

# BRENT GREEN NEWS

Spring 2008

## All Go For a Greener London

**"Green politics is about making our vision real for the sake of future generations and our planet."**

These words launched Dr Shahrar Ali's campaign to win the Brent and Harrow London Assembly seat for the Green Party.

Shahrar stands for:

- Defending the NHS against cuts
- More funding for public transport
- Opposition to Heathrow expansion
- More cash spent on cycle lanes and pedestrianisation
- Increased high visibility policing rather than investment in CCTV cameras

Siân Berry is the only woman contesting the Mayoral election. She says,

**"My pledge is to put cutting the cost of living and cutting carbon emissions at the heart of all my policies. My campaign will show that, done right, fighting climate change saves, not costs, money."**



*Brent Friends of the Earth and Brent Green Party members demonstrate against the third runway at Heathrow*



*Siân Berry, Green candidate for London Mayor and Shahrar Ali, Green London Assembly candidate for Brent and Harrow make the case for more police on the streets rather than increased CCTV.*

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### GREENS OPPOSE HEATHROW PLAN

Shahrar Ali was an invited speaker at a recent Friends of the Earth meeting on Heathrow expansion.

He said, "Greens are totally opposed to this ignorant expansion plan. If it is approved, the residents of Brent will suffer increased air and noise pollution. Moreover, expansion will hasten the impact of climate change".

Speeches are available on-line at [www.brentfoe.org.uk](http://www.brentfoe.org.uk)

# ONE WORLD. ONE CHANCE.

## Vote Green Party





# Why Vote Green?

CLARE HOMER

If ever there is a time to vote Green it is now. The 'Global Warming Aware Generation' has arrived - finally. You see if the planet is inhabitable then that's it - all the other problems the world has just pale into insignificance. The Green Party is obviously the party with the most foresight!

The Green party is the only one dedicated to conservation and therefore a Green vote is both an honest and ethical choice. However to me it's all about the practicality of it. I am impatient. It seems to me that generally all the leaders, scientists, academics and so on want to do is talk. The Green Party just wants to get on with implementing the many effective policies that we already know about and just get on with the business of doing.

A Green vote is never a wasted vote - it is one of the many simple ways which you can make a difference - now - today - not tomorrow - because for our children's children, tomorrow may never come.

However, it's not just about you and me. It breaks my heart to think of the terrible suffering we have subjected all of the non-human residents of the planet to and how this is only going to get worse. The welfare of the planet is a moral issue and one that can only really be tackled if every single one of us accepts that our actions have an impact on the world we inhabit and that we have a duty to ensure that being Green is at the very root of everything we do. It should be so embedded in the way we behave that we no longer think of it as a radical ideology reserved for the tree huggers of this world!

In fact I look forward to the day we do not actually need a Green Party because we will all naturally be Green People.

## Working with unions against climate change

Many unions are recognising that climate change, and parts of the wider ecological agenda associated with it, are things that they can no longer ignore. On the 9th of February the Campaign against Climate Change Trades Union Conference took place with about 300 union delegates present. Many at the conference, which was addressed by Green Party and mainstream union speakers, have praised it as a very successful event, possibly a historic one that could mean Green politics gaining a whole new dimension and source of strength.

Although I agree, I am a little more cautious, because two days before the conference I was invited to meet Mick Rix, transport spokesperson of the GMB, to discuss the unions' support for both the expansion of Heathrow airport and the building of new nuclear power stations. The meeting was in response to my call for the GMB to take a more far sighted stance by looking at the creation of the new jobs needed to build a low carbon economy rather than just seeking to defend employment in industries which cannot be compatible with this goal.

Although Mick Rix stuck to the union's case, the significant point is that the GMB saw fit to talk to a representative of the Green Party at all, and that throughout he repeatedly stated that he understood the importance of reducing CO2 emissions.

