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# GREEN LEAF

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# 1st Green council brings sea change

150 days after Brighton & Hove elected the UK's first Green council, how has the city benefited?

The message from May's local elections was clear. Brighton & Hove residents wanted a change from the business-as-usual approach of the three old parties. Instead, they made history by voting in the first ever Green-led council in the UK.

So what has the Green council done in its first 150 days?

**'The Green council has already reduced pay inequality'**

Despite taking over at a time when the Coalition Government is imposing savage cuts on councils around the country, the Green Party has made it a priority to reduce pay inequality. It has done this by introducing a Living Wage to increase the salary of its lowest paid workers.



At the same time, it has gained a voluntary reduction in the salary of its chief executive, setting an example to other employers in the city.

The Green administration has stood by its commitment to open government by giving unprecedented access to

the budget-setting process, including developing an online budget simulator for the public to have its say.

The council has launched a programme of solar panel installation to council buildings which will reduce emissions as well as earning about £10m.

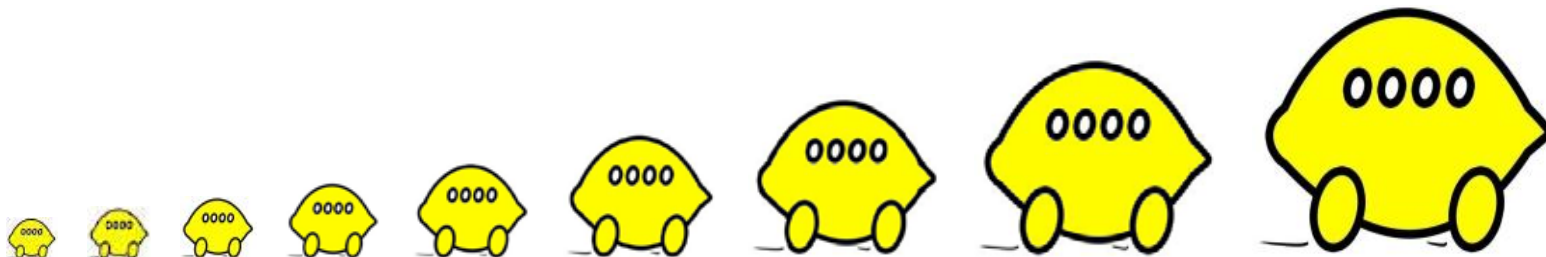
It has also secured £4m of government funding to improve transport and reduce pollution on Lewes Road.

Brighton & Hove has an historic opportunity to become a beacon of fairness and sustainability. The Green Party is determined to live up to this challenge.

## Green gains:

- ✓ Living Wage to reduce pay inequality for council workers
- ✓ Secured £4m funding for Lewes Road revamp
- ✓ Solar panels on council buildings to reduce emissions and bring £10m revenue
- ✓ New apprenticeships schemes for disadvantaged
- ✓ More transparent budget and promoting open data
- ✓ Gradual increase of 20mph zones across city
- ✓ Plans for an ethical letting agency for private tenants
- ✓ Pilot programme for food waste collection scheme
- ✓ Reduced council CO2 emissions by over 1,000 tonnes

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# City news

## News in brief

### Greens challenge second home council tax discount

Councillor Jason Kitcat, the cabinet member for finance, is challenging the government to let councils decide whether to offer second home discounts. Currently councils must offer at least a 10% discount on council tax to second home-owners, which costs Brighton & Hove £177,000 a year. Jason is writing to ministers requesting councils be given the power to drop second-home discounts.

### £28.5m raised for housing

Hundreds of city residents will be housed under a new agreement that will unlock millions to improve the council's housing stock. The city council has signed a deal with charity Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes that will raise £28.5 million. That money will be invested into refurbishing council homes.

### All change on MP boundary front

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published draft proposals for the city's three parliamentary seats. It proposes radical changes which, if adopted, would influence the outcome of the next general election. Under BCE proposals, the current constituencies would be replaced by a central constituency of Brighton Pavilion & Hove, a North Brighton & Hove constituency, and a Lewes & East Brighton constituency merging parts of Brighton with Lewes District.

