



**ENFIELD GREEN PARTY**

**Manifesto May 2010 Elections**

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## Introduction

### Why you should vote Green

A lot of people are disillusioned with politics and politicians at the moment. The Don't Vote Party wins every election by a landslide. Should you join that policy of despair? Not if you care about the world you live in. Politics matters, whether you like it or not. If you let the self-interested and self-important run it, then don't complain when things don't go the way you would like.

Which party should you vote for? How about the Greens? You may know us as the only party consistently advocating doing what the science dictates about climate change, but we don't stop there. We have joined-up policies on all aspects of life, emphasising fairness, jobs, social cohesion and supporting local communities. Take a look at our website [www.greenparty.org.uk/policies.html](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/policies.html)

# FAIR IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Green Party 

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## Part One

### What do Green Party councillors want for Enfield? Our six-point manifesto.

Whilst other parties promise a freeze in Council Tax for two years with no clue as to what will happen after that, Enfield Green Party councillors will have a wider vision for the borough focusing on jobs, insulation, 20mph speed limits, community centres, trees and actually listening and acting on what you say: true consultation.

#### 1 *Jobs, training and apprenticeships*

Unemployment is now at 7.1%, up from 5.3% in January 2009. Enfield has a strong industrial heritage, once making cookers, electric fires and light bulbs. It's time for Enfield to become a hub of 'green industries', manufacturing eco-light bulbs, insulation, solar panels and wind turbines.

Jack Johnson, Bowes ward candidate, says: *"We do not accept the Labour-Tory-Lib Dem commitment to cut public spending while cutting national debt. We believe that we need to invest in our communities to reduce Thatcher-like levels of unemployment. Our aim is to create an economy based on green manufacturing and sustainable production, not the boom and bust of the last thirty years."*

#### 2 *Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation*

We need to reduce both our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and our fuel bills; insulation is the obvious way forward. Green councillors in Kirklees have established a far-reaching grant system that all local authorities could implement if they had the political will. For more details of their scheme that we would look to mirror go to: <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/environment/grants.shtml>

#### 3 *20mph on residential roads*

If we want more people to walk and cycle then we need to make the streets calmer. The council does have a policy of implementing 20mph schemes on roads next to a school but surely if we want more children walking to school then every road that they cross needs to be made safer, not just the last one they cross before they reach their destination. Slower traffic brings communities together.

A pedestrian hit by a car at 40mph has only a 10% chance of surviving: at 30mph this is 50%, but at 20mph the chance of survival increases to 95%. If Portsmouth can slow down traffic, why can't Enfield?

#### 4 *Community centres*

What's an important part of any community? It's a place where everyone and anyone can meet up with people from the local and surrounding area. Communities need community centres.

A local community centre could offer:

- Play groups
- Luncheon clubs
- After school activities
- Youth clubs
- Markets selling locally produced goods and services
- Meeting rooms for local groups
- Exercise classes
- Notice boards featuring council developments and what others in the community need
- It would provide a space for people to come together, discuss and debate what matters locally.

#### 5 *More trees*

Enfield is a beautiful borough, the northwest being predominantly farm land and country park but the more densely populated parts of the borough need far more trees. Trees do a variety of jobs. As we know, they soak up CO<sub>2</sub> - great for the planet; they pump out oxygen - great for our lungs; they absorb noise from highways; and they make people feel differently about where they live. If we planted hundreds of trees along the North Circular Road, filling up all the empty plots with broadleaf trees, then people currently treating the road and the area like a motorway would begin to treat the area with more respect, slowing their speed, being aware of pedestrians.

## **6      *Consultation***

Enfield Council fails time and again to consult the right people in the right way. They failed to ask Palmers Green library users their views, they consulted with the wrong people regarding a playground in New Southgate, they have failed to discuss properly the relocation of New Southgate businesses. Incompetence or indifference? Green councillors will keep you up to date with regular newsletters, hold surgeries and public meetings where you can come and talk to them about your concerns.

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## Part Two

### CARBON REDUCTION

Climate Change poses a threat to our civilisation and perhaps to our very existence. The Government target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, while challenging, is probably insufficient - and too far away. We need sharp reductions sooner, rather than later.

