

FOREST OF DEAN GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO

2022-2027

Fairer Greener Communities

**Make a positive choice for change
and make a better world**

For more details of Green Party policies:
<http://policy.greenparty.org.uk>

The Forest of Dean Green party:
<http://forestofdeangreenparty.org.uk>

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The Green Manifesto

The evidence is clear. We see that the climate is changing and that more extreme, record-breaking weather events are hitting us more regularly and severely. Unless we act now we will not keep global warming low enough to avoid a climate catastrophe.

The Forest of Dean Green Party understands the urgent need to avoid climate chaos by doing what we can where we live and work to reduce carbon emissions as much as, and as quickly as possible. A radically different approach to social and environmental justice is needed if we are to rapidly decarbonise our society, our economy and our consumption.

Our policies are outlined in our manifesto below. They weave a **Green** thread through every sector, informing a greener approach which inspires low carbon alternatives to how we live, travel, work and learn. We encourage positive relationships with our natural home to create resilient communities, offering a legacy of hope for all our children and generations to come.

With the support of our electors and community the Forest of Dean Green Party will:

- 1 Respond to the threat of climate change by working for a carbon neutral Forest of Dean and by mitigating the impact of climate change on our communities
- 2 Promote truly sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- 3 Work to strengthen and empower the citizens, families and communities of the Forest by responding to their needs and wishes above the often arbitrary and destructive policies imposed by central government
- 4 Build a local economy based on the Forest of Dean's unique assets with policies designed for local sourcing and procurement, with development support for Forest businesses
- 5 Evolve real localism and actively demonstrate with honest evidence that 'local' out-performs the fallacy of 'economies of scale'
- 6 Reverse outsourcing and focus instead on developing sustainable, affordable and high quality local public services
- 7 Protect biodiversity and support its recovery.

The Green New Deal

At the very heart of the Green New Deal is a guarantee of a good quality of life

The Green New Deal is a comprehensive ten-year plan ambitious enough to tackle climate and ecological breakdown at the scale and speed set out by science.

It will deliver a fast and fair transformation of our economy and society, renewing almost every aspect of life in the UK: from the way we produce and consume energy, to the way in which we grow the food we eat, and how we work, travel, and heat our homes.

This will be a combined investment of over £100 billion a year in the Green New Deal, with an additional investment in Universal Basic Income. Through this investment, we will provide new opportunities for everyone to work and live more sustainably and more securely.

We pay for public services, we use them, we own them. It's time they properly belonged to all of us. From our hospitals to our post offices, energy grid, water, railways and schools, the Green Party will campaign for public services that are run by the people for the people.

These services will be properly resourced to meet your needs, now and in the future, not struggling to keep pace with demand. Since 2010 the NHS, facing unprecedented rising demand, has been given barely half the resources it needs to keep up. Schools now have less to spend per pupil than they did in 2010.

The government's role is to make you feel safer and more secure, but it's doing the opposite. Too many people fear not being able to access the basic services they need, and this can sometimes turn into resentment against scapegoats eagerly offered up by hard right politicians, such as migrants and people on benefits.

The Green Party offers something different: a guarantee that our public services will grow and improve. We will ensure those working in our public services have the resources to deliver services they can be proud of.

We will invest in public services built on the principle of kindness. We will support new technologies and approaches that will let us live longer, healthier lives. And we will be honest enough to tell you that this means transforming the tax system so we can afford to invest in quality of life for all.

We will revolutionise the relationship between citizens and the public realm. From access to the countryside to spending more time with loved ones, our quality of life guarantee is all about unleashing the potential for everyone to live happier, more secure lives—and making this the central purpose of government.

The Green Party's Core Values

We offer a new and radical kind of politics guided by these ten core principles

- 1 **The Green Party** isn't just another political party. It is a party of social and environmental justice, which supports a radical transformation of society for the benefit of all, and for the planet as a whole. We understand that the threats to economic, social and environmental well-being are part of the same problem, and recognise solving one of these crises cannot be achieved without solving the others
- 2 Humankind depends on the diversity of the natural world for its existence. We do not believe that other species are expendable
- 3 The Earth's physical resources are finite. We threaten our future if we try to live beyond those means, so we must build a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future
- 4 Every person, in this and future generations, should be entitled to basic material security as of right
- 5 Our actions should take account of the well-being of other nations, other species, and future generations. We should not pursue our well-being to the detriment of theirs
- 6 A healthy society is based on voluntary co-operation between empowered individuals in a democratic society, free from discrimination whether based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social origin or any other prejudice
- 7 We emphasise democratic participation and accountability by ensuring that decisions are taken at the closest practical level to those affected by them
- 8 We look for non-violent solutions to conflict situations, which take into account the interests of minorities and future generations in order to achieve lasting settlements
- 9 The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness and human fulfilment
- 10 Electoral politics is not the only way to achieve change in society, and we will use a variety of methods, including lifestyle changes, to help effect progress, providing those methods do not conflict with our other core principles.

Green Housing Policy



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A Green New Deal for Housing will:

- 1 Empower local authorities to bring empty homes back into use and create a total of 100,000 new homes for social rent (council homes) a year, built to the Passivhaus standard or equivalent. This standard will see these new homes use 90% less energy for space heating than the average home, significantly reducing household bills
- 2 Improve the insulation of every UK home that needs more insulation by 2030, using sustainable materials
- 3 Significantly reduce heating bills by improving one million existing homes and other buildings a year, so that they reach the highest standard of energy efficiency (over and above the Energy Performance Certificate A rating). Homes lived in by people on low incomes will be the first to receive these major improvements and benefit from reduced heating bills
- 4 Insulate non-domestic buildings, addressing the large amounts of energy lost from offices and public buildings
- 5 Transform the planning system and building regulations, so that all new buildings built by private developers conform to the Passivhaus standard (or to a standard that delivers energy efficiency at an equivalent or better level). We will enable self-build development that meets the same standards
- 6 Change the planning system to incentivise renovation, extension and improvement of existing buildings, rather than relying on new build, to reduce the use of steel, concrete, cladding and finishes, which produce massive amounts of carbon in their manufacture. Similarly we will incentivise the use of sustainable materials.

Green Housing Policy in the Forest of Dean

Planning for our Future

Housing policy is one of the most controversial issues at national and local level. **The Forest of Dean Green Party** acknowledges the need for good quality, affordable, secure and comfortable homes for people that live in the area, now and in the future.

We recognise that our homes must be future-proofed so that they not only keep us warm and dry but also protect our environment and reduce carbon emissions. Our well-being and the environment are inextricably linked.

As it stands the local plan is merely a house-building plan - the new builds required are dictated by national government and the plan must show that the new houses can be built in such a way that is profitable for developers.

This has been described as 'Government policy that encourages the treatment of housing as a form of speculative investment, rather than a basic requirement for individual and social well-being.'

The Forest of Dean Green Party recognises that our local housing development plan needs to be more than just about building houses. It should take into consideration the actual concerns of local people about what housing is needed, and where, and how those houses are best constructed for our benefit and for the environment.

The **Forest of Dean Green Party's** housing policy considers the needs of people and the environment first, ensuring provision is coordinated with the workplace, education, leisure, transport and healthcare facilities.