### Greens promote open data

The Green cabinet has adopted the Open Government Licence for council publications and data. Council publications and data will now be open for sharing, use and reuse. The licence was developed by the UK National Archives and is now considered a leading example of best practice for government openness.

## Thank you from the Green Party



By Bill Randall, Council Leader  
150 days ago, the residents of Brighton and Hove made history again by voting in the first Green-led council in the UK. For the Brighton and Hove Green Party, the result is both an opportunity and an enormous challenge.

The city faces unprecedented and reckless public spending cuts imposed by the Tory-LibDem Government. Nevertheless, we are determined to protect the city's most vulnerable citizens, address the city's housing crisis, reduce chronic inequality and protect and improve our environment to deliver our vision of the UK's greenest city.

On the equalities front, we have increased the pay of the 340 lowest paid council workers. At the same time, the council's chief executive has taken a 5 per cent voluntary reduction in his salary. These two actions have reduced the pay ratio between the poorest and highest paid council workers to just above 11 to 1.

We are exploring all avenues to provide more affordable homes, upgrade and 'green' our existing homes, and create training, apprenticeships and jobs for local people. We are working with Brighton Housing Trust on plans for an ethical lettings agency that will give the city's 28,000 private sector tenants a better deal.

We are setting up a Tenant Scrutiny Panel to give council tenants the right to scrutinise any issue of concern to them about the way their homes are managed.

Air pollution is choking our city, and traffic makes some streets dangerous for children getting to school. Since May we have secured more than £4 million of extra funding that will

make it easier and safer to walk, cycle and use public transport, and improve the air quality and the health of the city.

I'd like to thank everyone who voted Green for giving us this historic opportunity. We are doing everything we can to create a fairer and greener city.



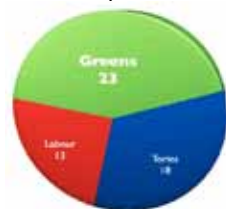
## Election results give Green light

Brighton and Hove's voters delivered a second historic result in May's city council elections, a year after Caroline Lucas was elected as the country's first Green MP.

As the results trickled in during the count at Hove Town Hall in the early hours of 6 May, it became clear that voters had rejected Labour's attempts to portray themselves as the 'only party who could stop the Tories'.

Council seat gains for the Greens across the city proved beyond doubt that Greens could win seats from all the other parties: Tories, Labour and LibDems, and in suburban areas as well as the city centre, and in all three Parliamentary constituencies.

Voters made history by electing 23 Green councillors to the city council. 18 Conservatives and



Results city wide



Brighton Pavilion

and 13 Labour councillors were also elected. The LibDems lost their two seats. Greens took five seats from Labour, three from the Tories and two from the LibDems.



Caroline Lucas congratulates Christopher Hawtree on his spectacular victory

As the largest group on the council the Greens formed the first ever minority Green-led council administration in the UK, with Bill Randall as council leader.

Alex Phillips and Luke Walter, Election Coordinators for Brighton and Hove Greens, said: "We are humbled by the trust voters have placed in us in what is a very difficult time for public spending and local government generally.

"Green wins were not confined to Brighton Pavilion constituency or central areas, traditionally where Green support is strongest. Some of the most impressive gains were in Hove, where Greens gained five seats, including the sensational win by Christopher Hawtree in Central Hove. Green

councillors were also elected in Withdean and in Hollingdean & Stanmer, showing that the Green vote is an option across the city.

"It also shows how misleading Labour's message was that only they could stop the Tories. In reality it is now the Greens who have shown they have the support to win seats from all the parties and form a council administration."

### Greens top poll

Party	% vote	Seats
Greens	33%	23 seats
Conservatives	29%	18 seats
Labour	32%	13 seats
Lib Dem	5%	0 seats

For the full results in your area go to [brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://brighton-hove.gov.uk)

## Transparent budget

A Green priority has been to transform the budget-setting process from being secretive and internally-focussed to something much more open and inclusive.