#### *Buildings*

- Enfield Green Party would support grants for cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing and draught exclusion. Council-owned buildings such as the Civic Centre, other offices and schools would also get the same treatment.
- Where possible buildings should be surrounded by trees. This not only locks up carbon as the trees grow but also cools the air in summer while providing a wind-break in winter.
- Generating energy in a sustainable way rather than using scarce and CO<sub>2</sub>-generating fossil fuels must be at the centre of any carbon-reduction strategy.
- We would promote the installation of solar panels on council buildings, schools and housing stock. There would be grants for homeowners and private landlords to install solar panels and we would support and promote training schemes for insulation installation and solar panel installation.
- Enfield Green Party would also ensure that all new buildings are built to the highest possible energy-efficiency standards.

#### *Sustainable energy*

- Enfield Green Party would seek suitable sites for wind farms in Enfield.
- We would investigate the possibilities for Combined Heat & Power (CHP) schemes in which the waste heat from small-scale power generation is piped to heat homes or offices while the electricity generated is distributed through a local grid, probably to those same homes and offices.
- We would investigate the possibilities for Ground Heat Pumps.

#### *Transport*

- Enfield Green Party would promote the use of public transport. Numbers of trains and buses and the fares charged for them are outside the control of Enfield Council, but we will work with Transport for London and the Greater London Authority to increase the former and decrease the latter.
- Designate cycle lanes on some through routes to encourage a shift from four wheels to two.
- We would make walking a more attractive option for shorter journeys.
- Explore the possibility of time- or movement-controlled street-lighting.

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

Enfield residents need well-paid and fulfilling work that contributes to a low carbon economy. Green jobs in Enfield should contribute to the pursuit of enhanced welfare and happiness. Excessive consumerism coupled with traditional measures of growth, such as GDP, neither guarantees happiness nor pays any regard to sustainability and to the limits to growth.

### ***Well-paid green jobs***

- Everything possible should be done to ensure unemployment is at the absolute minimum. Central Government and Enfield Council have a role to play in this.
- Enfield employers should be monitored to ensure that no worker is paid less than the London Living Wage (£7.60 per hour).
- Employers, especially large employers, should introduce travel plans to minimise the travel employees have to undertake. Where travel is unavoidable, the lowest carbon form should be used.
- Enfield Council should encourage local 'green' manufacturing, such as the production of hybrid, battery and hydrogen vehicles.

### ***Training and education***

- The number of jobs in Enfield fell from 98,000 in 2000 to 91,000 in 2009 and, in the space of a decade, manufacturing has declined from one in seven jobs to one in 14 jobs. We need to get more people in Enfield back to work, especially those in the East and South of the Borough.
- Enfield Green Party wants to see employers, schools and colleges providing apprenticeships, training and education for those who can benefit from having their skills enhanced.

### ***Energy-saving homes***

- Enfield needs to increase energy efficiency in our homes.
- A simple survey using heat-detecting cameras, followed by a surveyor advising residents of the best measures to install would result in lower energy bills and lower emissions.
- Attics and walls need to be properly insulated and, wherever appropriate, renewable energy equipment needs to be installed.

### ***Locally-sourced food***

- The Council should vigorously pursue a local food policy. While a start has been made, there is much scope for growing food in a wide range of places around the Borough.
- Parks can be used, school grounds may have space, and many residents will have back gardens which are 'surplus to requirements'.
- We need green local food which is healthy, cheap and has not traveled halfway round the planet.

### ***Low carbon***

- The days of high carbon living are over. We need to rapidly and dramatically reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Carbon-intensive work will inevitably decrease as we move to a low carbon economy. Enfield Council has a part to play in this process and needs to provide advice, organisational input and financial support.

## **HOUSING**

Everyone needs a house that is warm, comfortable and affordable. Over recent years we have watched social housing stocks fall, witnessed rising house prices and seen an increase in repossessions. This has made it difficult for many people to get onto the 'housing ladder'.

### ***Social housing***

- There are nearly 8,000 households on the Enfield housing waiting list but only 871 properties available. Therefore we need a massive investment programme building more council houses and flats. Not only would this provide secure tenancies for people, it would also provide a variety of jobs in the building sector.
- Enfield Green Party opposes the transfer of council housing to ALMOs (Arms Length Management Organisations) because the system provides inadequate representation for tenants. Where an ALMO exists, we will seek to ensure that tenants are able to participate in its management, and that the housing is returned to local authority control should the majority of tenants wish it.
- Home owners who are unable to meet their mortgage payments and are under threat of repossession should have a right to transfer ownership to the council at less than market value in exchange for the right to remain in the home and pay rent as council tenants.