The new Severnbank estate in Newnham, where 80 houses are being built that were allocated in the 2018 Local Plan



Green Housing Policy in the Forest of Dean

The Forest of Dean Green Party will:

- 1 Conduct regular Housing Needs Surveys developing a local plan in association with local people to secure an increase in the building of affordable new homes, social and council housing with assured tenancies and a balanced mix of tenures and providers
- 2 Support retrofitting programmes to insulate all homes to reduce their environmental impact, improve residents' health and reduce heating bills
- 3 Through the council's planning system, encourage architects, designers, developers and planners to build using alternatives to concrete so as to reduce the huge carbon footprint of its manufacture and the harm it does to our landscape
- 4 Encourage the council to build its own houses and to the highest specification
- 5 Lobby to tighten building regulations on all new developments so that they are in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 with immediate effect, progressing to Level 4, 5 and 6 on an annual basis, aiming for zero-carbon dwellings
- 6 Strengthen the council's strategic management and procurement functions, to ensure that the District's social housing stock is creatively and effectively used and developed
- 7 Campaign to have the option of an 'eco-development' to be included in the new Local Plan
- 8 Promote and develop local 'Land Share' schemes with the goal of ensuring that gardens that cannot be maintained by householders become local assets rather than eyesores
- 9 Make better use of Empty Dwelling Homes powers
- 10 Plan for pavements with a minimum width of 2 metres
- 11 Promote co-housing and self-build initiatives with community grants schemes in support of local house-builders and tenants working together to improve their environment
- 12 Incentivise Green housing developments and the use of local timber in all developments
- 13 Actively encourage the use of local tradesmen and materials in all public developments
- 14 Campaign for the abolition of VAT on property renovations and maintenance

Green Health and Community Care Policy

The Green Party is committed to the provision of high quality, free and universal health provision at the point of need and, in the Forest of Dean, we believe that the same principles should apply to social and community care.

It is well appreciated that good physical and emotional health closely correlates with peoples' state of social safety and security. Hence our approach will attend to the four key indicators: relationships and belonging, financial security, opportunities for contribution, and secure, good quality housing.

Affordable and effective services which meet peoples' needs are locally planned, locally delivered and locally accountable: they help people help themselves. They ensure a focus on purpose rather than outcomes and manage value, not cost.

We are mindful that about one fifth of the NHS clinical budget is devoted to treating illness caused by unemployment, inequality, poor housing and pollution, and that Green reforms in these sectors of the economy will reduce the load on the health service provided by community health centres.

Large public institutions, such as the NHS and County Council, have mistakenly perceived the Forest to be a single cohesive entity. It is not. Rather it is an amalgam of disparate and poorly connected settlements, with no discernible central hub. For example, people in Newent find it easier to get to Gloucester than to Lydney and people in Lydbrook may do their weekly shop in Ross on Wye.

Following a period of consultation in 2017, and in spite of local opposition, the Board of Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust and Governing Body of NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group approved the option to build a new community hospital in the Forest of Dean, which would replace The Dilke Memorial Hospital and Lydney and District Hospital.

Eventually it was agreed with Cinderford Town Council to build the new hospital on a new site on Steam Mills Road, thought to be the most accessible alternative, whether patients would travel there by car or by public transport.

In July 2022, work began on the new hospital which should be completed in 2024. Costing £26 million, the two-story hospital will house a 24-bed in-patient unit as well as provision for dental, X-ray, physiotherapy and endoscopy services, 'among others'.

Meanwhile, we watch on as local GP practices rationalise their resources by amalgamating and deserting our villages.



The proposed new community hospital in Cinderford

The Forest of Dean Green Party will:

- 1 Press for local, co-productive planning with our disparate communities aimed at developing local health centres/GP practices equipped to provide as many services, clinics, procedures and functions locally as can be safely and sensibly organised
- 2 Challenge our public institutions and professionals to value and work proactively with families, friends and communities in order to use all available assets in the interests of local people
- 3 Press for appropriate levels of spending throughout our Health & Social Services – the UK, despite being the sixth wealthiest economy on the planet, is among the lowest per capita spenders in the developed world – we can afford excellence. Budgets must be restored to pre-austerity levels and increased
- 4 Campaign for raised professional status for health and social services workers with the appropriate remuneration. A significant improvement in pay, conditions and occupational development will lead to a stable and reliable workforce
- 5 Support locally-based health and social services teams known to the communities they serve
- 6 Support the expansion and sustainability of the local hospice movement with particular emphasis on ‘hospice at home’ provision
- 7 Encourage and resource a diversity of local initiatives that enable people who find themselves dependent on continuing health or social care to remain in their own community and to benefit from the love and social capital of their families and friends
- 8 Promote health and wellbeing, and individual and communal resilience as the underpinning ethos of local health and social services
- 9 Support health and wellbeing promotion and illness prevention, using social prescribing, social education, and relationship-based practice such as talking therapies to reduce dependence, on prescribed (and self-prescribed) drugs.

Children, Families and Education



We need to put children and their families at the heart of all we do. Creating a positive future for our children can only happen if they have positive experiences whilst they are growing up.

Creating safe dynamic communities through all the ways discussed in the rest of the manifesto needs to be seen through the lens of how it will impact children and families now. From community facilities, such as playgrounds and libraries, to road safety and accessibility for active travel all need to consider how they serve our children.

The Universal Basic Income would support families and communities to spend time together creating the important bonds that support the emotional development of all children.

The Green Party will support schools that nurture potential and inspire a love of learning in the heart of each community, ensuring that all children have access and freedom to play, flourish and grow.

Local Authorities would be responsible for running and overseeing schools and school places. There is no place for education to become a commodity of the market.

The national curriculum would be replaced by a set of learning entitlements taken from the UN Rights of the Child. This would ensure that local creativity and understanding would be supported to achieve consistent high standards in schools that are centred on each child's social, creative and academic potential to create independent, open and resilient adults.

Early Years

Early Years is a unique educational stage in its own right and not just a preparation for school. We recognise the great variance in children's development in their early years and the importance of a developmentally appropriate provision, which includes the important role of play in early learning.

Greens would start formal education at 6 years, to allow young children to develop at their own pace. Those under 6 will remain in early years education, with a focus on play-based learning and access to nature.

A healthy education system would include a broad range of cumulative, formative and summative assessment, including self-assessment. This should be unobtrusive and in the interests of enhancing the learning of the individual child.

This may include a change at the age of 14 where social and emotional development suggests this is a good time for a new start in a more adult atmosphere and when aptitudes and likely career paths are easier to diagnose. From this age education may be provided in co-operation with workplace learning and training, vocational placements and at Youth Schools.

School leaving qualifications will encourage a broad curriculum that gives equal value to academic, vocational, creative and practical subjects. At the same time, we would ensure the appropriate support and resources for home-educated children.

We have turned further and higher education into a commodity, when it should be a basic right. It's time to build an education system on the principles that learning must be lifelong, liberating and accessible to all. Education can and should unlock creativity and enable self-expression across all ages.

Further Education

Greens will fully fund every higher education student and scrap undergraduate tuition fees. University will be fully accessible, with courses being offered as learning experiences, not as pre-work training.

Social Care

All children should be treated with respect and given full opportunity with whatever support may be required to live in a caring and nurturing environment. If this cannot happen in the family for whatever reason there will be full wrap-around support for each child. This may come from supported foster careers and, if need be, small homes provided by the public sector, run by highly-qualified, supported and well-paid staff. These should provide therapeutic and 'normalising' care required to enable children to reach their potential and become fully participating members of society.

A Guardian of our Future

We would use concerted influence to create a cabinet position for a Commissioner of Future Generations to provide advice to Council and other public bodies on delivering social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being for current and future generations and assessing and reporting on how they are delivering.

The Green New Deal for Energy



A Green New Deal for Energy will:

- 1 Introduce new support and incentives to directly accelerate wind energy development, paving the way for wind to provide around 70% of the UK's electricity by 2030
- 2 Introduce new support for solar, geothermal, tidal, hydro and other renewable energies to provide much of the remainder of the UK's energy supply by 2030
- 3 Transform the planning system so that it works to support a massive increase in wind power and other renewable generation
- 4 Apply a Carbon Tax on all fossil fuel imports and domestic extraction, based on greenhouse gas emissions produced when fuel is burnt. We will also apply a Carbon Tax on imported energy, based on its embedded emissions. We will raise the Carbon Tax rate progressively over a decade, rendering coal, oil and gas financially unviable as cheaper renewable energies rise up to take their place
- 5 Prohibit the construction of nuclear power stations. We know that nuclear is a distraction from developing renewable energy, carries an unacceptable risk for the communities living close to nuclear energy facilities, creates unmanageable quantities of radioactive waste and is inextricably linked with the production of world-destroying nuclear weapons
- 6 Encourage greater energy efficiency across the economy, by providing energy efficiency training for businesses and public bodies, emphasising the need for behavioural change – we all need to value energy as we value money. Small businesses and co-ops will receive this training for free
- 7 Ban fracking, and other unconventional forms of fossil fuel extraction, now and forever.