The party has held roundtable meetings with unions, community & voluntary sector and opposition parties to discuss key issues. It has also invited opposition parties to participate in reviewing draft budget proposals. This has previously been a closed and secretive process reserved for administration councillors only.

Greens are including residents in the budget process, and an online budget tool has been developed to enable the public have its say (see [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/budget](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/budget)).

The previous Conservative council administration planned on a 2.5% annual council tax increase this year, but to protect services as best we can, Greens are currently working on the basis of a 3.5% increase. This is still well below inflation and will only make a small contribution of £1m extra to the roughly £20m we need to save in 2012/13.

We believe council tax is unfair, but the government won't let us use an alternative system. by Cllr Jason Kitcat, Finance Lead

## Solar power to save £10m

The Green-led council has approved several schemes to put solar panels on council-owned properties. The council is buying and installing solar photovoltaic panels on its offices, schools, sports centres and housing.

This huge scheme will help to reduce energy bills and the city's carbon footprint. The panels will also create a new source of income for the council, helping to offset the impact of the Government-imposed budget cuts. Over 15 years the panels are expected to produce, after costs, £10m of income to support the council's budget.

Plans have already been submitted for 99 units on Bartholomew House, 55 panels on Kings House, and 41 units on the roof of the Oxford Street Housing Office, which the councils hopes to have in place by March 2012.



PHOTO: GEOFFREY BOWDEN

## New policy for travellers

New 'firm but fair' policies towards travellers are being put into action by the council. While acknowledging that travellers have legal and moral rights which must be respected, the Green administration is working to ensure that local residents are able to enjoy the city's parks and open spaces as well.

One initiative under consideration is to ask all travellers entering the city to sign a Good Neighbour Compact, agreeing to a mutually acceptable code of behaviour. Meanwhile, the Green Party made clear that:

- There are no more travellers in the city that there were a year ago. In fact, there are slightly fewer (51 compared to 52).
- It's not taking any longer to move travellers from unsuitable locations. In fact, it's taking less time than before.

## So, what have the Greens done?

Since being voted into power in May, the Green Party has been pursuing its agenda of greater fairness, more community involvement and environmental sustainability. This is what it has achieved so far:

- The first step towards setting a Living Wage in the city has been taken, with around 340 of the lowest paid council and school workers set to see their wages rise to £7.19 an hour to help tackle inequality (see p4).
- The council is working with maintenance contractor Mears, the GMB Union and other partners to increase the number of apprenticeships available to those living in the most deprived areas.
- Community involvement in decision-making is central to the council's budget setting plans for 2011/12 (see opposite).
- In 2012, the council hopes to be one of the first to set up neighbourhood councils with devolved community budgets and decision-making powers. A bid has been submitted for substantial funds to kick start this work.
- As part of its commitment to making Brighton and Hove

the UK's greenest city, several initiatives have been rolled out. The first is to fit solar panels on schools and other public buildings to take advantage of feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy (see left).

- The council is also consulting residents on proposals that



The Greens plans to set up neighbourhood councils to devolve decision making

could make travel greener and safer across the city. The first is improving cycle lanes and footpaths on the busy Old Shoreham Road in a £700,000 project (see below).

- The city has bid successfully for more than £4 million of government funding to cut air pollution and improve road safety

in the Lewes Road, one of the city's main arteries (see below).

- Work has begun to find out how the council might achieve UN Biosphere Status and declare the city a biosphere reserve in a move that helps strengthen the area's eco-credentials. A full-

time project coordinator will continue work on this, joining the authority in September.

- The council aims to accelerate targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The council has cut its own greenhouse gas output by over 1,000 tonnes – the equivalent to the CO2 emitted by 100 homes – in the space of a year.

## £6m Lewes Road improvements



Cllr Ian Davey tries out the new bike storage racks at Brighton train station

Brighton & Hove city council has successfully bid for £4m from the government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund towards a £6m four-year project aimed at improving sustainable transport choices on the Lewes Road corridor. The council will be working with local communities, schools, the

universities and other partners to make it easier to walk, cycle and use public transport.