So I think for the Green Party and the wider Green movement, now is a time when there is a lot to be gained from starting to work more with unions and the labour movement, but as the above indicates neither side in this developing relationship is going to be a pushover. In my opinion the Green Party must emphasise its social agendas more to show the unions that it wants the social and economic restructuring necessary to deal with climate change, but will not tolerate the kind of brutally managed change that Margaret Thatcher inflicted on Britain in the 1980's.

PETER MURRY, SECRETARY, BRENT GREEN PARTY AND GREEN PARTY TRADE UNION GROUP



Outside Kilburn TOTAL

## TOTAL Oil Out of Burma!

Concerned citizens around the world have reached the conclusion that the only thing likely to bring the Burmese regime to act after the brutal crackdown on the democracy movement, aside from the threat of military intervention, is to cut off its economic lifelines: money which rarely finds its way to ordinary Burmese people, most of whom live in desperate poverty.

One Western company that has a lot to answer for is the French oil and gas giant TOTAL. Total operates a joint venture with Chevron-Exxon and the military junta to pipe natural gas through Burma to Thailand. The project supplies the Burmese regime with hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's democracy leader, still under house arrest after 12 years, has said that "TOTAL is the biggest supporter of the military regime". She calls upon them and all foreign companies not to do business with the junta.

London campaigners, including members of the Green Party, working closely with the Burma Campaign UK, have set up the TOTAL Out of Burma Campaign, and organised peaceful protests at Total's London headquarters and several of their petrol stations including Kilburn, Wembley, Willesden and Kensal Green.

For further details, please contact: [dviesnik@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dviesnik@yahoo.co.uk) or visit: [www.totaloutofburma.org](http://www.totaloutofburma.org)

DANIEL VIESNIK

## GREENS FOR HUMAN SCALE, NON-SELECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOLS

Any new schools built in Brent should be on a human scale where children and their families are well known to staff and the school can provide a safe and secure environment catering for the child's social and emotional needs, as well as the academic, according to the Brent Green Party's submission to Brent Council's consultation on School Places. Schools are often too big and impersonal and where they are already large they should be re-organised internally into a number of 'small schools' with their own teaching staff and classrooms, sharing facilities such as halls, gymnasiums, playing fields and libraries.

Any new school buildings should be planned on a zero-carbon sustainable basis, incorporating solar and wind-turbine power, water saving/re-cycling and green roofs.



*Green roof under construction at Park Lane Nursery, Wembley*

The submission says that schools should be locally based, enabling them to play a positive role in building community cohesion and reducing the need for air-polluting cross-borough travel. We stress our belief that schools should be non-selective, democratically controlled and accountable to the local community and are therefore opposed to the current Wembley City Academy proposal.

MARTIN FRANCIS

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

### YOU CAN VOTE...

If you are a citizen of the **UK, Ireland, a Commonwealth country or a British Overseas Territory** you can register to vote in **all** UK elections. **EU citizens** living in London can vote for your Local Council, GLA, London Mayor, and MEPs. *To register to vote or for more information contact Sean O'Sullivan of Brent Electoral Services. Tel: 020 8937 1372;*

*Email: [electoral.services@brent.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@brent.gov.uk)  
[www.brent.gov.uk/elections.nsf/](http://www.brent.gov.uk/elections.nsf/)*

### FEEDBACK

We welcome your views, opinions and campaign news. Send to: The editor at [mafran@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:mafran@globalnet.co.uk) or the postal address below.

### BRENT GREEN NEWS

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## ASDA DANGER



*The scene in Forty Lane, Wembley outside the ASDA goods entrance.*

Around 300 people are killed every year on London's roads alone. Greens are committed to making our roads safer and increasing cycling and walking provision across the borough. Recently, I have been campaigning on the problem presented by lorries literally encroaching upon our pedestrians.

In Wembley, ASDA delivery lorries have for months been flouting double yellow lines. These include no stopping along Forty Lane outside the entrance to their superstore loading bay.

Pedestrians with babies in prams or pensioners with walking sticks, are forced on to the main road because their drop kerb crossing on a slip road gets blocked by an ASDA lorry. This has been happening day or night on a regular basis.

