

A Green Manifesto for Bradford District



Community Safety



ShIPLEY Green Party
April 2010





Community Safety

The issue

The Green Party believes that the causes of crime can only be tackled by creating partnerships and strengthening the local community. We will promote housing and planning that build stable communities. There are no quick-fixes and one size does not fit all. Increased CCTV or ASBOs, if used appropriately, can improve community safety in the short-term and in a limited locality, but they are no substitute for long-term community vitality.

Recent changes in law have made the police more accountable to the communities they serve and given communities a role in setting policing priorities. Greens welcome this. We also welcome the increased numbers of Police Community Support Officers and the new emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

In Bradford

Our green councillors have:

- ▶ supported the use of Ward Tasking Groups to bring together Neighbourhood Police, councillors, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, Youth Service, relevant Council officers and community groups to prioritise local action on crime and anti-social behaviour;
- ▶ supported and worked with groups doing preventive work such as Neighbourhood Watch, support for victims of domestic violence and racial harassment, out of school activities, community mediation and initiatives to address the misuse of alcohol and drugs;
- ▶ responded to residents' concerns about graffiti, fly-posting, abandoned vehicles, litter, fly-tipping and vandalism;
- ▶ lobbied for sensitive traffic calming and lower speed limits to protect our communities from the dangers of irresponsible driving;
- ▶ worked with a community to establish a 'Home Zone' - where the street design means people come before cars;
- ▶ opposed the proposed merger of West Yorkshire Police with neighbouring forces, suggested by central government;
- ▶ actively supported the appointment of more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and supported their good work in the community;
- ▶ worked to set up permanent youth facilities such as Multi-Activity Games Areas in our wards.





What would a Green Council do?

As well as continuing the strategies outlined above, a green council would:

- ▶ encourage self-policing in town centres by enabling more people to live there (over shops, for example) and creating lively, well-lit pedestrian areas - town centres should not be areas where people are scared to be out at night;
- ▶ encourage and expand Neighbourhood Watch schemes. These can often help to prevent crime and vandalism by identifying local problems and potential solutions;
- ▶ ensure that sufficient grant funding is available for Victim Support services, including victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults;
- ▶ improve the authority's work with local organisations offering conflict resolution, coalition-building and challenging prejudice to change divisive attitudes and create stronger communities;
- ▶ encourage an increase in numbers of neighbourhood-based constables and Police Community Support Officers on the streets;
- ▶ use planning powers to encourage well-balanced communities and to make the built environment safer for everybody – we particularly favour home zones;
- ▶ enforce traffic laws effectively, ensure that penalties (fines and bans) are high enough to be effective, and raise awareness of the consequences of reckless driving through education, training and high-profile campaigns;
- ▶ monitor response rate and times of police and other emergency services, and take action to improve these where needed.

