



THE ISLE OF WIGHT GREEN GUARANTEE

The 2017 General Election manifesto of the Green Party of England & Wales takes the form of an expanded list of the key priorities for elected Green MPs. Big, bold ideas to create a Britain that we can all be proud of. I have carefully gone through this document, and other IW Green policies, and this has led to our IW Green Guarantee – an island-based Green manifesto of pledges that I will put into action as your MP for the Island for the next 5 years.

It's time for a fresh start. It's time to vote Green!

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1. A GREEN ECONOMY FOR EVERYONE

The roots of our new Green economy will be in innovation, participation and collaboration to create a forward facing economy that benefits all communities and that protects the environment.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Beacon status for the Island as a centre of renewable energy engineering – stronger links with FE courses and a new knowledge hub.
- Good, local, secure jobs to build a life on.
- Raise the minimum wage to £10ph by 2020.
- Reform the taxation system so everyone pays their fair share.
- Support small business, co-operatives and mutuals – keep money earned, spent and invested on the Island.

2. PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

On the Isle of Wight we are spoilt with hills and Downs, beaches and stunning coastline, but we cannot take its protection for granted. As we leave the EU, stronger legislation is vital to tackle the big challenges of air pollution, waste and climate change.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Challenge fracking and oil drilling on the Island, working with all stakeholders, and protecting our drinking water.
- Fight to keep the 2004 ban on Hunting with Dogs.
- Environmental Protection Act to restore our environment, promote locally produced food and ensure animal protection.
- Promote a wider network of Marine Conservation Zones.
- Work towards a target of zero waste (reduce, reuse, recycle all Island waste).

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EU

A “hard” Brexit (or an exit from the EU without a deal) is not in the best interests of the British people. It is important to remain flexible in negotiations and work to safeguard jobs, uphold basic rights, and put environmental protection at the heart of any future trade deals.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Immediately guarantee the rights of EU citizens to remain in the UK and urgently seek reciprocal arrangements for UK citizens in the EU.
- Safeguard vital rights for people, agriculture and the environment, and protect freedom of movement.
- Hold a ratification referendum on the detail of whatever deal is negotiated for Britain’s departure from the EU.

4. OUR NHS AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Our hospital, transport and schools must be run by the people and for the people. A Green Party MP will always stand up for a publicly run NHS.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- An NHS Reinstatement Act to roll back privatisation.
- Fight to keep services at St Mary’s hospital, with immediate cash injection.
- Bring mental health care in line with physical health care.
- Increase funding for our local IW council, to provide good quality community services.
- Major investment in social care for the elderly – no requirement to sell your family home to pay for carers.

5. EDUCATION FOR ALL

As a parent and secondary school teacher (in Newport), I see first-hand the damage that cuts to funding, and dividing the schools into academies, free schools and community schools are doing. Our young people deserve the highest standards and the best opportunities we can give them.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Bring Academies and Free Schools into the local authority system, and work to maintain the high school in Sandown (which is accessible to all).
- Abolish high pressured tests at primary level (SATS), and trust our teachers to teach. Increase funding of schools to match needs.
- Scrap university tuition fees – education is a society good and benefits us all.
- Work to overturn the fines for holidays in term time, and look for flexible solutions to improving school attendance.
- Promote closer links between the Island and HE institutions, with the aim for more degree courses being taken in Island based hubs.

6. OUR PROMISES TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The future for young people on the Island needs to be safer, happier, more equal and more secure. For too long our governments have ignored the specific needs of those aged under 30 years of age, and this has left a generation in debt and struggling to have a secure future.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Reinstate housing benefit for under-21s and raise the minimum wage to the same level as all other workers.
- Enable all 16-25yr olds to take up apprenticeships and restore the Educational Maintenance Allowance.
- Fight for an effective and safe mental health service for the Island's young people.
- Introduce non-biased political education in our schools, and lower the voting age to 16.

7. SAFE, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

The housing crisis on the Island is focused upon pressures in the rental sector, and a loss of houses which have been snapped up as second holiday homes. Everyone should have a safe, affordable, secure and warm place to call home.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- A living rent for all – more secure tenancies, end to letting fees, and mandatory landlord licences.
- Develop a Renters' Union on the Island to give all tenants a voice.
- A building programme of affordable, zero carbon housing in small and manageable developments spread across the Island.
- Reverse housing benefit cuts and abolish the bedroom tax.
- Help first-time buyers by backing community-led co-operative approaches to building affordable homes.

8. A SAFER WORLD

On the global stage, Britain needs to use its influence wisely and build peace and environmental protection. We must build a safer, more confident Britain.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- An ethical foreign policy – no more arms sales to oppressive regimes.
- Humane immigration system which recognises the need to assist refugees.
- Support our conventional defence and security forces, including digital needs, paid for by cancelling Trident replacement.
- Climate justice to aid poorer countries to cope with impacts of climate change.

9. A CITIZENS' DEMOCRACY

Our rights and freedoms must be protected. We need a fairer voting system, which fully reflects the diversity of beliefs and values in the UK. Every vote should count.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Introduce proportional representation (PR) for parliamentary and local elections, and votes at 16.
- End the sale of personal data, such as health and tax records, for commercial ends.
- Take action to tackle racism and discrimination on the basis of faith, real equality for LGBTIQ+ people, and equal rights for mixed gender couples to have a Civil Partnership.
- Defend the Human Rights Act and UK membership of the European Convention on Human Rights.

10. A PEOPLE'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The Isle of Wight relies on clean, reliable and affordable transport solutions to allow us to get around. We need safe and accessible walking and cycling routes for all, as well as increased investment in our buses, trains and ferries.

HOW WE DO THIS:

- Return the railways to public ownership, and re-regulate our bus services to provide a minimum level of service, particularly in rural areas of the Island.
- Invest in expanding the Island's cycle network.
- Ensure that all public transport is accessible – for people of all ages and disabilities, including people who are visually impaired & those hard of hearing.
- Safe streets in our towns, through working to expand 20mph areas.
- Challenge the unaccountable ferry companies, and look at all solutions to cross-Solent transport crisis, including regulation, subsidies, public ownership and more.