The Green Party has resurrected the proposals for a cycle lane on part of the Old Shoreham Road. The enhanced plan for a high-quality segregated route includes pedestrian signal upgrades to two busy junctions. National

sustainable transport charity Sustrans was so impressed by these proposals that they have contributed £330k to the total cost of around £700k from their Routes to Schools fund. The public consultation has resulted in 75% support as well as endorsements from national experts.

There was further Green progress when Southern Rail agreed to the council's request to provide a new more secure cycle parking facility at the front of Brighton station. This was opened by Cabinet Member for Transport Ian Davey in September.

He said: "Times are certainly hard for everybody and unlikely to get easier for some time, but we have clearly demonstrated that where there is the vision and the political will to deliver, then money can be found. We will be relentless in our search to bring investment into this city."

## News in brief

### Air pollution worse under Conservatives

Air quality figures for 2010, released last week, show an increase in pollution of 40% in areas of the city during the last four years of Conservative administration. When the Green Party raised concerns in 2009, they were dismissed by the Tory administration as 'alarmist'. Not only have the Greens' claims been vindicated but they have won £4m from the local sustainable transport fund to prevent congestion and pollution in the city (see left).

### Caroline named MP of 2011

Brighton Pavilion MP Caroline Lucas has been named MP of the Year in the Scottish Widows & Dods Women in Public Life Awards – just 16 months after she was elected as the first Green to enter the UK Parliament. The title was awarded to the Green leader for proving to be "the most effective woman in the House of Commons who has shown outstanding achievement during the parliamentary year."



PHOTO: ARTHUR HUNT PHOTOGRAPHY

### Open Market revamp

Preparations for the start of the Open Market development on London Road are moving ahead. There have been delays finalising the legal arrangements, but these should be resolved soon. Work on the temporary market in Francis Street has started, with plans for the existing leaseholders to move in the new year. Work will then start on the new development, which will provide a new covered market and 87 much needed new homes. The market should be open for business in summer of 2013.

# Community news

## News in brief

### [Even] Less crime in Hove

Recent police statistics record that this summer there has been a distinct drop in crime figures in Hove compared with the same time last year. In the case of Seafield Road, the number of incidents reported to the police between the end of July and September this year was a fifth the number of those reported during the previous two months.

### Seagulls home to roost

Council leader Bill Randall and Deputy Ian Davey (below, right to left) joined the Albion FC for their opening match against Spurs. Bill said: "The Palace defeat apart, they have made a stunning start to the season, and they've created 1,000 part and full time jobs. It's good news all round for the city."



### Green links

Keep in touch with Greens online at the following sites:

**Brighton and Hove Green Party**

[www.brightonhovegreens.org](http://www.brightonhovegreens.org)

**Official Brighton and Hove Greens News on Twitter**

[twitter.com/newsgreenbh](https://twitter.com/newsgreenbh)

**Official Brighton and Hove Greens Facebook page**

<http://www.facebook.com/brightonhovegreens>

**Website for Caroline Lucas, MP for Brighton Pavilion**

[www.carolinelucas.com](http://www.carolinelucas.com)

**Caroline Lucas on Twitter**

[twitter.com/carolinelucas](https://twitter.com/carolinelucas)

**National Green Party website and Twitter feed**

[www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)

[twitter.com/thegreenparty](https://twitter.com/thegreenparty)

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## More 20mph zones

The Greens have moved quickly on their promise to start introducing 20mph speed limits in residential areas. Two trial schemes will be implemented over the next few months. One in Portslade and the other in the Prestonville area.

The proposals have been well received by residents, councillors from other parties and even the local bus company. Brighton & Hove buses' managing director Roger French said: "I would go along with most of these

suggestions for road safety reasons and I compliment them for bringing forward sensible suggestions." (The Argus (27/9/11)

Transport cabinet member Ian Davey said: "I know people in communities across the city also want traffic speeds reduced on their streets. We can't do everywhere at once, but we will learn from these pilot projects and then aim to roll out similar schemes to communities across the city over the next few years."



