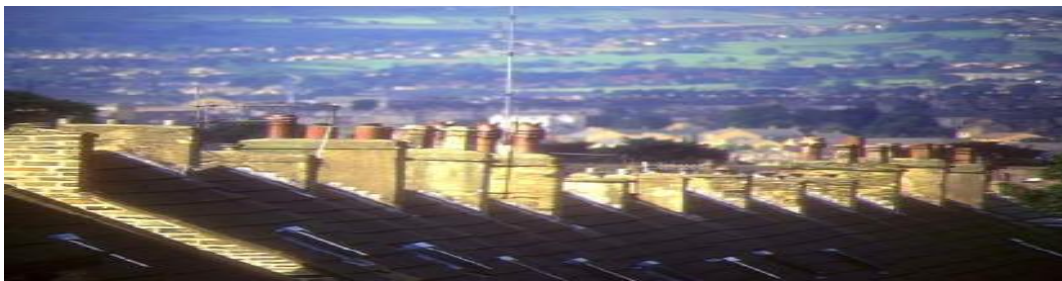


A Green Manifesto for Bradford District



Local Economy



ShIPLEY Green Party
April 2010





Local Economy

The issue

The Green Party wants a better quality of life for everyone and an economy that does not damage the local and global environment for future generations. Unregulated global competition, as promoted by the main political parties, is damaging our economy. We see this whenever jobs move to overseas countries where environmental regulations are weaker and multinationals exploit low-wage, non-unionised workforces. Employment in Britain is becoming dangerously dependent on fickle industries such as call centres and unaccountable monopolistic supermarkets like Asda-Walmart that force local shops to close.

In Bradford

Like other cities, Bradford's economic regeneration is too closely tied into globalisation with its dependence on unaccountable political decision-makers like the World Trade Organisation and its rising social, health and environmental costs. In response, your green councillors have:

- ▶ campaigned for more sustainable City Centre, Airedale and Manningham Masterplans;
- ▶ assessed so-called inward investment in terms of how much profit will be taken out by the investor and how much will reach and continue to circulate in the local community, rather than leaking into the pockets of corporate bosses;
- ▶ assessed new initiatives for their global impacts such as climate change, environmental degradation and use of scarce or non-renewable resources;
- ▶ encouraged fair trade. Our councillors have supported recent Fairtrade initiatives across the district and asked the Council to develop these further via motions to Full Council;
- ▶ introduced a motion to Council opposing further moves by the World Trade Organisation to impose a General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) that would privatise essential local services and reduce accountability;
- ▶ supported re-use and recycling through the budget process, persuading the Council to develop more doorstep collections, composting and bring sites;
- ▶ encouraged local sourcing of goods wherever practicable, through schemes such as local produce markets.



What would a Green Council do?

As well as continuing the strategies outlined above, a Green Council would:

- ▶ change the emphasis of the Council's regeneration policy – away from 'inward investment' (giving financial incentives to big companies to



relocate here - until it suits them to seek cheaper labour abroad) and towards sustainable local production for local needs;

- ▶ support and encourage mixed indigenous industries and businesses, especially those marketing locally produced goods;
- ▶ encourage professional support services, including affordable work space for the self employed and small businesses;
- ▶ oppose planning permission for large chain-stores or shopping malls which will result in the closure of local shops;
- ▶ oppose threats to public services such as the big-business led General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Private Finance Initiatives;
- ▶ promote job-rich local renewable energy production and conservation;
- ▶ promote re-use, repair and recycling businesses and social enterprises;
- ▶ promote and expand local producers' street markets, co-operatives, skills workshops, and directories of local businesses to give the public a real choice of where to shop;
- ▶ in doing all of the above, reduce unnecessary long-distance travel, for both goods and commuters.

