

# GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO FOR A NEW SOMERSET COUNCIL

- Real action on the climate and ecological emergencies:** Measurable pathways to Net Zero Carbon, Officer team with action budget, Net Zero Carbon Local Plan
- Connected nature recovery networks:** Areas prioritised for rewilding, connecting Hills with Levels and Moors, restorative agriculture for food security
- Clean energy revolution:** Planning and policy for community renewable energy, scale-able local connectivity, retrofit to reduce energy demand
- Somerset prosperity:** Focus on sustainable Somerset businesses, innovation hubs to build on agricultural and technological strengths, FE Colleges to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century green technologies
- Education for life:** Prioritise early years to grow life skills, bring local communities back into education, FE colleges to teach urgently needed Green skills
- Social care and integrated health:** Somerset care service to deliver wellbeing, abolish care charges for older people, care for carers
- Local communities:** Devolve real powers to towns and parishes including planning, Local Community Networks to set priorities for each area, bring communities into the decisions that define our future
- Somerset Creativity:** Somerset-wide arts and culture funding, creative hubs in FE colleges, community grants to catalyse local energies
- Housing for all:** Energy efficient social housing, Net Zero Carbon retrofit of council housing, Council Tax and planning used to prioritise affordable rentals for local workers
- Transitioning transport:** Re-route funding from roads to integrated improvements to rail and bus, prioritise local walkers and cyclists, accelerate the switch to electric vehicles through charge points and car clubs
- Ending waste:** Prioritise local circular economy to maximise waste reduction and reuse, increase recycling performance through community engagement and alternatives to plastics, end incineration of Somerset waste to reduce pollution
- Better governance:** Increase transparency for better financial scrutiny, implement the Committee for Standards in Public Life's recommendation on local government ethical standards

# IT'S THE GREEN PARTY FOR SOMERSET COUNCIL

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE **TWO VOTES**

**JON COUSINS**

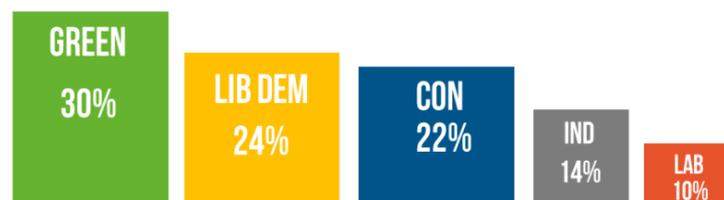


**MIKE SMYTH**



FOR COUNTY, IT'S **SO CLOSE** BETWEEN THE GREEN PARTY, LIB DEMS & CONS

2019 DISTRICT COUNCIL RESULTS - GLASTONBURY



Every vote will count so make your vote a winner for the **Green Party** to keep Glastonbury a special place!

# FOR ST MARY'S WARD, TOWN COUNCIL

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE **FOUR VOTES**

**LINDSAY MACDOUGALL**



**MIKE SMYTH**



Photo by Eugene Birchall

# VOTE TO KEEP GLASTONBURY GREEN COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY

If you want **Green** policies and action, vote **Green!** The LibDems and Independents don't offer an alternative to the Conservatives. They are the same failed policies re-badged and never delivered. If you don't vote **Green**, you will get Conservative.

The **Greens** will always be the strong voice for Glastonbury and the genuine **Green** voice in the room fighting for social justice and real action to tackle the climate emergency. We will continue to be advocates for our communities and support those in need, the disadvantaged and vulnerable – a voice for all.



# ABOUT

## CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY



**Jon Cousins:** A well-deserved reputation for being a hard-working, community minded councillor, Jon has represented St. Edmund's on the Town Council since 2011, been a District Councillor for St. John's since 2019, a member of the £23.6m Glastonbury Town Deal Board, and has served as Mayor of Glastonbury on three occasions.

"Our community has been through some tough times recently. Some things are improving, but – with the cost of living rising and growing environmental concerns – we're not out of the woods yet! Our amazing community has shown what we can do when we work together, and I'm committed to ensure councils continue to support local groups and organisations that have helped so many, such as the Support Network, Health Connections, our Youth Clubs, the Community Fridge, and Bridging the Gap Food Bank. This is Glastonbury at its best; this is the Glastonbury that I love – and, as a Town, District, and County Councillor, I will work tirelessly for Glastonbury to flourish!"

**Mike Smyth:** Mike has lived in Glastonbury since 1985 and his children went to school here. He has been a Town Councillor for the last 3 years and served on most committees. "I represent the Green Party because it endorses grassroots initiatives and empowers individuals, local groups and communities to do what is best for Glastonbury. We encourage healthy debate and collaboration to find fair and balanced solutions, embraced by an overall aspect of peace rather than conflict. Other political parties lack the courage to adopt radical solutions to the urgent social and environmental issues we face. We need to explore better ways of working together to tackle the things that really matter such as community resilience including new council housing, integrated and safe transport systems and supporting people in the face of rising energy and food bills post pandemic."

# ABOUT

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN, ST MARY'S



**Lindsay MacDougall:** I have served on the Town Council for 7 years and 3 years as a Mendip District Councillor, where I am on Planning and Licensing Boards, the Equalities Steering Group and the Scrutiny Board for the Town Deal.

I have lived in Glastonbury for 35 years, and was brought up in Street and Wells. If elected, I will bring my experience to help the **transition to a new Unitary** Somerset Council, and will continue to work to help our community address the **climate crisis**, including safer, less polluting public and private transport and **protection of our green spaces**. I strongly believe that our **housing crisis** may be improved with better regulation and intervention by government at all levels.



**Mike Smyth:** I have lived in Glastonbury since 1985 and have been a Town Councillor for 3 years. I run a gardening business, I am Membership Secretary of the Glastonbury Allotments Association and Footpaths Officer for the Town Council and Glastonbury Conservation Society, whose recent project was the Glastonbury Way footpath.

As a councillor I am keen to continue work on our **Neighbourhood Plan** to ensure that our allotments and green spaces are protected and valued; and to seek to provide **social housing** for local people. I will promote better **public transport links** and to ensure **safety of our cyclists and pedestrians** through more enforcement of speed limits and parking restrictions where appropriate. I will continue to listen and seek solutions for all residents of St Mary's ward and Glastonbury town.

## GREEN PARTY PRIORITIES FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

- We fully support the development of the Health & Wellbeing Hub in St Dunstan's House in the centre of Glastonbury to support people in their recovery as we come out of Covid lockdown and the associated economic downturn.
- We will look at retrofitting existing housing stock that can be used for social housing and explore this as a strategic aim.
- We will support the community to achieve resilience in the face of rising energy and food bills, including supporting our young people, growing food locally, reducing waste and encouraging repair and reuse.
- We will seek to make our roads safer and more friendly to cyclists and walkers, including re-establishing the Community Speedwatch to help enforce the new 20mph zone. We will provide an electric park & ride bus service to connect the new developments and projects at the Beckery with other tourist activities in and close to the town.
- We will revive the annual tourism seminar to bring all attractions together to help improve the Council's ongoing support for tourism
- We will continue to work with the Climate Emergency & Resilience Officer to promote and find better solutions to the Climate & Ecological Emergency and achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2030. This is a global emergency and must be addressed as such.
- We will complete the Neighbourhood Plan and prepare it for Referendum within our first year.

WORKING HARD TO KEEP GLASTONBURY A SPECIAL PLACE