## Another Sainsbury's?

Sainsburys have appealed after Brighton & Hove council turned down their application to develop the Caffyns site on London Road. Sue Shanks, Green councillor for Withdean, supported a local residents' campaign against opening yet another branch of the superstore in the city. If the appeal fails, as

hoped, residents will be looking at alternative uses for the site. Meanwhile, vehicle speeds are being monitored at Surrenden Road, another campaign the trio were involved with before the election. And Sue has met with Cityclean and residents to look at improving bin collection and recycling in Kingsley road.



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## It gets better & BETRA



Councillors Sven Rufus and Christina Summers on the Bates Estate.

Cllrs Christina Summers and Sven Rufus attended the May meeting of the Bates Estate Tenants and Residents' Association (BETRA).

"We turned up to a really well attended meeting, not knowing any of the people there" said Sven. "But everyone was very welcoming, and gave us the chance to introduce ourselves, while sharing their issues with us. They're a great group to work with, caring for each other and committed to changing things for the better".

Christina, Sven and BETRA have been working on ensuring sufficient new communal bins are located in the right places

(ongoing), new dropped kerbs in strategic locations (completed in record time!) and a full feasibility study of the estate (imminent), with council officers and residents looking particularly at the brick sheds that have been out of use and boarded up for so long. Could one of them be made into a community meeting place?

Christina said: "The Bates area is the perfect candidate for a community hub. Despite years of neglect and the feeling of being ignored, they've kept going and we really think they deserve some encouragement - a place to meet, work and socialise together would be such a boost for the estate."

## Can you help?

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Displaying a window poster at election time
- Displaying a garden poster board at election time
- Delivering leaflets in your area
- Joining the Green Party
- Making a donation.

To offer other support please email: [info@brightonhovegreens.org](mailto:info@brightonhovegreens.org) or tel: 01273 766670

Cheques should be made payable to Brighton and Hove Green Party and sent to BHGP, 39-41 Surrey Street, Brighton, BN1 3PB.

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# Special report

# When more really is more

Applying a Living Wage to lowest paid workers benefits everyone and creates a fairer society, says Lianna Etkind

Brighton's new Green-led council raised a few eyebrows in September when it announced it was planning to raise the salaries of its lowest-paid workers. Yet the idea of a Living Wage rather than a Minimum Wage is nothing new. It's long been advocated by the Green Party and has already been successfully implemented in several councils around the country.

Paying people enough to cover the essentials of life is hardly a radical idea, yet more than ten years after the UK introduced the minimum wage, hard-working people are still struggling to make ends meet. The National Minimum Wage is now £6.08 per hour, and there's ample evidence that this is not enough to provide a family with the essentials of life.

A Living Wage reflects the basic cost of living in an area or city. It



also provides an incentive for people to work, and puts the onus on employers, rather than the benefits system, to ensure people are paid enough to live on.

In Brighton & Hove, the poli-

**“A Living Wage reflects the cost of living and provides incentive to work”**

cy will have a direct impact on around 250 council staff who will see their salaries rise by 60p to £7.19 per hour. The same rise will be offered to the lowest paid workers in schools. The annual cost of the increase is £109,000 for council workers and £70,000 for schools – representing just 0.05% of the council's revenue.

Council Leader Bill Randall said:

“Reducing inequality is a key plank of our plan for the city. This and other initiatives mean we have narrowed the ratio between the highest and lowest paid to just above 11:1. We are also establishing a Living Wage Commission for Brighton & Hove, which will look at the benefits of establishing a Living Wage in the city's public, private and third sectors.”

The introduction of a Living Wage of £7.85 in London has lifted more than 6,500 families out of poverty, and it's been warmly welcomed by employers too. Firms such as Barclays, Linklaters, and PriceWaterhouseCoopers have implemented a Living Wage – and it's as much a hardnosed business decision as a moral one. Employers say paying a Living Wage improves productivity and morale and reduces absenteeism and staff turnover.