Green Energy in the Forest of Dean

Our long-term objectives aim to ensure the Forest of Dean District Council meets a target of 100% of energy from local renewables by 2030. A Forest **Green** economy would aim to reduce its demand for energy to a sustainable minimum and obtain that energy from locally generated renewable sources. This is calculated to be approximately a 40% reduction in energy demand here in the Forest of Dean over the next 30 years.

We aim to generate, store and distribute our energy as close to the point of use as practicable, with maximum local control. Using solar, wind and some hydro power we estimate that the Forest of Dean could supply 160% of its future needs. To protect future health and air quality and reduce our District climate impacts, we actively oppose any future reopening or expansion of the Forest of Dean's coalfields (other than for heritage free-mining), including coal bed methane and fracking. Our short-term objectives are:

- 1 To reduce demand for fossil fuels as rapidly as possible by guiding industry, householders and the public sector to invest in energy conservation to achieve a significant reduction in energy demand
- 2 To reduce drastically and, if possible, eliminate the pollution caused by burning coal and oil locally, and not support re-opening of Forest of Dean Coal Mines other than for heritage free-mining
- 3 To promote full use of currently available renewable energy sources for heat, electricity and transport, and provide the necessary support for the relevant markets and industries to grow with an emphasis on local ownership and businesses
- 4 To actively support the establishment of local electric vehicle (EV) re-charging networks across the Dean, and work with local car suppliers to promote the benefits of EVs
- 5 To ensure the Forest of Dean District Council develops a positive Renewable Energy Strategy that incorporates the objectives currently enshrined within the Government's Community Energy Strategy
- 6 To support the aims and objectives of the Local Energy Bill, allowing local people and businesses to buy renewable energy directly from generation sites under personal Power Purchase Agreements. This would cut out the large profits made by the multi-national power companies and energy spot markets, and help to overcome issues of fuel poverty
- 7 To lobby the Forest of Dean District Council to expand the use of renewable energy on public buildings beyond the minimum stipulated in local government guidance, and to move to EVs for its fleet
- 8 To ensure the support and development of an EV community transport scheme funded from community energy projects.

GREENS WANT TO GO FURTHER ON BUSES



The transport needs of rural areas differ from those of towns, yet too often the rural service is a poor relation of an urban based system. Because of the inadequacy of rural facilities and employment opportunities, distances travelled are generally greater and involve greater expense than in urban areas.

Dependency on cars for essential trips is much greater, with many villages and remote communities having no, or inadequate alternatives to public transport. The alternatives of walking or cycling may be unrealistic. As a result of these factors, and the higher costs of fuel in rural areas, expenditure per household on travel is generally higher than in urban areas. For people in the lowest income bands this can be as much as 50% higher than their urban equivalents. However, a significant number of countryside residents do not have regular access to a car. Young people and disabled people are particularly disadvantaged.

The aim of the **Green Party's** rural transport policy is to secure equitable accessibility in a sustainable manner that minimises impact on the environment and the community. An important element of this policy is demand


reduction. Planning policy will reflect the need to reverse the trend away from local facilities in favour of centralised, usually town-based developments. Any new housing developments in the countryside will also be required to recognise the potential transport needs of residents, providing solutions that do not rely on private car ownership.

The Green Party will develop a more innovative approach based on real needs as expressed by people living in the countryside. Such innovations would include shared vehicle ownership, community transport schemes, multiple-use vehicles such as the alpine-style post bus and locally based and affordable private hire. Modern web and phone-based technologies would be used to enable more efficient use of available transport.

The costs of delivery of a rural transport service may be higher than in urban areas. **The Green Party** will reform and increase the Rural Transport Grant to a level that allows for this. The grant will be administered by the most appropriate level of government, which will determine and enforce service levels in consultation with transport users.

Green Transport Policy in the Forest of Dean

Transport in the Forest of Dean accounts for 35% of all carbon emissions. Our aim is to engage our local community in a transition to reduce the need for travel and to develop sustainable alternatives to the private car.

- 1 Extend and improve the provision of public transport and vehicle-sharing schemes
- 2 Accelerate the transition of the council's fleet of vehicles from petrol/diesel to electric
- 3 Roll out provision of public electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) and ensure that, where possible, all planning applications make provision for EVCPs
- 4 Continue to press for more extensive cycling routes such as the Lydney to Parkend and Newent to Gloucester Cycleways and encourage the use of electric bikes, especially well-suited to the Forest of Dean's challenging landscape
- 5 Promote policies which enable those who wish to work from home to do so
- 6 Ensure our roads are made safer, by whatever means possible at district level, to extend speed reduction zones and to reduce the number of potholes 
- 7 Explore the potential of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) using digital technology to support innovative schemes to integrate and provide choice and flexibility in the transport system
- 8 Develop community transport hub schemes.



Zap Map - the few public EV charge points in the Forest of Dean



Green councillor Beki Hoyland and her trusty electric bike



*The Robin Bus, DRT pilot scheme in the south Forest of Dean
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/therobin/>*

Introduction

All human economic activity and social and cultural wellbeing are dependent upon the integrity of self-sustaining, self-managing natural systems. Continually increasing resource extraction, industrial throughput and waste production is entirely incompatible with ecological sustainability. **Green** economic policy must therefore promote the emergence of an economic system which recognises the limits of, and is compatible with, both the natural systems of the planet and the aspirations of the whole of humanity.

To achieve global ecological sustainability, with equity and social justice, the industrialised countries must actively reduce the physical burden they place on the planet and must, by example, encourage and support the less industrialised countries in adopting appropriate development strategies.

Objectives

Ecological sustainability

To conserve natural planetary resources and to maintain the integrity of natural life-sustaining cycles; to regenerate areas made waste and take steps to avoid further ecological disaster; to reduce demand for energy and raw materials; to favour low energy non-polluting processes based on renewable resources.

To this end, Universal Basic Income will allow the current dependence on economic growth to cease, and allow zero or negative growth to be feasible without individual hardship should this be necessary on the grounds of sustainability.

Equity & social justice

To achieve an equitable distribution of resources, wealth, opportunity and power which ensures access for all to the means of sustenance and of personal and social development.

Decentralisation & devolution

To devolve economic power to the lowest appropriate level, thereby rendering participants in the economy at all levels less vulnerable to the damaging effects of economic decisions made elsewhere and over which they have no control; to support the 'informal' sector (notably by provision of Universal Basic Income for all) thus reducing the impact of the formal economy.

Self-reliance with interdependence

To liberate and empower all sections of society to meet their needs as far as possible from their own resources through activities which are socially enhancing; to encourage all to contribute to society according to their abilities, recognising as they do so, responsibility for themselves, for others, for future generations and for the planet.

In the development of a sustainable world economic system, the local economy is the arena in which many of the key decisions must be made.

In accordance with the **Green Party** objectives of bringing decision making to the most appropriate level, and promoting self reliance within communities and regions, revival and support of the local economy is of the greatest importance. Policies are necessary to enable more local needs to be met by local work using local resources.

A Green Economy for the Forest of Dean

A Zero Carbon, Zero Waste Circular Economy

Sustainable industrial activity is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We would make better use of what we have rather than increase consumption.

Green industrial solutions are likely to be systemic (rather than systematic) in nature, be valued qualitatively as well as quantitatively, and lead to behaviour and institutional (organisational) change alongside technological solutions. This will minimise embodied carbon and value embodied workmanship.

A massive infrastructural investment and retrofit programme will require us to prioritise the rapid development of three key sectors:

- renewable energy generation and transmission (electricity, heat and transport fuels)
- rethinking/localisation of transportation
- transformation/retrofit of our existing built environment and construction approaches.

