



Green Councillor  
Greg Smith

# THE VILLAGE GREEN

NO. 29, AUTUMN 2024



Green campaigner  
Paul Norman

## Thanks from Councillor Greg Smith

Cllr Greg Smith would like to thank everyone who voted for him in the general election. He may not have won but he kept his deposit by getting over 5% of the vote and this means that the Green Party will have more money to spend on campaigning next year. More green votes means more green policies.

## Better housing policies in Buckinghamshire please



Cllr Greg Smith wants Bucks Council to take advantage of government policy changes and start building council homes again, enabling local people to stay in their communities in housing that will always remain available for local people at genuinely affordable rents. Bucks Council transferred all its housing stock to Housing Associations some years ago. The council is currently consulting on changes to their housing allocation policy, which, Greg says does almost nothing to deal with people who are homeless, they simply shuffle the way that homeless people are counted.

## Is it time for 20 mph?

Now that we have a new government with a different view of 20 mph speed limits Greg will be pressing the council to reconsider their opposition to such speeds in our villages. He says that this could make a great difference to how our villages feel.

20's Plenty



Where People Live

## Motion Recycling



A motion at Buckinghamshire council calling for all recycling that they collect to be managed in the UK was wrecked by the Conservative majority. This isn't a difficult issue, there are plenty of UK businesses keen for the work. So why do we send recycling as far as Malaysia or Thailand where it may end up in landfill or the ocean? Green Councillor Greg Smith had to agree to withdraw the motion as all reference to recycling had been 'pulped' by the Conservatives leaving a complacent statement that all is well! Greg says that we as a county could and should do much better.



Cllr Greg Smith says "Well done HADSWAC for organising a huge cycle ride in Haddenham in support of the Haddenham-Thame Greenway. I was pleased to marshal this event and hope that this demonstration of support will bring the cycle route one step closer".

## On the buses



Cllr Greg Smith is saying it is time we moved towards better planning & control of public transport, creating a truly integrated service that encourages people to leave their cars at

home whenever possible. When Arriva decided, at very short notice, to abandon their bus operations in Bucks this left services in turmoil. Whilst Bucks staff did a great job to find alternative providers, the uncertainty and unreliability over bus services has a lasting effect, just when we need to get more people onto buses.

## Congratulations Bucksom

Congratulations to Bucksom. They sell wonderful, locally grown, fresh food from their farm shop but have now also won the 2024 Soil Farmer of the Year Award.



David & Tracy from Bucksom, Shabbington Fields Farm, are working with other local farms and landowners on a "Growing more Growers" project and are looking for people keen to get involved in food production. The project will provide access to hands on training and opportunities to develop regenerative farming techniques for land owners.

## Open letter - glyphosate



The leader of Bucks Council recently posted an update to residents declaring that the weed-killer, glyphosate, is safe. Green Councillor, Greg Smith, has challenged this assertion as irresponsible and untrue. The evidence suggests that it is dangerous to humans and devastating to wildlife. The leader should have explained that trained council staff and contractors will only use this toxin with caution and that residents should avoid using it at all in domestic gardens. Greg has written to the leader and we await a correction.

## Festival recycling



Summerfest in Haddenham has decided to be the best for recycling. Traditionally, festivals collect recycling separately but almost always the bins are so mixed everything goes into landfill or the incinerator. Summerfest decided to do better. Cllr Greg Smith organised a team of 'Binfluencers' and arranged for the recycling to be managed and controlled, and what a difference that made. He says "well done to the Festival committee and all who enthusiastically got involved".

**Can you help deliver the Village Green newsletter in our villages several times a year? We would be grateful for your help.** Contact [info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk)

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