

This May you will have to produce Voter ID in order to vote in person at a polling station. If you go to electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID you will find information about what will be accepted as ID and details of how to apply for a free ID. The applications process will open in a few weeks' time. You can also go to www.torridge.gov.uk/elections for information on the issue.

Do make sure you do this check and tell your friends and neighbours. We must defeat this attempt at USA style voter suppression. The number of cases of false voting have been in single figures in previous elections so would never affect the outcome anywhere. This is a sledge hammer to crack a nut. We are concerned that people who go to vote will be turned away as your polling card will not count as ID.

LOTS ABOUT ELECTIONS THIS TIME. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE WILL BE A LOT MORE GREEN COUNCILLORS IN THE COUNTRY AFTER MAY ALL WORKING TO BRING IN GREEN POLICIES AND COUNTERACT CLIMATE CHANGE.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Ruth Funnell
Secretary of Torridge Greens
ruth.funnell@btinternet.com**

January 17th 2023

NEXT GREEN PARTY MEETING IS ON SATURDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY AT 3.30 AT CHURCH LANE HOUSE, CHURCH LANE, TORRINGTON. SAVE THE DATE