### ***Cooperatives and housing schemes***

- Enfield Green Party believes in giving greater support to Housing Cooperatives and Co-Housing Schemes, through measures, including easier access to finance, to enable those on lower incomes to live fulfilled lives in their communities.

### ***Housing for all sectors of our society***

- We need an increase in sheltered accommodation for the elderly and those with learning difficulties. Such accommodation needs to have 24-hour onsite warden services.
- Young people coming out of care need supervised homes, giving them access to people who can provide support and guidance.

### ***Empty homes and homelessness***

- Though there is a huge housing waiting list in Enfield, many homes still remain empty. This is not acceptable. Owners should be issued with an Empty Property Use Order which would bring the homes back into use.
- There should be support to enable the homeless to get off the streets and into safe, comfortable and environmentally-sustainable accommodation.
- Any temporary accommodation should only be used in the short-term.

### ***Decent Homes Programme***

- In 2000 the Government launched The Decent Homes Programme, which aims to improve social housing for vulnerable households in the private sector by 2010. It defines a decent home as "one that is wind and weather tight, warm and has modern facilities".
- Enfield Green Party believes in dramatically improving the Decent Homes Programme to deliver renewable energy and much higher standards of energy efficiency.

### ***Green buildings that last***

- The majority of new homes are built with little regard for family life. Rooms tend to be too small and materials used do not stand the test of time.
- We need to construct buildings that are comfortable and will last for longer.
- All homes need to be well insulated. Energy efficient homes not only lower the cost of energy bills, but also help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Small domestic wind turbines and solar panels should also be included in new-build and refurbishments, where deemed appropriate.

# HEALTH: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR THE NHS

## *Our values*

Enfield Green Party believes that the values of equality, social justice, participatory democracy and sustainability are fundamental to health and well-being.

We recognise the considerable advances in care and treatment that have been made by the NHS since its creation. But health services in themselves are not a major determinant of improved public health. Increased investment in health services has focused on clinical interventions for symptom control or cure, whereas achieving long term and sustainable improvements in health requires a fully integrated approach that addresses the underlying problems affecting our health and well-being. Unless the root causes of ill health are addressed the NHS may become unaffordable.

We believe that health for individuals is only possible in the context of a healthy environment and society. Lack of employment, poor living conditions, social isolation, discrimination and family breakdown persist in the poorer parts of Enfield which remains one of the most unequal boroughs in London in terms of health with large differences in male and female life expectancy (up to 7 years) between the poorest and wealthiest wards.

## *We believe in:*

- Keeping the NHS free at the point of need.
- Focusing on improving health outcomes rather than centrally driven targets.
- Increasing investment in primary prevention and health promotion to reduce health inequalities and strengthen communities.
- Empowering people to make informed decisions about their care and in the difficult choices over NHS priorities.

## *Holding the NHS in Enfield to account*

Whilst there is major democratic deficit across the NHS as a whole, local NHS organisations in Enfield have a particularly poor record on public accountability and transparency of decision making. This has contributed to an increasingly polarised debate over the future of Chase Farm and North Middlesex Hospitals which has left the local community demoralised and alienated from decision makers. Assurances over the maintenance of 24 hour Accident & Emergency services have been reneged upon repeatedly by 'here today and gone tomorrow' senior managers who recognise no loyalty to the community they serve.

The new NHS Constitution states that the NHS should be 'accountable to the public, communities and patients that it serves' and yet since the creation of the NHS local people have had less and less say in how it is run. Successive attempts at public involvement since Community Health Councils were abolished have eroded the capacity for holding the NHS to account.

- We believe that NHS organisations should be supervised and accountable to local government.
- Patients' forums should be strengthened and local people represented on all Trust boards.

## *Paying for our NHS*

Enfield Green Party believes that a fully tax-funded NHS is the most efficient and fair way of paying for healthcare. We recognise that there has been a record increase in funding in the last decade but a lack of foresight has resulted in escalating costs without a commensurate improvement in health outcomes. Much of the money has been poorly targeted and wasted on expensive private finance (PFI)

schemes or on contracting out elective surgery and diagnostic services to private companies which undermines public provision and increases public debt.

- We oppose the creeping privatisation of the NHS and call for an end to the wasteful health care market.
- It is important that the true cost of the NHS in Enfield is clear for all to see and published in a format and level of detail that lay people can understand.
- We support the opportunity to raise additional revenue locally to address specific health concerns.
- We believe that prescription charges are wrong in principle and unfair particularly for those living with long-term conditions. They should be abolished as soon as practicable as they have been in other parts of the UK.

