



Green Councillor
Gregory Smith

THE VILLAGE GREEN

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Green campaigner
Paul Norman

Councillor Gregory Smith selected as Green Party candidate for Mid Buckinghamshire constituency



Gregory is always working hard for residents in this area

Local councillor Gregory Smith has been selected as the Green Party candidate for the Mid Buckinghamshire constituency in the General Election.

Gregory says:

'I have been active in the community across this area for over 25 years, and am proud to have brought up my family here. I work hard for our area in many ways: I am a councillor on Buckinghamshire Council and on Haddenham Parish Council, I am chair of our local environmental group and community owned shop, and I have initiated, supported and developed a range of local projects. My own career has been in the criminal justice system and with charitable organisations. I am standing for Parliament because I want to help create a just and fair society for everyone.

Tackling climate change is at the top of my agenda. I want to challenge the big political parties that support industries that are harmful to the climate. We must tackle pollution and encourage better business practices.

We need **strategic investments to create good jobs** and ensure a **fair level of income for all**.

Increased funding for the NHS and social care and **access to local schools** for local families is vital. I am committed to reversing the decline of public services imposed by years of political mismanagement.'

Come and meet Green Party Peer, Natalie Bennett



Come and hear Natalie - she will be delivering a talk in Stone about the power and impact of local action. We all want to do everything we can to help our children and grandchildren enjoy reasonable lives without fear of environmental or climate breakdown. Come and hear about the many things we can do now that will make a difference.

Where:

Stone Village Hall

When:

Sunday 24 March 5pm

Refreshments provided

All welcome

A GREEN FUTURE IS A FAIR FUTURE

Haddenham-Thame Greenway: no progress after 20 years of campaigning



Gregory says "I can't believe it was over 20 years ago that I attended a huge cycle demonstration for a cycleway to Thame. Council leaders have been quizzed yet again on progress towards the vital Haddenham -Thame cycle route.

Council leaders have accepted the importance of this walking/cycling route but the response from the cabinet member was lacking vision and immediacy. We need to see a real commitment from the council and not hear meaningless words. Well done Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling group for keeping up the pressure on the council."

Haddenham library threatened!



Haddenham Library is facing a 50% cut to funding. A community library, staffed mainly by volunteers, cannot cope with this financial shortfall. Cllr Gregory Smith met with the Library's Chair of Trustees to discuss the implications.

It is hoped that the Parish Council can step in to help. Bucks Council is cutting services, wherever it can, to manage yet another austerity budget imposed by central government. Gregory said "too much of our taxes are kept by the government at the expense of local services, including libraries. We need a change of government, with more green clout, and a renewed focus on our local services".

Solar PV on Council Buildings?



A council building is to be converted as accommodation for care leavers. Hurrah, a great initiative. Green Councillor Gregory Smith intervened, not to oppose, but to challenge why this expensive renovation didn't include full solar PV. As a result the head of council property will be required to explain. Gregory has repeatedly challenged the Council's failure to install renewable energy in its own developments. "we need solar PV on all public buildings if we can justify solar farms on good quality agricultural land." Said Gregory "the council must adopt a policy requiring consideration of renewable energy whenever we renovate or develop our own property".

Serious flooding in Ickford this January



Flooding at Worminghall Rd, Ickford

Having experienced nearly three years of very low rainfall Ickford residents could be excused if they forgot that this village is surrounded by the flood plain of the River Thame and so it floods during periods of sustained heavy rainfall.

The village is supporting a growth in homes of over one third and that could be fine as long as care is taken when ridge and furrow fields are replaced by housing. Care about these aspects is key and we rely upon our councillors and Thames Water to ensure that local concerns and knowledge are taken into account in relation to planning issues. (Copy from Nigel Hillier, Leader of the Ickford Residents Group)

Can you help deliver the Village Green newsletter in Stone several times a year? We would be grateful for your help. Contact info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk

You can contact Green Councillor, Gregory Smith, at Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or meet Gregory at Haddenham Library on the second Saturday each month 10-12 am.