With such frightening cuts happening to benefits and social services, it's never been more important to ensure people's pay cheques can keep them out of poverty. Instituting a Living Wage in Brighton & Hove is one of the best things we can do to achieve this.

#### How it works

- ✓ A Living Wage reflects the true cost of living, including food, shelter, clothes and fuel
- ✓ Brighton & Hove council has raised its minimum wage to £7.19 per hour
- ✓ The National Minimum wage is £6.08 per hour (from Oct)
- ✓ A Living Wage allows workers to meet their living costs and creates a more equal society
- ✓ It also results in less take-up of benefits, bringing savings for the taxpayer

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# Green living

## Jason and the econauts

Brighton resident Jason Hurwitz has turned an old tea warehouse into a local food market. Lauren Lumby tastes his wares

“Love food, hate waste.” That is the driving principle behind a new indoor market recently opened on Upper Gardner Street. And Thorne’s Foods is doing a good job of putting local sustainability at the heart of its business.

For a start there’s the building. Founder Jason Harwitz has transformed an old tea warehouse in a beautiful ecologically sustain-

‘Everyone needs lemons’ says Jason, but imports are kept to a minimum

able conversion, all cobblestones, beams, floorboards and exposed bungeroosh walls – a Brighton-specific piece of architectural history in itself. The walls were decorated using eco-paint, and even



the candlesticks in the restaurant on the upper floor are made from recycled pieces of the west Pier.

The company creatively sources the best quality from Sussex local small producers in a cen-

tralized farmer’s market – reducing both food miles and the distance people have to travel to buy the food. Overseas imports are not exactly banned – as Jason puts it, “Everyone needs lemons”

– but kept to a minimum. Many of the staff are experts in their field and can explain how the tomatoes are grown pesticide-free using wasps, exactly where the best chicken can be sourced in which season, and which award-winning English vineyard has had its wine taken up by the Hotel Du Vin (Pulborough-based Stopham Wines).

Many products carry a story of innovative local renewal. Wobblegate apple juice is produced by a man who has revived his father’s old orchards. Lewes dairy Downview, outpriced by globalised supermarket wars, can command a fair price for their milk due to its farm-freshness.

The restaurant on the second floor showcases daily recipes made from the produce available in the shop below. For culinary

inspiration, Thorne’s provide recipes: how to make a perfect lemon marinade for a local tenderloin that has travelled only a few miles from source to plate.

Thorne’s commitment to local sustainability ensures food miles are kept low, not only offering just-made, still-warm September jam or sausages from up the road, but capping the environmental impact of transporting these delicacies from source to customer.

### Food miles

- Food consumed in the UK travels an average of 1,500-2,500 miles
- In 2007, food travelled 25% further than it did in 1980
- Food transport accounts for 19m tonnes of carbon dioxide per year – of which 2m tonnes is people driving to shops

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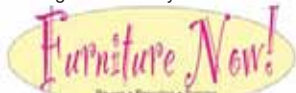
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# Green machine

Surprise Central Hove winner Christopher Hawtree talks to Lauren Lumby



**Christopher Hawtree was one of 14 new Green councillors to win seats in the May elections. He secured Central Hove 130 votes ahead of Conservative Andrew Wealls to great surprise – not least his own. Chris says he simply caught the public mood, but perhaps the public mood was captured by his competence, affability and determination to bring about a sea change.**

#### **How did you get into politics?**

It really began with the 2003 campaign to stop Hove Library closing down. It was democracy in action. I spoke to thousands of local people, put up 5000 posters.

We had three weeks to stop the closure. I learnt then what the pioneer spirit can achieve when people are moved to change things.

#### **How did you fund your campaign?**

You don't need money if the wind is behind you. You just need legwork, talking to people. It was exciting, feeling that change in the air, being on a cusp of time.

#### **How did you feel when you won?**

It was a huge surprise. The feeling in the town hall was electric. The moment I remember is Andrew Wealls coming up and holding out his hand. I wondered what he meant. He said, "Congratulations,

you've topped the poll." For what seemed like ages, I couldn't say a word. The opposition dismissed the Greens as a bit of a joke and me as a clown. Now we have a Green MP and a Green council.