### ***Primary healthcare***

The history of healthcare in London is the history of growth in dominance of large hospitals which absorb a disproportionate share of the NHS budget. Yet many more people use primary health care services (GPs, community nursing etc) than attend hospital. The NHS should respond to the needs of the local community: people should only go to hospital if they really need to.

We value the GP/patient relationship but Enfield has one of the highest proportions of singled-handed GP practices in London which makes integrated primary care difficult. We support the development of neighbourhood health centres as the focal point of primary care, diagnostic services and minor operations providing that these are fully part of the NHS and not outsourced to private companies.

More people can be cared for at home if local health workers of all clinical disciplines work in the community as a team, are equipped to provide technical care at home, and co-ordinate their work with social service workers also co-located.

### ***Prevention, screening and health promotion***

It is estimated that 24% of deaths in Enfield (arising from cancer, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and chronic obstructive lung disorders) are preventable. Much needless suffering, premature loss of life, and considerable healthcare costs can be avoided through improved health research, screening programs, more timely diagnosis, earlier treatment, improved lifestyles (diet, exercise and smoking cessation), and healthier public policies and environments.

Prevention is the key to sustainable healthcare:

Conditions of poverty, social isolation, racism, stress, overwork and lack of control over one's working and living environments can reinforce the belief that change is not possible or likely. These conditions can contribute to the unhealthy use of alcohol, tobacco, junk food, and drugs as coping mechanisms amongst socially disadvantaged groups, further compounding their disproportionate exposure to hazardous working and living conditions.

Health promotion is the process of enabling people to take control of, and to improve, their health. It is not just about healthcare or health education but presents real opportunities to address these wider determinants of ill health by building partnerships between all the statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and self-help groups.

- Enfield Green Party will prioritise prevention and screening programmes based on evidence of efficacy and targeting those groups with known risk factors.
- We would support an extended health promotion role for community health professionals who are close to the people they serve.

- We would restore the status of health visitors working with young families and vulnerable older people.
- We would recruit and train more health trainers from amongst vulnerable groups to build trust and address their specific health concerns.

### ***Dental health***

Good oral health is essential to general health and dental services have a key role in the prevention of serious conditions such as oral cancer.

Despite a key principle of the NHS being a service free at the point of clinical need most adults still have to pay for their dental care under the NHS. Such charges are regressive hitting the poor hardest and discouraging many from seeking dental care. Many people fail to register with a dentist due to concerns about the cost and may only seek help in an emergency. Although Enfield has a dental access centre for those who are not registered, the same charges regime applies.

The government claims that access to NHS dentistry is improving as a result of the new dental contract but research by the Green Party indicates that less than half the adult population had visited a NHS dentist in 2008.

Enfield Green Party demands:

- Access to free basic dental care for all.

### ***Maternal and child health***

There is great uncertainty over the future of maternity services for women in Enfield. Despite the promises of improvement by the NHS report *Maternity Matters* we face a continuing trend towards increased centralisation of maternity care with the attendant emphasis on medical intervention (the rate of caesarean section is twice that suggested by the World Health Organisation).

Enfield Green Party supports safe and compassionate care in a primary care setting that starts with information for women on the options available, including home birth. The key to this is continuity of care by a single midwife during the ante-natal period, birth and for the first month of post-natal care.

Enfield Green Party supports:

- A local midwife-led, women-centred service with medical intervention only when necessary.
- Support in the post-natal period.

### ***Mental health***

People with mental health problems are some of the most vulnerable and victimised in society reflecting the stigma and secrecy that still surrounds mental illness. Research shows that the views of many people without a direct experience of mental illness are influenced by unbalanced and stereotypical reporting in the media. According to Mind 50% of a GP's time is likely to be taken up with non-physical conditions such as stress and depression.

Partly as a result of the stigma of mental illness, mental health services in the NHS have long been, and still are, a cinderella service. We welcome the closure of the old mental hospitals where people were locked away but the community services set up to replace them have never really been adequate.

In the rehabilitation phase there is a need for more small supportive hostels which should be properly supervised with 24 hour care to help the residents to integrate back into the community, often the most crucial area of treatment.

Regarding in-patient care we see no certain benefits to be gained from the big consortia of foundation hospitals, independent of local control which the Government is currently promoting.