Green economic policies will:

- 1 Promote reduced consumption and assist in appropriate consumer choices include ensuring openness in the workings of all public and private institutions; establishing a **Green** product labelling scheme; commissioning a register of ethical and **Green** companies

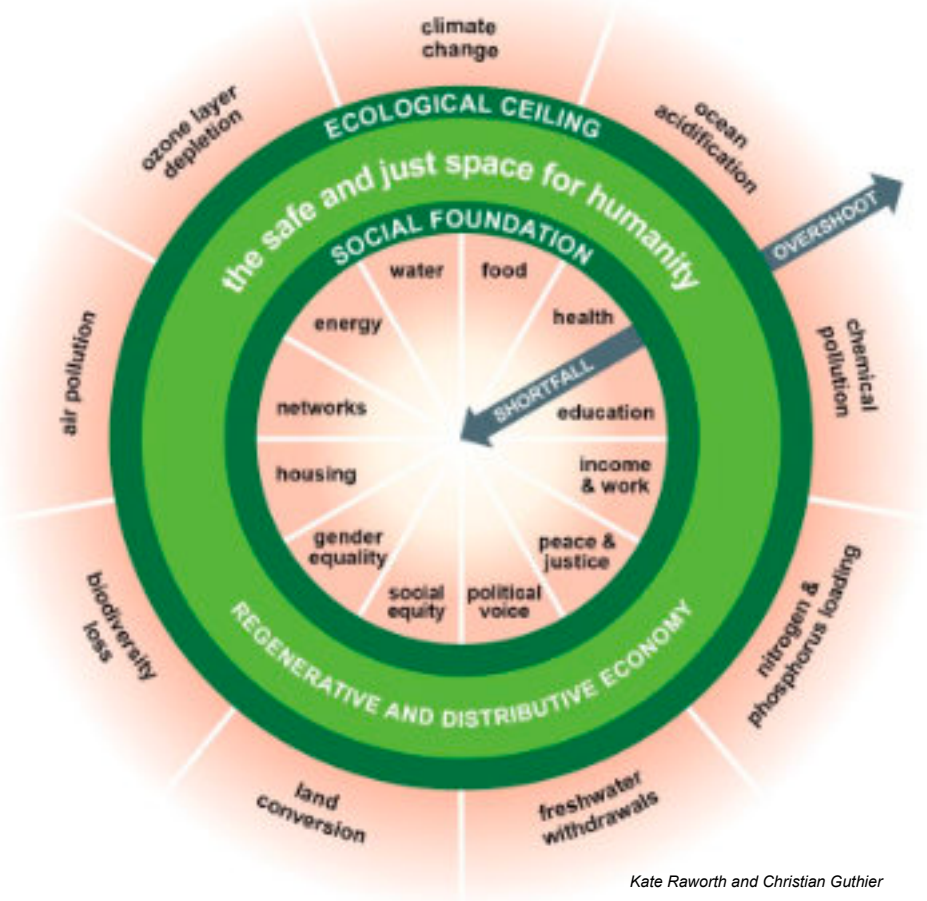
- 2 Promote local economic management and planning include creating Partnership Bodies to enable a wide range of local people to participate in the development of policy, strategy, projects and enterprise; undertaking a wide ranging audit of local social, economic and environmental affairs and concerns; drafting appropriate sustainable economic development strategies for the locality

- 3 Increase local investment and the circulation of local finance within the community, include the development of democratically accountable Community Banks, designed to encourage local people to invest in local economic activity, channelling local savings into economically and environmentally sound community enterprises. They should include removal, where necessary, of national restrictions. We will promote Credit Unions and skills exchange schemes, along with researching the best use of local currencies and encouraging their adoption

- 4 Promote ecologically sustainable local economic development and develop the legal basis for private and public sector organisations requiring companies to quantify their net contribution in social and environmental terms as well as their financial accounts.

A 'fiduciary duty' should be imposed on all investors requiring them to have regard for the social and environmental consequences of their investments.

A Green Economy



Kate Raworth and Christian Guthrie

What on Earth is the Doughnut?

Humanity's 21st century challenge is to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet. In other words, to ensure that no one falls short on life's essentials (from food and housing to healthcare and political voice), while ensuring that collectively we do not overshoot our pressure on Earth's life-supporting systems, on which we fundamentally

depend – such as a stable climate, fertile soils, and a protective ozone layer. The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries is a playfully serious approach to framing that challenge, and it acts as a compass for human progress this century. Kate Raworth's *Doughnut Economics*: <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/#>

A Green Economy for the Forest of Dean

The Doughnut of Social and Planetary Boundaries



The environmental ceiling consists of nine planetary boundaries beyond which lie unacceptable environmental degradation and potential tipping points in Earth systems. The twelve dimensions of the social foundation are derived from internationally agreed minimum social standards, as identified by the world's governments in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Between social and planetary boundaries lies an environmentally safe and socially just space in which humanity can thrive.

The Decision Making Wheel - a working model

The decision-making wheel is introducing a new way of thinking for Cornwall Council. It is helping them 'to connect how we live, and how we can use money better for us and the environment'.

Cornwall is working to become a carbon neutral council and combat climate change, making changes to how they work to reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emissions . They have introduced a new tool to help make decisions that combat climate change and do not disadvantage the people of Cornwall.

The wheel helps to show how projects and decisions will affect the environment and people. If the wheel shows that the project will have a bad effect on the climate or people, they can redesign it.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/climate-emergency/what-is-cornwall-doing>

CORNWALL COUNCIL Decision making wheel Case study: The Saints Trail



Industry in a Green Economy

Introduction

Respecting the earth's ecological limits, sufficient environmental protection, decent working conditions and fair pay can all be afforded today – we don't have to wait for further economic growth to generate wealth or pay debts before this can be provided. Instead, we must recognise the inherent instability and injustice of our current economic system and the limits to the natural environment on which we depend. Therefore, **Green** policy does not separate short-term and long-term measures.

Aims

- The assurance of meaningful employment and a life of dignity and modest comfort for all.
- The development of a sustainable zero carbon industrial infrastructure as a basis for a sustainable zero carbon society. This will free the UK economy from a reliance on endless growth in the production of commodities and financial transactions.
- Industrial production will be based on social needs rather than the maximisation of profit and ever increasing consumption. It will aim to maximise quality of life for all within both environmental limits and availability of employment.
- Subsidiarity (localise and reduce overall scale of production as far as practicable). Industrial production should be at the scale and locations that use energy and physical resources as efficiently as possible, while maximising benefits to local communities and

minimising any harmful effects on the environment. This should increase local and sub-regional self-reliance in food and energy production, and incentivise production that is designed to last, uses fewer resources and energy to make, and that is cheaper to repair than throw away. This should drive managed reductions in some areas as well as helpful growth in other areas of production, and include the sustaining of sound public infrastructure as a key enabler of transition to sustainability.

- Democratically accountable industry: to their workforces, to the communities in which they operate and to wider society as a whole. Therefore, markets should have a role as servants to society (but not as owners and masters). Trade Unions, Cooperatives and community ownership all have a role in democratising control over production and socially-aware entrepreneurship can bring about benign change. International exchange of people, goods and services can be benign under appropriate governance.
- Meet needs in an equitable manner. Every individual should have access to food, shelter and resources, so the purpose of industrial production should be to meet the real needs of society in a sustainable manner. This requires benefits to be spread equitably between different communities and between all levels of the workforce. This will include minimising real unemployment and underemployment by creating new socially and environmentally beneficial jobs.

A Green New Deal for Industry will:



- 1 Bring back the UK as an internationally recognised manufacturing powerhouse with proactive, wide-scale support for the UK-based manufacturing of renewable energy infrastructure.
- 2 Invest £2 billion a year in training and skills (including new apprenticeships), to help people access the new, decent jobs created through the transition to a low carbon economy.
- 3 Give local authorities the power to direct the newly created training and skills programmes. National government will provide the funding and democratically elected local authorities will be given the power to decide how it should be spent, to help residents' access new jobs.
- 4 Encourage a shift from models of ownership to usership, such as with car-sharing platforms and neighbourhood libraries for tools and equipment
- 5 Ban the production of single-use plastics for use in packaging and invest in research and development into alternatives to plastic. We will also extend the successful tax on plastic bags to cover plastic bottles, single-use plastics and micro-plastics, and extend plastic bottle deposit schemes.
- 6 Develop and implement a reformed waste strategy where manufacturers and retailers are required to pay the full cost of recycling and disposing of the packaging they produce.



