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24

MANIFESTO



Stockport  
Green Party





# A FAIRER, GREENER STOCKPORT





# WELCOME TO OUR 2024 MANIFESTO

**Introduction from Councillor Gary Lawson, the Green Party Group Leader on Stockport Borough Council.**

I hope you enjoy reading our new local manifesto and find what you are looking for. It includes some of the things that we have achieved, as well as our policies.

We care for people as much as for the environment. For us, they are two sides of the same coin. Reliable and affordable public transport combats climate change and helps people, especially the less well off. Protecting our green spaces improves our mental and physical health, as well as increasing biodiversity.

There are already three Green councillors on Stockport Council and with your vote we can get more.

Best Wishes,  
Gary

# OUR VALUES

Stockport Green Party wants to improve the lives of all Stockport residents and visitors. We want to make Stockport cleaner, greener, fairer and more bio-diverse. We want our borough to be an exciting, inclusive, accessible and welcoming place.

We face many challenges. From the cost of living crisis and the chronic underfunding in our public services to the effects of climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity.

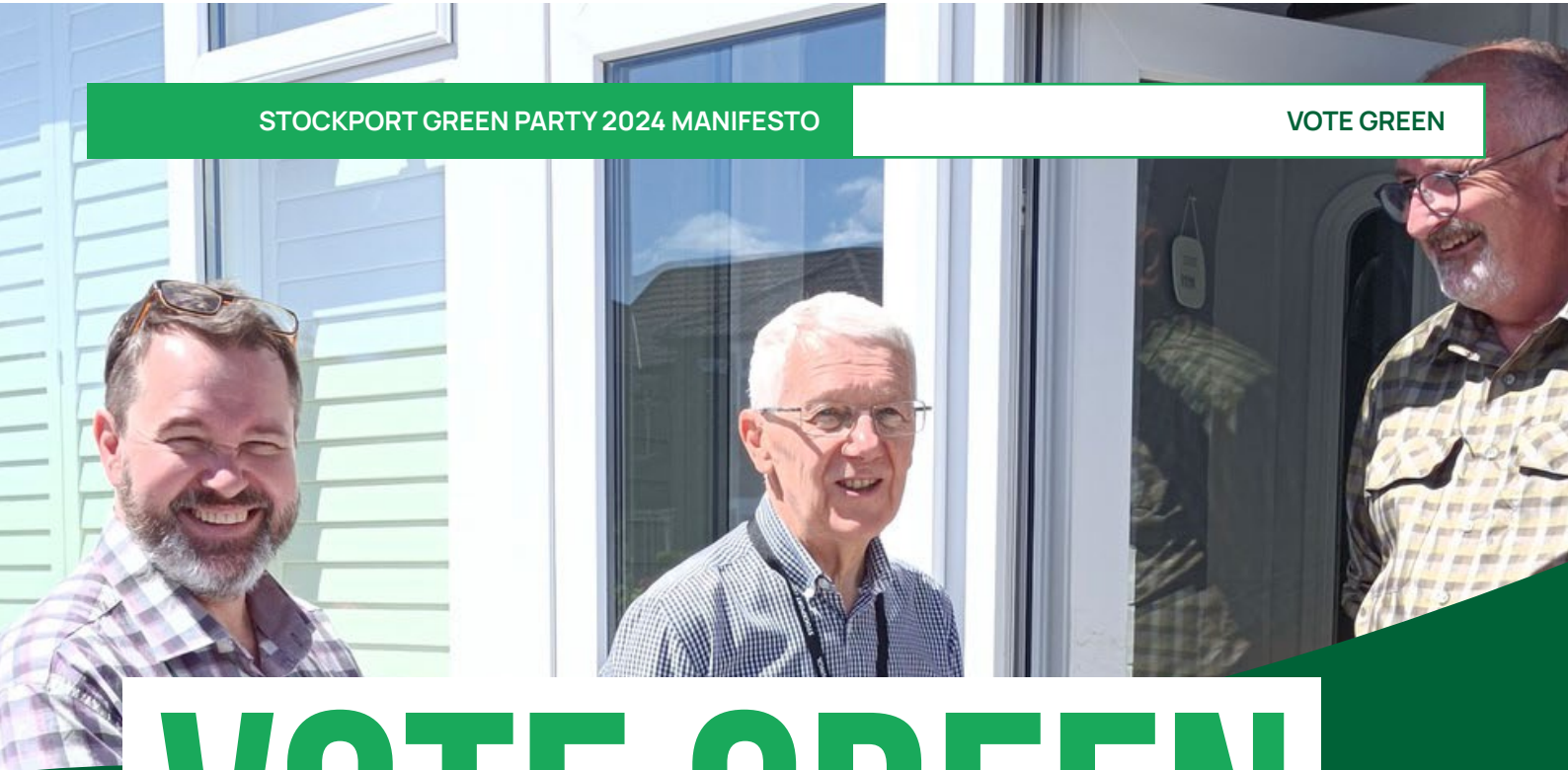
The Green Party does things differently. We are a truly democratic party, led by our members and with no donors or external bodies controlling our policy. Our councillors are always working hard to make life better for us all.