- We would encourage more open discussion and debate about mental health among all ages and levels of society.
- We support an increase in the numbers of primary care mental health workers in GP practices and in workplaces.
- Complementary Health services can also play their part and money should be ring-fenced for all of these purposes.
- We support improved access to trained psychiatric social workers, mental health nurses and counsellors.
- We would also look at the role of the big pharmaceutical companies in promoting drug treatment over other methods, as well as the profits they make, with a view to bringing them under tighter control.

# EDUCATION - LIFELONG LEARNING

## *Education provision in Enfield*

Enfield currently has approximately 100 schools and just over 50,000 school pupils. With just a few exceptions the schools are in the state sector and most are primary schools. Reports suggest that by 2015 nearly 3,000 extra school places will be needed to cater for a growing population. Later this year there will be a total of four Academy schools, all in the east of the Borough. The existing Oasis Academy in Innova Park and the Oasis Academy Hadley in Bell Lane will be joined in September by The Gladys Aylward Academy in Windmill Road. The first London Development Agency backed 'Mayoral Education Academy' is to open in Edmonton at Turin Grove School also in September.

Enfield Green Party is concerned that the expected extra pupils are catered for properly. We do not agree that "Academies" are the way forward.

## *The Green Party approach to education and young people*

Children often start school as eager learners. By the end of their school lives, too many have no or few positive outcomes from school, and no desire to continue any formal education. Some have been excluded or have simply stopped attending.

In schools, we believe much smaller class sizes are the key to behaviour and learning. Classrooms should be places for the children to explore and discover new things, which is easier to achieve with smaller numbers of children in classrooms. Those who do well in school tests come into a society that has a very narrow view of education as a collection of marketable certificates. This reflects the view of other parties that education is important only as a means to enable Britain to compete in the global economy.

## *The Green Party wants a state funded education system which:*

- Provides essential numeracy and literacy skills.
- Promotes a sense of responsibility, confidence and respect in all young people.
- Caters for all specialisms and needs, inspiring a hunger for learning in all areas: academic and non-academic, therefore authorising young people to pursue what they are good at, rather than what is expected of them.
- Promotes a sense of community, so that children are proud to attend their local school.
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle through good diet and exercise.

The Green Party would remove the charitable status of grammar and public schools. We would offer state funding to them to ensure they are accessible to all children in the local area. Children, including those with disabilities and special educational needs, will be given the opportunity to attend their local school, which will provide appropriate support for pupils with special needs. In special cases and in accordance with the child's wishes, there may be a need for segregation, which will be provided as a unit within the school.

Education should include a celebration and recognition of religious diversity and spirituality. All schools, including faith schools, both state-controlled and privately-run will be required to embrace a multi-faith perspective throughout the delivery of the curriculum.

The Green Party opposes City Academies and Trust Schools as we believe that schools should be governed in the interests of children and their parents, not through private individuals or businesses.

The Green Party believes that Further Education colleges should be publicly owned by Local Authorities and funded at the same rate as secondary schools and be subject to the same requirements as schools regarding sustainability, environmental education and health. Further Education will be accessible to people of all ages and offer a wide range of practical, vocational and academic courses and qualifications.

For students in Higher Education the Green Party supports grants not loans, providing a basic income sufficient for needs while in full-time education. Students will not have to pay tuition fees.

## **TRANSPORT**

Enfield Green Party believes that more thought should be given to the way that travel and transport relate to other aspects of life in order to maximise quality of life and permit a return to childhood independence at an earlier age. We also wish to make streets less fearful places for older people and people with disabilities, strengthen local businesses, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and have positive health benefits.

### ***Cycling***

- Enfield Green Party would take a pragmatic approach to cycle lanes, installing them in some areas (for example, where the speed limit is 30mph and the sight lines are long) but not in others (for example, where the speed limit is 20mph and/or traffic calmed - cyclists would be expected to join the traffic and apply the same sense of responsibility as drivers).
- Promote the benefits of cycling to all age groups, for example, by the provision of subsidised or free bikes for children to create a 'habit for life'.
- Seek to provide short-term cycle 'parking' in parks, which are convenient to the shops in town centres.
- Install safe storage for bikes in town centres, at rail, tube and bus stations (where possible), schools, other strategic points and in streets.

### ***Buses***

- Work with Transport for London to maximise bus use and create convenient extra routes/bus lanes/bus only turns/bus only roads where appropriate.
- Promote and/or subsidise the use of buses by young people to create a 'habit for life'.