We have made representations to Brent Council and the British Transport Police, and have alerted a representative of the GMB to the problem. I have spoken directly with a manager of the offending ASDA store. *(Ed: but at the time of going to press the problem continues)*

There is more moving metal on our roads than ever before and Brent Green Party does not wish to see another road death in the borough.

SHAHRAR ALI, GREEN ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE FOR BRENT AND HARROW



## IS NUCLEAR GREEN? Far from it...

Nuclear power is being touted as 'green' by the Labour government. After a consultation that was a mere fig leaf they announced a new generation of nuclear power plants, apparently to help reduce the UK's carbon emissions. What is the truth?

### DANGEROUS

Chernobyl, Windscale, Three Mile Island: these are well-known accidents, but less well known are hundreds of leaks from power plants like Sellafield and in transporting nuclear material. Many power plants are in coastal areas at risk from rising sea levels. Evidence is growing of a link between nuclear power plants and childhood leukemia. Nuclear plants are prime targets for terrorism, and nuclear material can easily fall into the wrong hands.

### WHITE ELEPHANT

The cost of nuclear is astonishing - it is the Millennium Dome of energy production. Far from the 1950s dream of 'electricity too cheap to meter', tens of billions of pounds of taxpayer money will be pumped into nuclear. Energy company executives will gain, not the general public. The costs of clean-up and storage of waste are unknown, but will be staggering. How storage can be guaranteed for thousands of years is a mystery that the government has ignored.

### NOT RENEWABLE

Uranium does not grow on trees. It is mined, shipped and processed. This is polluting and unsustainable—reserves of uranium ore will not last much beyond the middle of this century. Nuclear will shift us from a scramble for the last reserves of fossil fuels to a scramble for the last scraps of nuclear fuel.

### UNWANTED

Nuclear is unpopular in polls. In the face of this opposition, the government is driving through planning rules to ensure that communities will have little say in where new power plants are sited.

### RED HERRING

The shift that we need in energy production is massive - away from unsustainable, centralised, polluting and dangerous towards renewable, local and pollution-free. We can begin this revolution now - nuclear won't be ready for a decade.

### THE ALTERNATIVE

The Green Party is calling for immediate investment in the jobs, infrastructure and technology needed to transform our energy economy - solar, wind, wave, tidal and geothermal power are essential, alongside buildings being well-insulated and efficient. Brent can play its part - solar panels should be on every roof, wind turbines should not be a curiosity. Green politicians can make this a reality.

MATT HODGKINSON, LOCAL PARTY SUPPORT

## Why I joined the Green Party by Brian Orr, Chair

With parents who were convinced socialists and with an innate love of animals, it would seem that I was destined to eventually become a fairly typical member of the Green Party. My parents' insistence on the primacy of fairness in all of life's affairs – social justice in political terms - provided me with one fundamental of the Green Party's philosophy, while my fascination with nature led me to the other, which is that mankind's activities must be bounded by the limits set by nature and the environment –environmental sustainability.

A life-long study of wildlife led me eventually to the science of 'ecology' – the study of the interaction between animal species and with their environment. This field of science has acquired a fundamentally important political dimension because the insights provided by ecology – that everything is bounded and dependent on everything else – applies equally to the human animal.

I believe we are totally dependent in the long run on the environment and the biosphere to provide our 'environmental services' – the provision of our water, food, and even the very air we breathe through the activities of plants – as well as the absorption of our pollution. It is now becoming incontestable that we must modify our way of life and reduce our demands upon our planet very substantially in order to make quite sure that we do not destroy the very capability of our planet to continue to sustain life, as we know it.

Use this form to join the Green Party of England and Wales and Brent Green Party or visit [www.greenparty.org.uk/join](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/join)

I/we would like to pay the minimum annual rate:

Single  
 Waged £31  Low/unwaged £10.50  Student £5  
 Joint  
 Waged £41  Low/unwaged £14

Please add an annual donation of £

I/we wish to join The Green Party, accept the Party's aims and do not belong to any other political party.

Signatures(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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- If an error is made by The Green Party or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.