Versarien, Longhope - developing world-leading materials technology

The Green New Deal for Incomes



- 1 Phase in the introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) sufficient to cover an adult's basic needs. UBI will be an unconditional payment, paid to all UK residents regardless of employment status
- 2 Replace most income-related benefits with UBI (except for the additional benefits described below). Replacing a large range of variously means-tested benefits with one unconditional payment will simplify and streamline the system
- 3 Ensure nobody will be worse off. The adult rate of UBI of £89 per week will result in around a 6% increase in disposable income over five years for someone in full-time work and paid the average salary. It is our firm intention to increase in particular adult rates at regular intervals during the first full parliamentary term
- 4 Include additional payments above the basic adult rate for some groups of people
- 5 Give pensioners a weekly payment of £178 (currently £141.85)
- 6 Give disabled people, lone parents and lone pensioners an additional supplement to their UBI
- 7 Ensure people who were reliant on Housing Benefit before UBI was introduced will continue to receive it, so that they can cover their rent
- 8 Give families with an income of under £50,000 per year an additional supplement of £70 per week for each of their first two children and a further £50 per week for each additional child.

Universal Basic Income - a Forest of Dean Pilot?

With automation, robotisation, the flawed universal credit system, and continued poverty in the UK, the **Forest of Dean Green Party** considers it is now time to explore the cost-saving benefits of a citizen's income, or Universal Basic Income (UBI).

UBI will eliminate the unemployment and poverty traps, as well as acting as a safety net to enable people to choose their own types and patterns of work. It will thus enable the welfare state to develop towards a welfare community, engaging people in personally satisfying and socially useful work.

In London in May 2009, an experiment to give 13 homeless people £3,000 to do with what they thought best, took place. At the time, these 13 homeless people cost the tax payer about £400,000 every year to 'service'.

After a year, all thirteen had taken critical steps toward solvency and personal growth, nine of them had a roof over their heads, others were going through rehabilitation, visiting their families and planning for the future. All this for a cost of less than £50,000.

Even the Economist concluded that the 'most efficient way to spend money on the homeless might be to give it to them'.

Examples abound across the world of successful pilot projects implementing some form of universal basic income to help people out of poverty and into sustainable livelihoods which benefit society.

The Forest of Dean Green Party considers our district suitable to be one of those pilot areas. We will work with local providers, the Government and the Citizen's Income Trust, towards realising this objective.

A National Jobs Policy

The National Jobs Strategy will ensure that new industries are developed, and existing industries transformed, to enable and encourage fulfilling employment while maximising quality of life for all within environmental limits. It will also shift UK manufacturing and retail jobs up the waste hierarchy through reuse, repair and remanufacturing. Government should support companies to choose legal structures that maximise environmental sustainability and employment.

This will be planned at a scale to support the development of locally and regionally self-reliant and sustainable economies across the UK - through developing the skills, entrepreneurs and incentives for local 'green jobs' and 'climate jobs' to flourish across the UK.



TIME TO SHIFT TO A WELLBEING ECONOMY

The Green New Deal for Food and Agriculture



© Tim Rickard

The Green Party Food and Agriculture Policy aims to enable the development of a system that is effective and sustainable in all senses. We will work with farmers and other stakeholders to transform the system and create an industry that:

- 1 Produces healthy, nutritious food and other useful outputs to meet the needs of the population at fair prices for producers, consumers and all workers in the food sector
- 2 Addresses the climate crisis by producing less meat and dairy and more fruit and vegetables
- 3 Ensures food sovereignty and a secure supply of food, ensuring there is sufficient food for everyone
- 4 Adheres to high standards of animal welfare and husbandry
- 5 Ensures sustainable practices across the whole food production system including farming in an agro-ecological way
- 6 Conserves and improves the health of the soil
- 7 Enhances the wider environment, including water quality, within and beyond the purely agricultural context
- 8 Will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to meet the Green Party target of zero emissions by 2030 for the whole economy
- 9 Promotes and maintains a wide diversity of wildlife
- 10 Offers sustainable employment, decent livelihoods, career opportunities, good working conditions and ongoing training throughout the workforce
- 11 Acknowledges that agriculture has a responsibility to manage land for a range of purposes beyond food production – flood prevention and alleviation, carbon capture, public access, maintenance of wildlife habitats, promoting biodiversity
- 12 Supports smaller, local, and fair-trade enterprises and limits the concentration of power and wealth within the agriculture, food processing and trading industries
- 13 Educates the population about food and health and builds links between farms, schools and the wider community.

Food and Agriculture in the Forest of Dean

The Forest of Dean Green Party

encourages greater community ownership of food with simple solutions appropriate to our Forest way of life and Dean bio-region.

The local resurgence in agro-forestry, forest gardening, permaculture and small-holdings, together with a growing foraging culture, community orchards, allotments, gardening clubs, regular village food markets, local food box schemes and food sovereignty all contribute to a vibrant Forest food culture which we urgently need to nurture and grow.

80p in the £1 spent at a supermarket leaves the Forest forever. At local shops and markets, about 80p in the £1 is re-circulated within the Forest economy. By bringing food back home, the **Green Party** promotes local solutions.

Localisation implies local production and consumption, as well as local decision-making and preservation of local culture.

Establishing community farms that are owned and managed co-operatively by the community for the community, encourages and re-educates that culture of resilience - so much a part of our forest heritage.



Apple Harvest - Castle Fruit Farm, Newent

The benefits of localisation include:

- 1 a reduction in 'food miles'
- 2 provision of fresher, healthier and more seasonal food
- 3 promotion of a sense of community and local food culture
- 4 resilience to changes in global food supply
- 5 contribution to future food security
- 6 support for small-scale, more environmentally-friendly farming and growing
- 7 support for the rural economy



Dunkeld and Birnam Community Orchard

Woodlands, Forests and Trees

Woods and trees play a vital role in the landscape. They protect soil from erosion, protect water supplies and water quality, provide wildlife habitats and protect the climate by storing carbon both above ground and in the soil. They can provide us with renewable supplies of timber, wood fuel and healthy food. They can make landscapes more beautiful. Woods, plantations, orchards, agroforestry, hedges and trees are especially important to our policies to protect the countryside.

The Green Party will ensure that woods are considered as an integral part of Local Development Frameworks. Planning authorities will be required to liaise with the Forestry Commission and other bodies when dealing with the establishment of new woods and the management of existing ones.

The public ownership of woods and plantations that are currently in public ownership, such as those managed by the Forestry Commission, will be rigorously protected. Public rights of access to such woods and plantations will also be rigorously protected whenever this is compatible with wildlife protection and good management.

Good management of existing woods, plantations, orchards and hedges will be encouraged, for example through agri-environment schemes. Farmers and landowners will be encouraged to allow new woods to grow and where appropriate to create new plantations, orchards, agroforestry and hedges.

The Green Party will:

- Prohibit the destruction of ancient woodland and work to promote the health and well-being benefits of access to trees and woodlands
- Work towards maintaining and improving current levels of public access, and pay special attention to community and urban woodland within the planning process
- Encourage the expansion and replanting of the majority of hedgerows lost in the last 50 years through new subsidies, creating new environments for wildlife
- Plant 700 million new trees and aim for 50% of all farms to be engaged in agroforestry by 2030. We will encourage the planting of more trees in more towns and cities, including apple, nut and other crop trees than can produce food. The new woodland, when fully grown, will store carbon, provide home-grown timber and create new wildlife-rich environments. We will support farmers to diversify their incomes through new forest management.