### ***Railways and London Underground***

- Provide secure cycle storage facilities near stations where possible.
- Press for adequate facilities (including staffing) at stations to ensure the safety, comfort and confidence of passengers.
- Introduce and/or support steps to make rail travel relatively cheaper in relation to private transport.
- Seek to improve integration/compatibility between bus and train services.

### ***North Circular Road and the Great Cambridge Road***

- We would press Transport for London to reduce the speed limit on the North Circular Road (NCR) to 40mph in the first instance and eventually, for both the NCR and the Great Cambridge Road, to 30mph in order to reduce road noise and carbon emissions and improve air quality.
- Evaluate the effect current road design and markings have on bus routes and, where improvements in bus flow can be made, press Transport for London to make changes.

### ***Lorries***

- We would press for a limit to vehicle size entering London unless the lorry operator held a permit (for a mobile crane or structural steel for example).
- Seek common cause with Transport for London to divert long distance lorries from the North Circular Road to the M25 orbital motorway.

### *Car clubs*

- Work with car clubs to promote the use of shared cars instead of privately owned cars.
- Designate car club parking spaces throughout the borough.

### *Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ)*

- Promote the advantages of CPZ schemes to the residents of appropriate streets.
- Re-evaluate each street as opportunity presents to see whether a well-designed CPZ scheme could be advantageous to residents by retaining visual amenity and calming traffic.
- Consider installing schemes free of charge or at a reduced rate where commuter parking (especially around train and tube stations, businesses and schools) impinges detrimentally on residents' lives.

### *Traffic, Parking and Community*

- Establish a default 20mph speed limit to ensure that a thought-through case has to be made for a 30mph stretch of road/zone.
- Tailor the means of calming traffic to 20mph according to circumstances - options include: taking no action because the circumstances of the street make driving above 20mph difficult; physical barriers such as pinch points, chicanes, short one-way stretches and tables; so-called psychological signals; cutting down the space to speed by extending parking; Shared Space schemes; and averaging speed cameras.
- Seek to persuade local businesses that their clamour for more parking space cannot be automatically granted and to support schemes which would make 'town centres' and local shopping areas more attractive as places to shop. Measures might include: pleasant walking and cycling routes to the area; wider pavements and pavement seating; street trees and other planting; pavement restaurants; and improved appearance of premises.
- Review parking arrangements borough-wide to identify schemes which could be arranged to have a positive influence on street/area amenity and the business done by smaller retail outlets.
- Introduce parking charges related to vehicle size in order to influence the number of cars which can be physically accommodated, improve air quality, make traffic feel less intimidating and reduce carbon emissions.
- Work with others to convince Government that competition between supermarkets/shopping centres and local shops should be equalised by requiring supermarkets/shopping centres to collect a parking charge on behalf of the Council.
- Apply to the Department for Transport for approval to introduce a workplace parking levy which would be earmarked for transport improvements, including obstacles to the smooth flow of buses.

### *Climate Change*

- We would prioritise access to services/retail outlets for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.
- Strengthen the priority given to buses to make them a more attractive proposition.
- Calm the traffic and improve the experience of being in the streets for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Limit or prohibit parking provision as part of new housing developments.

## PLACESHAPING AND PLANNING

Enfield Green Party will use its planning and development powers to enhance quality of life and play its part in ensuring a sustainable future. We will preserve our heritage, give high priority to visual amenity and the living environment, and pursue policies which take account of the practical needs of all the Borough's residents.

### *Localism*

- Enfield Green Party would work to a 'localism agenda' to ensure that workplaces, services and homes are located to limit transport needs, create strong communities and promote good health.
- Ensure that electricity is generated locally (using renewables and, when available, waste materials), and establish local grids to maximise efficiency and cut down on transmission losses.
- Work with others to convince Government that competition between supermarkets/shopping centres and local shops should be equalised by requiring supermarkets/shopping centres to collect a parking charge on behalf of the Council.
- Site and plan new buildings to incentivise and maximise the use of public rather than private transport by, for example, locating bus termini and retail areas together.
- Continue with the current practice of involving local communities, the health sector, education, the business sector; voluntary organisations and community groups in decision-making during the planning stages.
- Take the opportunity to 'green' streets and open spaces whilst providing opportunities for local food production.
- Have regard to species loss and bio-diversity in construction of buildings, selection of surfaces and plant choices.