#### **How has Hove changed?**

The demography has changed. It's no longer a bolt hole for blue blazers and blue rinses, if it ever was. My theory is that the sea draws free spirits. Even the demography of inland areas like Hangleton is mutating most interestingly. And Sue Shanks won in Withdean. I am very encouraged. Public mood is with the Greens.

## Serving you: 150 days in 150 letters

GL asked new Green councillors to describe their first 150 days in office in 150 characters (or less)

#### **Sue Shanks, Withdean**

"Very busy but exciting. Great seeing lots of wonderful projects by young people. Difficult to balance ward and cabinet work. Budget terrifying."

#### **Michael Jones, Preston Park**

"Exhilarated and honoured to be elected to represent my community and to be part of the first Green Group to lead a council. What a steep learning curve this has been!"

#### **Ania Kitcat, Regency**

"Of the many things I have been involved with, I particularly enjoyed helping to choose public artwork to benefit residents and businesses."

#### **Robert Jarrett, Goldsmid**

"Very busy, lots to learn. Too

much jargon and waffle. The officers very supportive; the public very positive. It feels good to be making history."

#### **Stephanie Powell, Queen's Park**

"I'm enjoying the challenges of councillor life; meeting all sorts of people, the involvement in discussion, and learning about the minefield that is local politics."

#### **Ruth Buckley, Goldsmid**

"No two days are ever the same. I sit on two panels, two committees, I'm a trustee and a governor, I chair two panels. I'd be exhausted if it wasn't so exhilarating!"

#### **Oliver Sykes, Brunswick & Adelaide**

"Communal recycling to community centre, food sustainability to flood risk assessment, petanq to

Palmeira Square. Exciting, challenging & very busy!"

#### **Elizabeth Wakefield, Hanover & Elm Grove**

"Housing is a huge portfolio. The council is a sleeping giant. I am a cog in the mechanism, bringing the change I want to see."

#### **Chris Hawtree, Central Hove**

"I have been chuffed at the pleasant remarks with which people greet me. There is general relish of being by the sea. It is a continual reminder of a wider context to life."

#### **Christina Summers, Hollingdean & Stanmer**

"SO loving my bus pass... Oh, and I'm thrilled to be part of a group of councillors who are working their socks off to turn this city around!"

## Your Green councillors

BRIGHTON AND HOVE's Green councillors are here to help you on issues that concern you most.

#### **St Peter's & North Laine**

**Ian Davey**  
tel: 296430



**Lizzie Deane**  
tel: 291138



**Pete West**  
tel: 296431



#### **Queen's Park**

**Ben Duncan**  
tel: 296441



**Geoffrey Bowden**  
tel: 291986



**Stephanie Powell**  
tel: 291156



#### **Preston Park**

**Amy Kennedy**  
tel: 296445



**Mike Jones**  
tel: 291149



**Leo Littman**  
tel: 291152



#### **Regency**

**Jason Kitcat**  
tel: 296447



**Ania Kitcat**  
tel: 296 447



#### **Withdean**

**Sue Shanks**  
tel: 291 410



#### **Hanover & Elm Grove**

**Bill Randall**  
tel: 294366



**Matt Follett**  
tel: 291140



**Liz Wakefield**  
tel: 291423



#### **Goldsmid**

**Alex Phillips**  
tel: 294539



**Rob Jarrett**  
tel: 291148



**Ruth Buckley**  
tel: 291136



#### **Hollingdean & Stanmer**

**Christina Summers**  
tel: 291158



**Sven Rufus**  
tel: 296429



#### **Central Hove**

**Christopher Hawtree**  
tel: 291144



#### **Brunswick & Adelaide**

**Phelim MacCafferty**  
tel: 291357



**Ollie Sykes**  
tel: 291413



More information on councillors at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