When we say we want a fairer and greener Stockport, we mean it!

# OUR VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## WE WANT:

- Good quality, affordable homes for all, to buy or rent
- Less traffic and better public transport
- Well-run, accountable local services
- A thriving, fair and sustainable local economy
- Care and respect for people, animals and the environment
- Zero carbon emissions by 2030



# VOTE GREEN

To expand our group of Green councillors striving to achieve our vision, we hope you will vote Green in local elections. We currently have three councillors working hard in Reddish South on residents' behalf and who keep in touch via regular door-knocking and newsletters.

All our policies are interlinked. Mental and physical health services, air quality, housing, bio-diversity, transport and the local economy are all interdependent. We need to make all these interdependencies work for the benefit of all Stockport residents and visitors, and the environment. This joined-up approach to policy to support environmental and social justice is what sets us apart from other political parties.

This manifesto highlights many of the policies which a Green administration would promote.



Look out for the green ticks below which show some of the great things our councillors have already achieved in Reddish South ward\*.

\*Reddish South ward comprises South Reddish, parts of Heaton Chapel and Heaton Norris and Lancashire Hill.





# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## CHAMPION EXCELLENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR ALL

**Health and Care Services:** Press for Stockport's health and social care services to be fully funded, with the capacity to cope with any future outbreak of infectious disease.

**Public Health:** Encourage and support residents to make healthy lifestyle choices. Support leisure centres, swimming pools and playing fields.

**Mental Health Services:** Press for improved mental health services, focusing on improving funding in this poorly resourced area. Support voluntary groups involved in improving mental health.



We actively support local groups such as Banter and Brews and Reddish Men in Sheds which promote good mental health.

**Care at Home:** Promote improved support and care for people in their own homes. This will improve the quality of life of many, reduce 'bed blocking' and free up essential services within hospitals.

**Health and Care Workers:** Recognise the vital contribution made by health and social care workers and support rates of pay in line with that contribution.



We challenged the council on claiming back adult social care payments and the policy was changed.

# EDUCATION

## SUPPORT ALL OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

**Fair Funding:** Oppose the savage cuts that have affected all our nurseries, schools and colleges.

We need more investment in all our places of learning and we recognise the vital contribution made by teaching and support staff. This recognition should be reflected in their pay, and in their terms and conditions of service.



We campaigned successfully to keep open St Mary's RC Primary School in Heaton Norris.

**Inclusion:** Encourage the provision of a fully inclusive education for all our children by investing in high quality support services.

**Youth Services:** Restore the priority given to youth services and community spaces where young people can develop and learn vital social skills outside the school environment.



**CAMPAINING TO SAVE  
ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# HOUSING

## PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ALL

**Homelessness:** Work towards ending rough sleeping and all homelessness by ensuring secure tenancies, utilising empty properties for homeless households and providing effective counselling, mental health and other support services.

**Energy Saving:** Provide funds to improve insulation of domestic and council properties. Encourage and support the installation of domestic solar panels.

**Sustainability:** Prioritise carbon-neutral house building. Use affordable and proven techniques to provide good-quality, energy-efficient social housing.

**Social Housing:** Promote investment in building affordable social housing. Enforce affordable housing quotas on all new developments. Strive to improve conditions for all residents in social housing.



We successfully persuaded Stockport council to set up a task force to improve conditions at Lancashire Hill flats.

**Integrated Development:** Protect the Green Belt. New housing should be built close to transport and shopping hubs and on brownfield sites. This will reduce the need for private cars and so reduce air pollution and re-invigorate our town and local centres.



**STREET SURGERY,  
LANCASHIRE HILL**



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## PROMOTE A MORE EQUAL STOCKPORT

**Equality:** Tackle inequality by campaigning for Stockport to become a pilot area for Universal Basic Income.

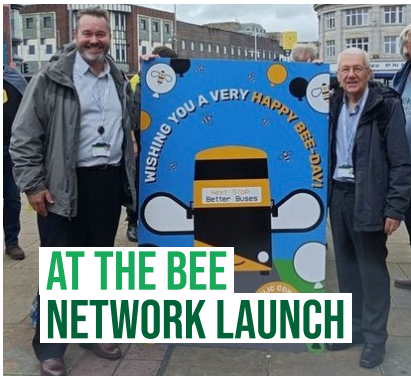
**Living Wage:** Promote the Living Wage for all Stockport Council employees and contract staff. Work to encourage local businesses to do the same.

**Universal Credit:** Ensure resources are available to support those adversely affected by the implementation of Universal Credit. Many people are suffering harsh sanctions and delayed payments.



We hold regular food bank collections in Reddish South.