### *Planning*

- Enfield Green Party would ensure that residential streets in new developments and major reconstruction projects prioritise cycling, walking and public transport.
- Aim to make rail travel a natural choice by integrating railway stations into community life where possible.
- Promote and, where possible, ensure high standards of energy conservation and the use of green roofs and walls.
- Be active in the preservation/improvement of visual amenity in streets and social areas and the maintenance and establishment of conservation areas.
- Raise the profile of bio-diversity in planning decisions.

## **STREETS, SOCIAL SPACE AND PARKS**

Enfield Green Party believes that pleasant, calm and visually attractive streets, parks and social space are a key ingredient in quality of life, strong communities and combating antisocial behaviour. Furthermore they can make a worthwhile contribution to sustainability in terms of carbon reduction, species loss and local food production.

### ***Streets***

- Enfield Green Party would ring-fence finance to create attractive streets and keep them well maintained, especially pavements and other places for walking.
- Require new buildings and additions to existing buildings to reflect the existing identity of the area.
- Maintain a high rate of street tree planting using species/cultivars which reinforce community identity.
- Plant British native species (to support wildlife) whenever possible in areas with no existing street trees or where an overall replanting scheme is planned.
- Provide high quality tree maintenance.
- Review parking arrangements street by street to see whether it's possible to reduce the tendency to pave front gardens and, at the same time, to calm traffic.
- Limit traffic speed to 20mph.
- Select traffic calming measures which add to visual amenity.
- Review the possibility of creating home zones or DIY Streets.
- Keep abreast of street lighting developments with the intention of reducing carbon emissions and the devastating effect of street lights on flying insect populations
- Install seating wherever possible.
- Provide secure cycle parking/storage wherever possible.
- Encourage the use of streets for community activity such as street parties and entertainment.
- Keep streets tidy, whilst encouraging local pride and taking a firm stance against litter.

### ***Roads***

- Enfield Green Party would consider 30mph speed limits on a case by case basis.
- Place a high priority on creating Shared Space areas in shopping and other social areas.
- Give priority to public transport in order to reduce car use, reduce carbon emission and improve air quality,
- Create cycle lanes where appropriate.
- Give priority to calming traffic where a road gives access to a park.

### ***Metered Car Parking***

- Enfield Green Party would work with others to convince Government that competition between supermarkets/shopping centres and local shops should be equalised by requiring supermarkets/shopping centres to collect a parking charge on behalf of the Council.

### ***Social Space***

- Enfield Green Party would seek to establish more social spaces in the interest of community cohesion and to attract custom to local shops and other businesses.
- Make a default assumption that Shared Space traffic schemes would apply to social space.
- Where possible create or reinforce social space in a way which ties in use of public transport.

- Provide secure cycle parking/storage wherever possible.

### ***Parks***

- Enfield Green Party would plant orchards and introduce wild places stocked with British native plants as a means of maximising urban biodiversity, redressing the loss of key insect species (honey bees among them) and creating opportunities to bring the importance of the natural world (and the commercial importance of insects) to the attention of children.
- Encourage and promote the use of parks for the performing arts.
- Maintain or extend existing sports facilities and foster participation.

### ***Trees***

- Enfield Green Party would develop comprehensive street and parks tree-planting schedules.
- Encourage and support tree planting in gardens.
- Provide good street management to ensure leaves are not a nuisance or a danger to older residents.
- Use British native species whenever possible/appropriate.

### ***Insects***

- Enfield Green Party would plant or encourage wildlife-friendly places, including park orchards under planted with wildflowers.
- Encourage schools to be involved in planting projects and wildlife awareness.

### ***Business community***

- Enfield Green Party would work to enhance the experience of visiting 'town centres' and local shopping areas, earmarking/securing funds for the purpose.
- Improve the appearance of 'town centres' and local shopping areas as part of improving the experience of visiting them.
- Ensure that there are pleasant and safe walking and cycling routes to the shops and services.
- Provide secure cycle storage.
- Improve bus services where it would help.
- Seek to improve 'town centre' and local shopping area security in the evenings during the period whilst other measures to encourage greater community use are having their effect.
- Use the Council's expertise to facilitate localism.

### ***Local food***

- Enfield Green Party would work to identify opportunities to cultivate food.
- Co-operate with and encourage local communities on particular projects.