Green Forestry

The **Green Party** will promote a successful, thriving and well-managed UK forestry and woodlands estate to enhance the ecology, landscape, monetary and health economy, whilst mitigating CO2 and the climate emergency risks. Our objectives are to:

- Sustain cooperative relationships between public and private estates
- Increase the area of forest cover in the UK to the European average
- Encourage UK self-sufficiency in forest products
- Optimise the quantity and quality of all forest products
- Increase the involvement, employment and enjoyment of local communities
- Maintain and protect ancient woodland and priority habitats
- Protect and increase the Public Forest Estate (PFE)

We will ensure that the Public Forestry Estate (PFE) remains in public hands in trust for the nation and drive its expansion through Forest Services, Research and Enterprise.

Increase Forest Cover

A **Green** government will facilitate an increase in overall tree cover so that it reaches a level that is on a par with average coverage in countries across Europe.

There will be a strong presumption to protect ancient woodland cover and veteran trees, both in rural and urban environments.

Energy Forestry

We will facilitate extensive planting of short rotation forestry and coppice for energy production.

Building and Packaging Materials

We will work to reduce UK imports of timbers that can be grown in the UK to zero, and also promote a 'Wood First' policy in all new buildings and in retrofitting existing ones.

We will work to facilitate the provision of sustainable and non-polluting packaging and fencing.

Building a Wood Culture

A **Green** government will promote access for children and young people into wooded areas, and ensure schools across England and Wales are fully aware of the roles available in forestry. Forest schools will be encouraged.

Public Access and Health Benefits

A **Green** government will work to ensure that no person lives more than 500m from green spaces with trees, and to encourage community woodland. We will work to promote the health and well-being benefits of access to trees and woodlands.

Elected Greens will work towards maintaining and improving current levels of public access, and pay special attention to community and urban woodland within the planning process.

Natural Resources and Waste Management

Our finite and increasingly scarce natural resources include fossil fuels, various minerals, water and reusable or recyclable waste materials. **Green Party** policies are designed to manage our resources in a responsible and sustainable way to achieve social justice, equity and economic stability.

These policies would give local councils full powers to establish waste recovery and sorting facilities for the collection of all domestic and commercial waste and to sell recovered materials to industry for recycling.

The **Green Party** will introduce new priorities for waste management to avoid unnecessary waste and make the most efficient reuse, recycling and composting or digestion of waste materials. We will work towards a target of zero waste, engaging producer responsibility, eco-design, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, all within a single framework with the aim of eliminating altogether waste sent to landfill or incinerators.

As part of its waste management policy, the **Green Party** will:

- 1 Ban the production of single-use plastics for use in packaging and invest in research and development into alternatives to plastic.
- 2 Extend the successful tax on plastic bags to cover plastic bottles, single-use plastics and micro-plastics, and extend plastic bottle deposit schemes.

- 3 Develop and implement a reformed waste strategy where manufacturers and retailers are required to pay the full cost of recycling and disposing of the packaging they produce.

The **Green Party** will establish a Natural Resources Department (NRD), a national non-ministerial government body with regional offices, to be responsible for resource exploration and assessment, the maintenance of standards in mining, quarrying and forestry, and the provision of ecological, geological, archaeological and engineering advice.

The intention is to create a structure for industry which secures markets for secondary raw materials. Further, the NRD would ensure that the cost of using natural resources takes account of the environmental costs of their extraction or harvesting, processing and disposal. A National Resource Tax will be introduced to encourage both sustainable production, and waste reduction, by means of recycling, reuse and repair.

The **Green Party** is opposed to the private ownership of water. We believe that the water service should be run with the direct participation of the communities concerned.

The **Green Party** will bring all water resources stored and routed for public consumption, from reservoir to tap, in England & Wales back into public ownership at national level. However, local water resources will be administered and run by democratically-elected local bodies based on water catchment areas.

Waste in the Forest



The controversial Javelin Park Energy from Waste plant, Hardwicke, Gloucester

© Tim Rickard

The Forest of Dean Green Party will:

Continue to follow and adapt as Forest of Dean District Council policy our own version of the excellent Welsh Government Recycling Collections Blueprint 2011.

Produce an end-use register for all material collected in the Forest of Dean from households. This will show residents the fate of every tonne or item collected in the district with an estimate of its carbon consequences and a wider tally for the district.

Return green waste or surplus food ultimately to the soil according to the proximity principle. Moving garden waste around as we currently do is, for the most part, a carbon and climate emergency nonsense.

Recognise that immense green guilt over plastic packaging has been foisted onto householders over many years by its producers.

Take a sane and economically-sound approach, collecting only that packaging which, as now, we are confident will be meaningfully reprocessed.

Support campaigns drawing attention to packaging insanities and impossibilities.

Recycle - Reuse - Repair



Wildlife and Habitats

In Harmony with Nature

The Green Party holds a vision of human society living in harmony with nature. To achieve this, nature needs to be protected to allow natural regeneration, so promoting the restoration of biodiversity and reversing the tide of mass extinction and ecosystem destruction.

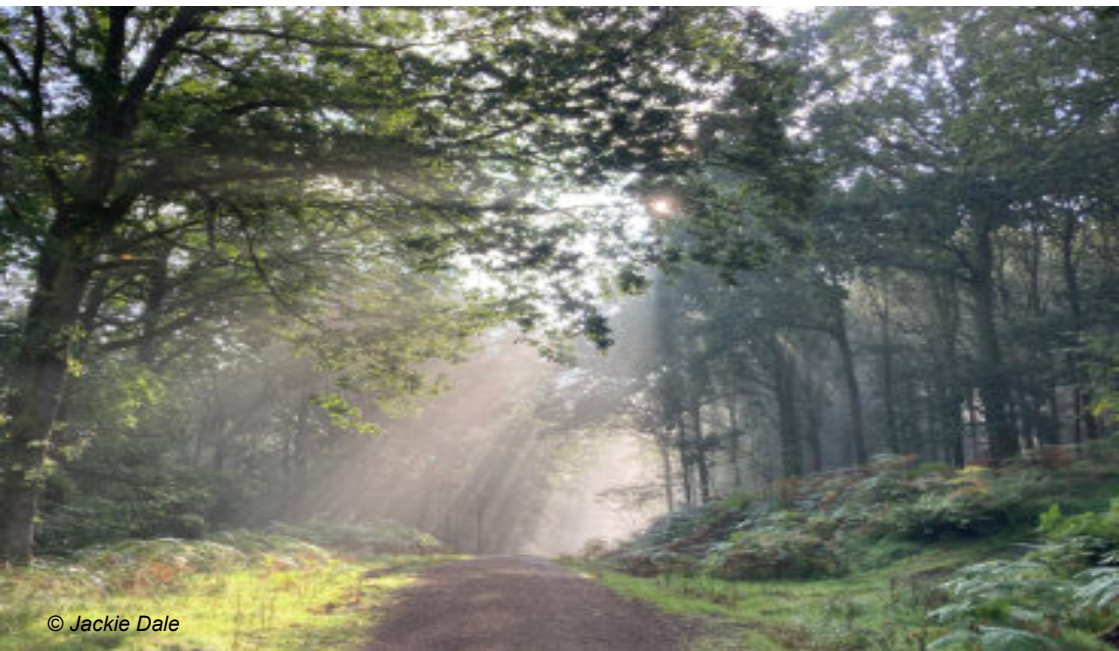
Green Party policy for the natural environment is built on three key principles:

- The Earth's resources are finite.
- People, nature and society are interdependent, and human wellbeing is interlinked with that of other living creatures.
- Securing biological and habitat diversity is necessary to ensure the survival of all life on Earth.

Regenerating Nature

Green Party policy for the regeneration of nature aims to ensure:

- The rights of nature to exist, persist, regenerate and evolve are protected
- Threatened and specialised habitats are protected
- The benefits of biological diversity are fairly shared with future generations
- The Global Commons, including the seas and climate, are protected
- UK Commitments to climate and biodiversity treaties are honoured
- Damage to nature caused through supply chains is avoided or mitigated.