# Caroline Lucas MP writes...

**Green Party**  
FAIR IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



With FareShare volunteers Tracy Cox and Dym Jelloul



Visiting the new Amex stadium



With Kate Ogden, of the Meningitis Research Foundation



Faires fare demo at Brighton station



Supporting the Big Issue in Brighton

Food waste is a big issue in our city, and I was disappointed to discover in a recent study that restaurants in Brighton and Hove throw away more food than anywhere else in England. I'm keen to look at ways of tackling this locally, so I went to meet with volunteers at Brighton & Hove FareShare, a community food network which takes food that would be thrown away and distributes it to groups working with those who need it. The organisation also offers people a chance to train and work – a great example of a project tackling social and environmental problems at the same time.

The Seagulls' new Amex stadium, which I visited recently, is an extraordinary building and a great asset to Brighton and Hove. I've been particularly impressed by Albion in the Community, which has won a heap of accolades. It's clear that a lot of effort is going into making sure the stadium is genuinely a community facility. AITC director Alan Sanders ran me through a number of the projects, including Gully's Days Out for the Disabled, Schools Masterclasses, Community Health Squad and Football Coaching making this feel very much like a bottom up, grass-roots led initiative.

One of my top priorities as local MP is to tackle the problems associated with drugs and alcohol in the city. The "war on drugs" has failed, and we are well placed to start shaping an alternative, evidence-based approach. As a first step, I brought together medical experts, the council, the police and local organisations for a roundtable to discuss a new approach. We will carry on working together to develop these options. I am also raising the issue of minimum pricing for alcohol in parliament, and calling on the Chancellor to raise VAT for alcohol sold in off-licences and supermarkets

#### What I've achieved recently

- Secured three-year funding for rape crisis centres from the Justice Department
- Worked at the forefront of the campaign against the proposed forest sell off
- Galvanised momentum behind parliamentary reform at Westminster
- Brought Home Affairs Select Committee to meet colleges in Brighton re student visa changes
- Secured a £9,000 bursary for Brighton student preparing to undertake a teaching course

# Solar Panels



## The Facts.

Since the 1st April 2010, new Government backed incentives have seen a huge rise in the number of businesses and residential properties having solar panels installed.

Michael Yeoman, Managing Director of South Downs Solar, answers some of the main questions that people are asking.

#### Q. Why should I have solar panels installed?

There are many reasons why you should consider having them installed, some of our customers have had them installed to importantly reduce their carbon footprint, others to receive the Government backed 'Feed in Tariff'.

receive £22,000

#### Q. What's the Feed in Tariff?

It's a system that's been designed to encourage people to generate electricity from renewable sources, such as solar electricity. If you were to have a 2 kWh solar PV system installed now, you'd earn around £900 per year for the next 25 years. Guaranteed.

tax free

#### Q. But there would be tax to pay on that?

No, not at all! That's why it's so popular now.

#### Q. Will my electricity bills reduce at all?

Definitely. Depending on the size of the system you choose and how much electricity you use, you will see your bills reduce by anywhere between 50 and 75%.

#### Q. Fantastic. But what about the electricity that I don't use?

That gets sold back to the national grid, nothing is wasted and you get paid approximately 3pence per kW that is sold back. That price is index linked too, so it will rise in line with inflation.

reduce carbon

#### Q. So, why should people contact South Downs Solar today?

Of course I'm slightly biased but we differ from other solar companies in that we are more professional in our

approach with our customers. We have a fully inclusive price and we instruct a qualified ISE structural engineer to carry out surveys on our clients properties prior to any work being carried out. We also provide our clients with images of what the solar panels will look like on their property prior to any installation so we know they'll be happy with whatever work we carry out for them.

#### Q. So if I wanted to look into this further today, what do I do?

That's the simple part. Call us on the Freephone number shown below today and we'll talk you through the process. If you'd like us to run through the details in person, we're a local company so we'd be more than happy to do this for you.

Call South Downs Solar today on:  
**Freephone 0800 009 4199**  
to learn more about this exciting opportunity, or visit:  
**www.southdownssolar.co.uk**  
**www.energysavingtrust.org.uk**

