

2021 MANIFESTO

This document outlines Coventry Green Party's city wide priorities for 2021.

Once elected as councillors, individual Green Party candidates will also focus on issues affecting people living and working in their wards.

GREEN NEW DEAL

To tackle the Climate Emergency and deliver social justice, as part of the Green Party of England & Wales, Coventry Green Party supports a Green New Deal.

New green homes, new green transport and new green jobs will get us on track to reduce the UK's carbon emissions to 'net zero' by 2030 and provide new opportunities for everyone to live happier and more secure lives.

NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Coventry Green Party understands how important nature and access to green spaces is to our wellbeing; providing space for reflection, to connect with the world, as well as a place to exercise and see our friends while maintaining social distance.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Continue to fight to protect local green spaces from inappropriate development.
- Call for Coventry's parks to be maintained and protected for the benefit of both people and wildlife.
- Call for Coventry to work with existing groups to seed more wildflower meadows and to add managed wildlife areas to parks.
- Call for all parks to be provided with a better network of paths and cycleways, wide enough to allow Coventry residents to enjoy these spaces while maintaining a safe distance.
- Call for Coventry City Council to adopt a policy of planting more trees, to increase their number and to properly care for the ones the city already has.
- Work to create additional pockets of green space throughout the city, to promote biodiversity and help all Coventry residents access the health benefits of interacting with nature.

TRANSPORT

Coventry Green Party appreciates that Coventry residents need to be able to travel around the city and we will advocate for a sustainable local transport revolution. We want people to be able to have viable options to enable them to travel cheaply, safely and conveniently on trains, buses, cycles and on their own feet.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Call for a review of the whole transport infrastructure across the city, with the aim of identifying where further improvements could be made to increase efficiency and safety, while further reducing pollution.
- Call for more consultation on bus routes and investigate ways to make it easier and more affordable for families to use public transport.
- Work to transform Coventry into a 'Cycle City' to rival Amsterdam or Copenhagen. We will call for more cycle paths, separated from motor traffic and with more consultation to ensure a joined up network that goes where people want to go. We will also encourage city planners to add more cycle parking, including space for larger cycles.
- Call for a policy of swift repairs to existing walkways and the introduction of dropped curbs on all junctions to make it easier for people to walk around the city.
- Work with local planners to reduce congestion and air pollution near the city centre, moving freight routes away from the centre of Coventry.

EDUCATION

Coventry's children are our future and it is essential that their needs are not forgotten. We at Coventry Green Party believe all children deserve an opportunity to grow up safely, with access to clean, green spaces and air they can breathe.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Work with schools and nurseries to ensure safety for everyone in the classroom.
- Call for funding to be reinstated for youth groups, as well as mother and baby groups across Coventry.
- Call for all schools in the city to establish safe cycling routes to and from school, and to provide adequate secure on site cycle parking, to encourage more pupils to cycle to school.
- Work with schools to establish pupil led nature groups, with the aim of managing school grounds for the benefit of both people and nature.
- Work with schools to have a school based allotment, where pupils could learn about growing their own food.
- Work with community groups to provide an education programme that could be delivered to schools, to encourage children to take responsibility for their own litter with the aim of reducing the amount of rubbish discarded onto our streets.

WASTE REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT

Waste management and street litter is something Coventry residents often raise as a concern with Coventry Greens. In addition to being unsightly, rubbish left lying on the streets is a health hazard for people and wildlife alike.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Call for more recycling facilities and the reinstatement of public street bins for common recycled items.
- Call for the council to introduce services to handle difficult to recycle items.
- Call for the council to make it easier for Coventry residents to have large items of rubbish collected from their homes and at a reduced cost, with the aim of removing the cause of domestic fly tipping.
- Call for more street cleaners working on Coventry's streets.
- Encourage relevant council departments to work with volunteer community groups who already do a fantastic job of keeping streets and green spaces clear of litter.

HOUSING

Coventry Green Party believes that Coventry residents deserve to live in warm, adequately ventilated, energy efficient homes, with easy access to local amenities such as green spaces, schools, doctor surgeries, bus routes and shops.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Promote better insulation and encourage energy efficient heating for all homes which need it, and prioritise the building of energy efficient council homes.
- Encourage the Council to improve communication with Coventry residents so they are aware and able to take advantage of any government initiatives to retrofit insulation to older housing stock.
- Prioritise building on brownfield sites.
- Call for all new housing or commercial sites to include the use of renewable energy sources and use sustainable materials in their construction as much as it is feasible to do so.
- Insist that any new housing development include provision for adequate green spaces with wheelchair or pushchair access, take into account school places, footpath, road and cycle infrastructure, near public transport links, and available medical facilities.

LOCAL SERVICES

Coventry Green Party supports further investment in the arts, museums and heritage projects in Coventry, something we feel is particularly important to help us all recover from the social, mental and cultural isolation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

If elected, a Green Party councillor would:

- Call for funding to be reinstated for youth groups in Coventry, which would help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on our streets.
- Call for mother and toddler groups to be fully funded, ensuring that parents who need them are supported during their first years as parents.
- Call for funding to be reinstated for all of Coventry's local and mobile libraries, ensuring that a library facility is within walking distance of nearly every resident.
- Call for funding to be reinstated for Coventry's museums and for arts funding to be increased, with the aim of reaching out to all Coventry residents so all of our lives can be enriched.

BUSINESS

Coventry Green Party is keen to encourage all businesses and industry within our city boundaries to reduce their carbon footprint, by moving to energy efficiency, sourcing locally, and increasing self-sustainability within our region.

If elected, Coventry Green councillors would:

- Work to encourage employers to recruit and train local residents in new green jobs.
- Encourage employers to offer solutions to enable employees to work from home where it is possible to do so.
- Call for improved internet provision to all Coventry residents to be subsidised by the government.
- Work with employers to ensure a Covid safe environment, where employees must work on site.
- Call for employers to enable their employees to travel to their place of work either by bicycle, on foot, or by public transport.
- Call for an increased variety and diversity of shops and amenities to be available to every local community across Coventry.

- Call for support of small businesses or social enterprises which are willing to repair, recycle and repurpose domestic white goods and electrical products, since Coventry Green Party will support the consumer's right to repair.
- Work with local farmers and food producers to make more connections with local markets for their produce, reducing transport time and costs, and encourage healthy and sustainable food and farming systems.

ENERGY

Coventry Green Party acknowledges that the continued use of fossil fuels is time limited and it is essential that we move to renewable energy to power all sectors, whether domestic, commercial or manufacturing.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Call for Coventry City Council to lead the way, moving all of its own offices, vehicles and services onto renewable energy sources.
- Call for Coventry City Council to petition for funding for small businesses to make the switch easily.
- Call for Coventry City Council to petition the government for grants for residents to retrofit their houses to use renewable energy sources to power and heat their homes.

DEMOCRACY, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Coventry Green Party stands for local level democracy for all.

If elected Coventry Green Party councillors would:

- Always work to ensure that all individuals working or living in Coventry, no matter their identity or abilities or wealth, will have a voice and access to fair justice.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

If an issue is not mentioned here that you are concerned about, please contact us and we will be happy to learn more about the issues that impact Coventry residents.

You can contact us at **info@coventry.greenparty.org.uk**

To follow our local campaign keep an eye on our social media:

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| Facebook Page at | facebook.com/CoventryGreenParty |
| Twitter at | twitter.com/covgreenparty |
| Young Greens Twitter at | twitter.com/covyounggreens |
| and check out our website: | coventry.greenparty.org.uk |