© Jackie Dale

Biodiversity in the Forest of Dean



Tim Rickard

Biodiversity Emergency Declaration

In February 2020, a successful **Green Party** motion resulted in the Forest of Dean District Council declaring a Biodiversity Emergency. The Covid pandemic has hampered putting in place the declared actions, however we maintain pressure on the council to make progress.

Land Management

Through the Biodiversity Emergency Declaration and the work of individual Green councillors, the Forest of Dean District Council are now re-evaluating their land management policies. **The Forest of Dean Green Party** will push forward this work at District and County Council level.

We will promote wildlife friendly policies for town and parish councils, gardening groups and also try to change the 'tidiness' mindset to encourage residents to value wild plants. Reducing the use of pesticides is fundamental in this work.

We were pleased to help with a successful cross-party motion to phase out herbicide use on council-owned land and to encourage town and parish councils to do so too.

Push Biodiversity up the agenda

The Forest of Dean Green Party urges the Forest of Dean District Council to provide the same level of resources for tackling the threats to ecology in the District as is provided for addressing the Climate Emergency.

Local Plan

Green Party District Councillors will try to prevent wildlife sites from being allocated for development and also try to improve the core policies in respect of ecological protection.

The economic benefit to the region of tourism is over-valued. Studies have shown that our visitors tend to concentrate on active pursuits like walking and cycling and generally spend little money during their stay. Many holiday lettings do not pay council tax and therefore are a burden on the District, enjoying services for which they make no financial contribution.

The damage to ecology by tourism developments must be recognised. **The Forest of Dean Green Party** will therefore lobby for the special dispensation given to tourism development to be revoked in the core policies so that their status is no different to residential development.

Biodiversity in the Forest of Dean

Wildlife Mapping

The Forest of Dean Green Party is grateful to the local experts and organisations working hard to protect the district's ecology. Many are involved with mapping our wildlife present, particularly bats and reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and birds.

We will encourage residents to study and record the wildlife on their doorsteps. By learning about their local wildlife and being able to submit records to the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records, residents can ensure that wildlife must be taken account of in any future development. Even though development is difficult to stop, knowing what is there is the first step.

We support the aims of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership in creating a local Natural Capital Investment Trust:

- 1 Investment should stay in Gloucestershire except when used in partnership schemes with neighbouring counties
- 2 Investment should be targeted, based on the evidence of natural capital maps and the nature recovery network
- 3 Investment should be spent in alignment with the strategic objectives of the county to deliver multifunctional changes to land management
- 4 We will need to seek funding from sources beyond the county to meet the challenges we face.

Cinderford Northern Quarter

The Forest of Dean Green Party has always opposed development on this important wildlife site. The party will continue to promote land use that will recognise and be in harmony with the rich ecology of the site.

Reintroductions

We support the reintroduction of pine martens into forest areas to reduce the grey squirrel population. Large populations of grey squirrel cause severe damage to trees. If grey squirrel populations reduce significantly, it is hoped that it may one day be possible to reintroduce the red squirrel; a species able to avoid predation by pine martens, having evolved together.

We also support natural flood alleviation methods, including the reintroduction of beavers in enclosed target areas.



Chris McFarling, supporting pine marten reintroduction in the Forest of Dean

The Forest of Dean Biosphere



From Unesco Biosphere webpage

The Forest of Dean as a Biosphere Reserve

Partners across the region are developing proposals to ask for the designation of Biosphere Reserve status to be awarded to the Forest of Dean. Such designation recognises our unique cultural and natural heritage while promoting the revival of our local biodiversity and sustainable development.

This will enable us, for the first time ever, to leave a better natural legacy for our children than the one we inherited. In the UK, we already have existing biospheres in North Devon, the Brighton and Lewes Downs, the Isle of Man and the Isle of Wight.

This project builds on the work undertaken in 2019 for the Forest Economic Partnership by the Office for National Statistics which established that, even under the most prudent approach, a Forest Biosphere Reserve would yield a benefit-cost ratio of 3.89:1.

What are Biosphere Reserves?

Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

Nature Networks and Wildlife Corridors



Jackie Dale

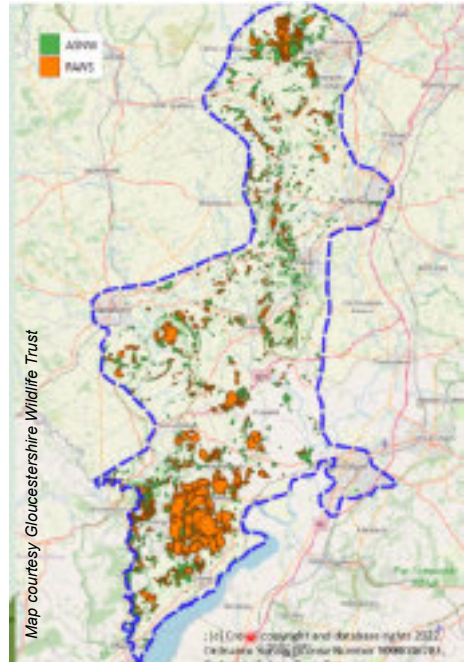
As our climate changes, our flora and fauna will need to adapt, just as we will. Forestry England predict that, even if we achieve the unlikely target of limiting global warming to 1.5C, the Forest will have a similar climate to Central Italy by the end of the century. Our Forest groves of sessile oak cannot survive these conditions.

The Forest of Dean Green Party supports the movement to build resilient nature networks which will allow species to migrate to safer environments. Our fragmented pockets of biodiverse woodland and meadows can only offer a temporary haven. Unless we provide nature networks of protected corridors, the flora and fauna of these isolated pockets will gradually die away, unable to move and sustain genetic diversity.

Trees, however, cannot move around and have a far longer life-span than most flora. All those involved with trees and woodland management have to plan for the long term and plant varieties now which will be viable some eighty years ahead.

Our region is at the heart of the **Severn Treescapes** project which will link the southern slopes of the Brecon Beacons with the Forest of Dean, up through the Golden Triangle of the Dean Ridges and Leadon Vale, through Herefordshire and north to the Wyre. This ambitious scheme, led by Forestry England and the Wildlife Trusts of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire will engage our councils, farmers and landowners in the maintenance and restoration of protected sites and the creation of additional habitat.

The Wye to Wyre Wildlife Corridor



A Green Local Government

It's time to transform local government. In this age of climate chaos, action to secure the future of people and the places they love, led by democratically elected local representatives, is needed more than ever.

Across the country, hardworking councillors and council workers strive to improve the lives of people and communities. They do this at a time of staggering and unprecedented cuts to local government budgets. Over £50 billion has been slashed from council budgets over the past decade because of central government decisions. Councils have been forced to close libraries, sell off public land, abandon meals on wheels for older people, close children's centres, stop repairing roads or no longer collect litter.



We will choose to devolve real power from central to local government, giving councils the tools needed to deliver public services. Properly resourced and led councils are in the unique position of being able to make real and effective change, bring people together and lead the services people need where they live. We will reverse spending cuts and restore local government budgets so local councils can afford to serve their communities.

We want local councils to lead the delivery of the **Green New Deal** and the transition to a resilient, zero carbon economy. We believe this is how to make life better today and create a future where local people and businesses can thrive.

Wards in the Forest of Dean

How County and District Councils Work

What your representative can do depends on the level of government at which they are working, whether in county, district, town or parish councils. Gloucestershire is administered by three levels of council: County, City/District/Borough, and Parish/Town.

The basic division of functions between county and districts is shown below. The Forest of Dean District Council is one of six district councils in Gloucestershire, the others being: Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Smaller parish councils have only limited resources and generally play only a minor role, while some larger parish councils have a role similar to that of a small district council. Parish councils receive funding by levying a 'precept' on the council tax paid by the residents of the parish.

Parish and Town Councils are responsible for some local issues, such as:

- 1 The provision and upkeep of certain local facilities such as allotments, bus shelters, parks, playgrounds, public seats, public toilets, public clocks, street lights, village or town halls, and various leisure and recreation facilities.
- 2 Maintenance of footpaths, cemeteries and village greens.
- 3 Since 1997 parish councils have had new powers to provide community transport (such as a minibus), crime prevention measures (such as CCTV) and to contribute money towards traffic calming schemes.

