

An urgent message to members of Wolverhampton Green Party

I have been a member of the Green Party since before it was the Green Party. I was in the Conservation Society, then the Ecology Party, then the People's Party, before we renamed ourselves the Green Party (GP). Until Covid I stood in almost every local election and twice in General Elections. The high spot of my GP career was to run the campaigns which resulted in Bristol's first two GP Councillors. The GP is now the largest on Bristol City Council. The GP prospective parliamentary candidate in Bristol is a member of the same religious group – the Quakers – as am I. (It has been said that while the CofE is the Tory Party at prayer, the Quakers are the GP at prayer!)

All of you, members of Wolverhampton Green Party (WGP), are entitled to attend WGP's monthly meetings where local policy is decided. For family reasons I cannot get to them. All members should attend especially when we elect our officers, or when an important issue is to be decided. Now is such a time!

We have pitifully few members willing to take action such as leafletting, canvassing or accepting officer roles. It is very good that several keen and hard-working members have joined us recently. They are currently busy on the local elections in May. Most of them are from the Labour Party – dis-satisfied by current LP policies. They bring with them organisation skills which we in the GP sadly lack. But they also bring attitudes that are foreign to the GP. In short – negative campaigning. For instance a proposed design for a leaflet or poster is a clear unambiguous attack on the Wolverhampton LP. This is not the GP way!. We do not engage in the insult-swapping tactics of the Tories and the Labour party, such as we see in Parliament. We state our convictions, our concerns and our policies, about sustainability, climate change, social justice and peace - about what needs to change. But we do not directly attack other parties or their politicians. (The exception might be the far right, fascists.) We recognise that the other main parties are fellow-democrats.

Similarly, some of these new members intend to express views about the Gaza situation which go beyond the policy of the national Green Party. This in my opinion is wrong and unnecessary.

The WGP is not to be used as a vehicle from which disgruntled LP members attack their former colleagues.

The Green approach is not simply due to a desire to be nice. It is a fact that where there are GP local councillors, they are highly respected by other parties. If and when we have a few councillors on Wolverhampton City Council they will need to make alliances to get Green policies adopted by the whole council. Lib Dem and Labour councillors will not give that support if we have savagely attacked them in the recent past.

I call on all responsible members of WGP to attend the next monthly meeting and make their views heard on this and other topics.

I need hardly add that this message is from me only – not approved by WGP as a whole.
(537 words)