# TRANSPORT

## ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRAVEL AND PROVIDE RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**Active Travel:** Create a safe environment for walkers and cyclists through the provision of pedestrian only areas, pedestrian routes, cycle lanes and secure cycle storage.

**Road Safety:** Extend the 20mph speed limit to all residential areas to improve road safety and air quality for all.



We successfully pressed the council to improve road signage and add double yellow lines in some locations in Reddish South.

**Public Transport:** Press for a properly integrated and sustainable service, covering buses, trains, and trams with increased capacity, frequency and accessibility (including ticketing). Stockport buses are due to be added to the Greater Manchester Bee Network in January 2025, which will help towards achieving this.

Support park and ride schemes where appropriate.

Examine the case for reintroducing the free town centre bus service.

**Metrolink:** Support the extension of Metrolink trams to Stockport and Marple.

**Railways:** Support bringing back a regular, frequent train service to Manchester from Reddish South station.

**Roads:** If the A6 bypass plan through the Goyt Valley is ever resurrected we will oppose it.



# COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

## CREATE A CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE STOCKPORT

**Green Spaces:** Protect the Green Belt and other cherished open spaces within Stockport. These spaces are vital wildlife habitats as well as places where people can relax and exercise. Work with local groups to bring more biodiversity to our green spaces.

We highly value Reddish Vale Country Park which brings huge benefits to the people of Stockport as well as increasing biodiversity and encouraging wildlife. We are fully committed to protecting it.

Promote 'no mow' periods and ban the use of Glyphosate.

(Glyphosate is a herbicide used by the Council, which is labelled as 'probably carcinogenic' by the World Health Organisation)

- ✔ We supported residents to get a path resurfaced on Broadstone Hall Fields.
- ✔ We are urging the council to take action to improve biodiversity in the borough through our involvement in the Local Nature Recovery Group, set up as a result of a motion to council in 2023 which the Green group initiated.
- ✔ We work regularly with Greenspace Volunteers, for example repairing steps from Woodstock Green into Reddish Vale Country Park.

**Trees:** Push for the establishment of a clear tree policy which protects mature, healthy trees. Residents should be informed and notices posted on the council website well in advance if trees are to be felled with the reasons why this is deemed necessary.

- ✔ We have supported residents of Broadstone Hall Road to keep trees from being felled.

**Allotments:** Support allotments and community gardens, protecting their land from being sold off and working closely with Allotments Stockport and other local support groups.

**Community Policing:** Support community policing of anti-social behaviour such as littering, graffiti and speeding.



We hold regular litter-picking sessions in Reddish South.



Our Reddish South councillors are in regular contact with their neighbourhood police officer.

**Air Quality:** Ensure that the work to improve air quality in Stockport continues. Further develop plans for reducing emissions around local schools. Encourage more monitoring of air quality especially around busy road junctions.

**Water Quality:** Hold the polluters of our rivers to account as clean rivers are vital for health and biodiversity.

**Fly Tipping:** Press the council to combat fly-tipping, if necessary by prosecution.





# THE LOCAL ECONOMY

## ENABLE STOCKPORT TO THRIVE

**Re-localising:** Prioritise sustainable local businesses serving local people, rather than giving financial incentives to big companies to relocate here. Promote and expand local producers' street markets, co-operatives, skills workshops, and encourage investment in our local centres.

**Town Centre:** Push for the improvement of the character of the town centre through the planting of more trees, gardens and green roofs.

**Market Place and Underbanks:** Protect, promote and develop Stockport's magnificent historic Market Place and Underbanks through the encouragement and promotion of local shopping.

**Central Library:** Support the retention of a library service in the historic Central Library building.





# CLIMATE EMERGENCY

## DOING ALL WE CAN TO REDUCE STOCKPORT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

**A Carbon-Neutral Stockport:** Campaign to achieve carbon-neutrality in Stockport earlier than the council's current target of 2038. We are pressing the Council to take carbon-neutrality a lot more seriously and to produce plans showing how they aim to achieve carbon neutrality.

- ✓ We are involved in the Climate Action Now working party and instigated Carbon Literacy training for all Councillors.
- ✓ We have supported fossil fuel divestment by Greater Manchester Pension Fund when this has been raised in Council meetings.

**Resilience:** Plan more frequent and effective drain cleaning and maintenance to reduce the risk of flooding. Hold water companies to account for their responsibility to maintain their drain and sewage infrastructure. Ensure developers provide adequate drainage and flooding mitigation for all new building proposals.

- ✓ Green Councillor James Frizzell campaigned for better grid cleaning which led to the clearance of some badly blocked grids including at the bottom of Margate Road.
- ✓ We continue to help residents report blocked grids and flooding.

**Renewable Energy:** Encourage the development of more community energy schemes such as Stockport Hydro in order to help cut our carbon emissions.



# GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE



**Stockport  
Green Party**



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