- 4 Parish councils are supposed to act as a channel of local opinion to larger local government bodies and have the right to be consulted on any planning decisions affecting the parish.
- 5 Giving grants to local voluntary organisations, and sponsoring public events.

Districts

Allotments
Animal Welfare
Cemeteries and crematoria
Environmental health
Housing
Licence duty
Local plans
Markets and fairs
Rate collection
Refuse collection

Counties and Districts

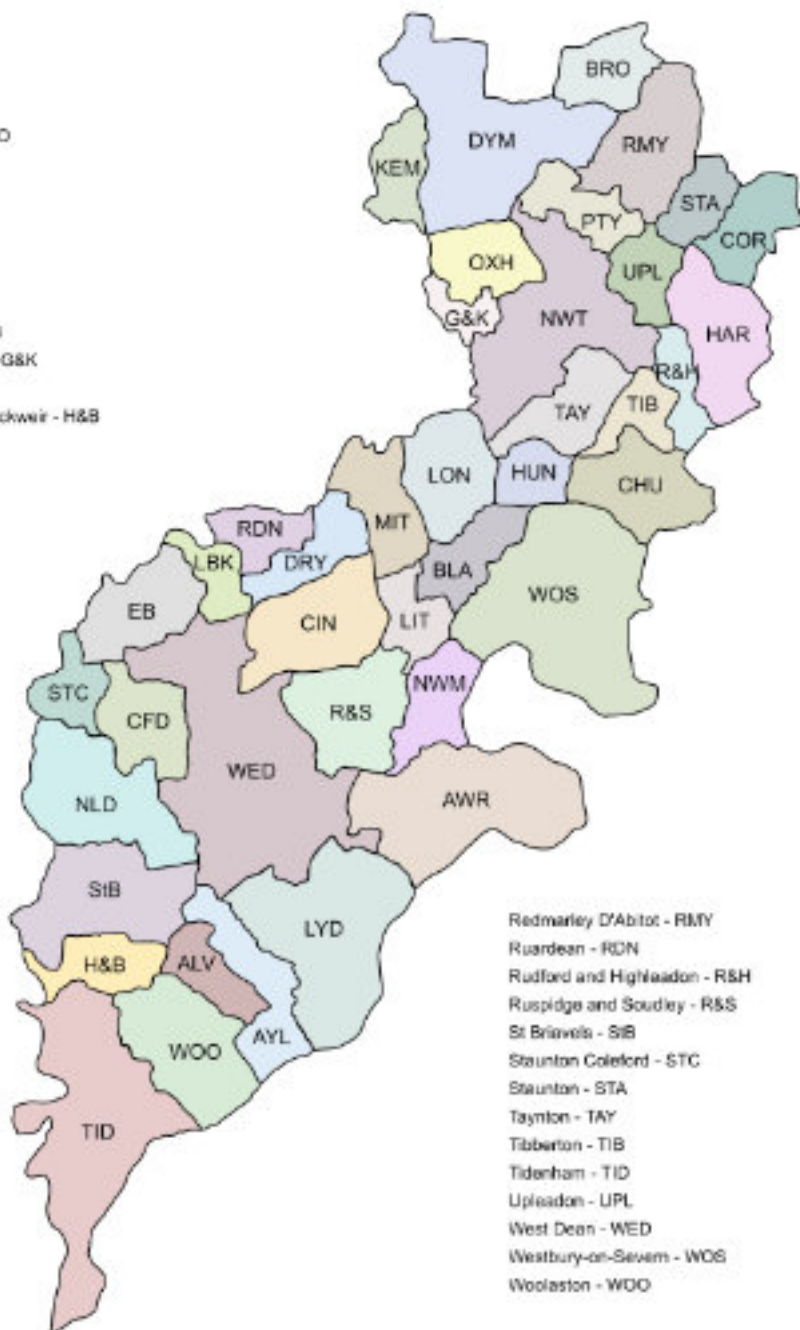
Arts and recreation
Footpaths (create, protect)
Museums and galleries
Planning
Police
Public transport
Tourism
Traffic and highways

Counties

Consumer protection
Education
Fire & emergency management service
Footpaths (maintain, signs)
Libraries
Livestock welfare
National parks
Smallholdings
Social services
Structure plans
Transport planning

Parishes in the Forest of Dean

Abington - ALV
 Awe - AWR
 Aylburton - AYL
 Blaisdon - BLA
 Bromesberrow - BRO
 Churcham - CHU
 Cinderford - CIN
 Coleford - CFD
 Corse - COR
 Drybrook - DRY
 Dymock - DYM
 English Bicknor - EB
 Gonsley and Kicot - G&K
 Hartpury - HAR
 Hewelsfield and Brockweir - H&B
 Huntley - HUN
 Kempley - KEM
 Littledean - LIT
 Longhope - LON
 Lydbrook - LBK
 Lydney - LYD
 Mitcheldean - MIT
 Newent - NWT
 Newland - NLD
 Neenham - NWM
 Oxenhall - OXH
 Pauntley - PTY



Join the Green Party

Join the Green Party and change the world for the better

As a member, you can be as active as you like - from armchair and online support, to standing as a candidate for election. Students can **join the Green Party** for just £6 per year.

You can find more information on joining the Green Party here:

<https://join.greenparty.org.uk/>

Ethical Partnerships

Visit the Green Party's Ethical Partnerships page to see how you can help generate vital funds for the Green Party, at no cost to you. There are some additional benefits for members:

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/donate/ethical-partnerships/>

Leave A Gift In Your Will

Leaving a gift to the Green Party in your will is one of the most powerful ways you can support our work. We are enormously grateful for every gift we receive:

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/donate/legacy.html>

Volunteer

Even if you don't want to make the commitment of joining us, we always welcome supporters and volunteers. Volunteers can help with our campaigning work. Could you help deliver leaflets to your street, or go out with our campaign team and speak to local residents about their concerns? Do you have fundraising experience?

Whatever your level of experience and however much or little time you can give, we would love to hear from you. Helping in your local community by delivering a few leaflets or chatting with voters on the doorstep will make a real difference to getting more Greens elected.

You can apply to be a volunteer here:

<https://campaigns.greenparty.org.uk/get-involved/>

Subscribe to Updates

If you'd like regular news and campaign updates from our local Green Party please complete the details below. We promise to keep your details safe and not share your information with anyone else. You'll receive a confirmation email shortly afterwards to activate your subscription:

<https://www.forestofdeangreenparty.org.uk/>

Get the latest updates from the Green Party

We'll email you about campaigns, events, and opportunities to get involved. Find out more about how we use your information:

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/privacy.html>



Our Members Make Green Party Policy



Our Members

Our members shape our policy. **The Green Party** aims to create a just, equitable and sustainable society. We focus our efforts primarily, though not exclusively, through the electoral system.

The Green Party is a democratic organisation in which our members decide our policy, opening up politics to those outside the Westminster Establishment. Our members come from all walks of life; most of them are not professional politicians, but each of them can have a voice in how our policies are written, updated and amended. Thus, uniquely for any Westminster Party, you can have a direct influence on policy by becoming a member.

Our policy process produces an organic and evolving document (known as Policies for a Sustainable Society or PSS) that reflects current priorities and principles.

Our PSS changes twice a year as a result of our democratic process – the Spring and Autumn conferences of the Green Party are the supreme policy making body.

For each General and European election we produce a manifesto based on our PSS which sets out our immediate priorities and policy goals that Green representatives would pursue for the term of that Parliament.

Our Councillors

Green councillors and members most value our health, the people we love and our communities.

Green councillors now serve the Forest at all levels with two County Councillors, seven District Councillors and fourteen Parish and Town Councillors.

Our vision for a Green Recovery is about putting people and the planet at the heart of decision making—building a future that is Green and equal.

The Green Recovery will address the climate and ecological emergency with bold, decisive action from government, business and communities. With that will come more security and more choice in our day to day lives.

Vote Green!