## **ANIMAL RIGHTS**

We share our planet with other species. Whilst nature depends on most species getting necessary nutrition from the consumption of others, Enfield Green Party seeks to treat other animals with due respect. That includes treating food and dairy animals humanely up to and including the moment of slaughter, a cessation to testing of medicines, beauty and other products on animals, and restrictions on the use of animals in sport or entertainment

According to the United Nations, breeding and killing animals for food is responsible for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions. That's more than is produced by the entire transport sector worldwide. Therefore we would promote the reduced use of meat in our diets.

### ***Protecting animals***

- We would require Enfield Council to provide a local Animal Rights Officer with adequate staff to oversee animal warden schemes, etc. Animal acts in circuses are usually based on mistreatment during training and are degrading, so we will oppose requests from circuses to perform on land owned by Enfield Council.
- We will promote the use of free range poultry and meat products in council-owned facilities, including schools
- We are not aware of any facility in Enfield currently using animals to test medical or other products, but we would oppose any application for such a facility to be set up. Animal testing is cruel and degrading, and does not provide reliable data about the effects of medicines on humans.
- We are opposed to hunting with dogs and all other blood sports.

### ***Reducing meat consumption***

- Enfield Green Party would encourage a reduction in consumption of animal produce and promote the development and use of foods which are more healthy and humane.
- We also support the Meat-Free Monday initiative and will ask restaurants, schools and Enfield Council to support it.

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

Much of our waste is still not recycled and goes to landfill or incineration running the risk of polluting the earth and the air that we breathe. Space for landfill is running out and incineration always runs the risk of producing large amounts of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and dangerous pollutants which enter into the atmosphere. We therefore need to aim for zero waste.

### *Less waste - a zero waste strategy*

- Enfield Green Party wants local authorities to set and meet targets towards zero waste.
- All packaging including plastics should be easily recycled.
- A major campaign should be mounted to eliminate food waste.

### *Homes, businesses and jobs*

- All homes should have comprehensive weekly recycling and compost collections.
- Enfield Green Party aims to eliminate the use of free, throwaway carrier bags.
- Builders and developers should be required to separate their waste and not dump it in one “all-purpose” skip.
- Fly-tipping should be severely punished.

### *No new incinerators*

- There should be no new waste incinerators and we should phase out existing incinerators at the earliest possible date. We do not want the air we breathe contaminated with particles and substances injurious to health.

### *Investment in new technology*

- We should invest in new sustainable waste technology to assist with the separation of waste and treatment of organic matter by composting or use of anaerobic digestion. This will produce a biogas which can be used to produce electricity or be used as a fuel. A soil conditioner to fertilise land will also be produced.

### *No PFI*

- Private Finance Initiatives should not be used to fund any new recycling or waste treatment projects.
- PFI is a way of ‘cooking the books’ and inevitably leaves a huge financial burden for tax payers.

## CRIME AND DRUGS

Citizens have a right to feel safe in their homes and communities. The Green Party works to encourage the establishment of more geographically based local communities where people feel a sense of belonging as well as a responsibility to look out for each other. People should feel confident that they can work with their Safer Neighbourhood Teams to address crime in their area as well as its causes. Greens believe that a cohesive community is the bedrock of a safer, stronger, society where everyone can participate fully.

### *Safer communities*

- Enfield Green Party wants to see effective community policing with Safer Neighbourhood Teams on duty around the clock, not just certain points in the day.
- We would push to open more police stations, put more police on the beat, and support Safer Neighbourhood panels and independent Community groups.
- Enfield Green Party would push for universal access to high quality youth centres to provide an outlet for young people outside school hours.
- We want to reduce the threat of crime by keeping public spaces well maintained and increasing resources for caretakers, attendants and staff on estates, railway stations, parks and other public areas.
- We want officers to spend far more time working in local communities rather than being constantly taken away by other duties. The police should know their communities and should concentrate more on preventing crime before it happens.

### *Drugs and alcohol*

- Drug related crime adversely impacts both the perpetrators trying to fund their drug habit as well as their victims. Reports suggest 80% of acquisitive crime - burglary and street robbery - is drug related.
- Integral to tackling crime is the need for the Criminal Justice System to work side by side with drug rehabilitation services. This addresses both the need to punish criminals whilst supporting them kick the habit. Tackling drug-related crime by increasing provision of treatment for addiction will help break the link between drug use and criminal activity.
- Greens recommend that alcohol is used in moderation. Excessive consumption can lead to health problems and anti-social behaviour.