

Greenleaf

News for St Peters ward from St Albans Green Party

Council votes to build on Green Belt



St Albans Council has voted to allow 4,000 houses to be built on Green Belt land, against the wishes of the vast majority of residents.

Your councillor Simon Grover was the only party leader on the Council to speak and vote against this move.

Councillors approved the draft Strategic Local Plan, which includes releasing four areas of greenbelt land for housing.

Simon's speech was applauded by the public at the meeting as he said the district's Green Belt was our most precious resource and there are no guarantees that these houses will be truly affordable or available for those who really need them.

Simon Grover speaking at debate on the Local Plan

See video of Simon's speech: bit.ly/staplan

St Albans to welcome refugees

St Albans is on track to welcome approximately ten Syrian refugees (two to three families) in the coming months, under the Government's relocation scheme.

St Peters ward councillor Simon Grover began the Council's involvement in the scheme by bringing a proposal to Full Council.

St Albans is working with other local councils in Hertfordshire to welcome approximately 100 refugees to the county during 2016.



St Albans Greens (and helpers!) collect signatures for refugees petition

Christmas train misery

Greens have criticised the string of train cancellations by Govia over Christmas. Up to 30 trains a day were cancelled, despite a senior train manager's confident prediction of "minimal" cancellations.

Green Councillor Simon Grover commented "It's beyond belief that Govia are managing to be worse than the previous franchise, while their parent company is making 30% profits. The government should kick Govia out and run our trains as a proper public service."

See video of Govia manager's dodgy prediction at bit.ly/cancelgovia



Green members protesting at St Albans station at the annual fare rise. Most people support the Green Party's policy of bringing the railways back into public ownership.

Green leader's talk for Sustainable St Albans Week

Running for the last week of November, Sustainable St Albans Week brought together over 100 groups for over 100 events. Have a look at the photo gallery of the week: bit.ly/sustalbans

One of the biggest events of Sustainable St Albans Week was the talk by Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett. Over 140 people squeezed in to Trinity Church hall to hear Natalie and ask questions. *See the video at bit.ly/natalbans*



Right: Natalie Bennett. Below: Green members joined the public march through central St Albans on the eve of the climate talks in Paris.



1 in 4 St Albans workers on less than Living Wage

St Albans district has more employees earning below the Living Wage than almost anywhere else in Hertfordshire.

According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, 24% of St Albans employees earn less than the Living Wage. Only North Herts district is worse, with 25%.

The Living Wage is £7.85 an hour outside London.

St Albans Green Councillor Simon Grover said, "The Living Wage should be a minimum, not a target. It's really concerning that so many people in St Albans district are on less, particularly as the cost of housing and public transport is so high here.

"The Council needs to commit to the Living Wage for itself and its contractors, and do all it can to encourage employers in the district to do the same."

Green councillor Simon visits Number 10

Green Councillor Simon Grover was part of a recent delegation to Downing Street. The group, on behalf of all 150 Green councillors, called on the Government to stop cutting local authority budgets.

Cllr Grover is pictured below (left) with Caroline Lucas MP and other Greens.



St Albans to start fining litterbugs?

St Albans Council is considering introducing fixed penalty notices for people who drop litter.

Several other councils have similar schemes, which are designed to pay for themselves and be cost neutral.

What do you think about this idea? Let us know. Email sgrover@sagreens.org.uk or call 07951 290732.



Action plan for Victoria Playing Fields

Victoria Playing Fields now has a draft action plan, which sets out how the Council plans to maintain the green space over the coming years.

The local Green Party contributed to the developing plan, and the first full draft is now available at bit.ly/vicfields. If you have any comments on the action plan, please send them to us at sgrover@sagreens.org.uk



'Larks in the Park' in Victoria Playing Fields

Decision on how St Claire's will be run

The former St Claire's nursing home in Church Crescent has won planning permission to convert into flats to provide temporary homes for homeless people in the district.

The owners, Hightown Housing Association, have met with Council officers to plan the details of how they will run the facility. Officers will then meet with local councillors, including Simon Grover, to discuss the plans and what oversight powers the Council will have.



Come and say hello to the Greens at one of our stalls at St Albans market. Or come along to one of our monthly meetings where we have guest speakers on interesting topics.

Contact Simon for details (see below)



How to contact Simon Grover, your Green councillor

Do you have a question about local services?
Is there a problem in your street?
Contact Simon for a quick response!

sgrover@sagreens.org.uk
07951 290732

We might store your details but we'll never give them to anyone else.

Councillors switch to Green/Independents

Two St Albans councillors have resigned from the Conservative party and become Independents.

Former Mayor Maxine Crawley and former Deputy Mayor Julie Bell have now joined the group of Independent and Green councillors, which is led by Green Councillor Simon Grover.

This move strengthens Councillor Grover's group, as it will now have more committee places and more influence on Council decisions.

Greens challenge Council's greenwash

St Albans Council has claimed it is 'battling climate change', but the headline figures conceal the true story.

The Council points to a fall in CO2 emissions across the district and for Council activities and buildings, over the last eight years. But the district figures are largely a result of national factors like higher energy prices and lower coal production, rather than anything the Council is doing.

Likewise, the Council's own 'success' is entirely due to selling off its properties. Greens are working to get a proper plan in place to positively reduce emissions in the district.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Take our 60 second survey

Tell us what YOU think about your local area, how it could be improved, and what's important to you. It takes just a minute to fill in our survey online – why not do it right now?

Go to bit.ly/surveygreen