

GREEN VIEW

TONBRIDGE

Summer 2022



April Clark

Anna Cope

Paul Stepto

Mark Hood

WHERE IS ALL THE MONEY GOING?

Freighter waste service still missing; Bus routes under threat again

The cost of living crisis is plain for all to see – energy prices rose by more than 50% on 1 April, fuel is at an all-time high and food prices are rising at the fastest rate in more than a decade. **Families need all the help they can get** at the moment.

That is why being told to drive to the tip or to pay £58 for a “bulky waste collection” is not an acceptable alternative to the freighter collection service which has long been a part of our refuse collection service. This is particularly galling given that the Council has already agreed to pay an extra £92,100 to try and get the refuse collection service to something approaching what was contracted.

Cllr **Mark Hood** has repeatedly made requests to discuss this failing at the Street Scene and Environmental Services Advisory Board but has been blocked from even asking questions by a Conservative Council that sets the agenda without consultation and will then not address any matters not on the agenda!

To make matters worse, a number of bus routes are once again under threat, with prices rising everywhere. At the KCC budget setting meeting, the Green Party proposed that no funding cuts were made to the bus service, but were overruled by the Conservative Group. The Green Party continues to campaign for **cheaper and more extensive bus routes** across Tonbridge and the whole Borough.



Can you help?

Could you be a **Councillor**? Contact **April** on 07738 364 989

Litter picking: Contact **Mark** on 07968 644 404

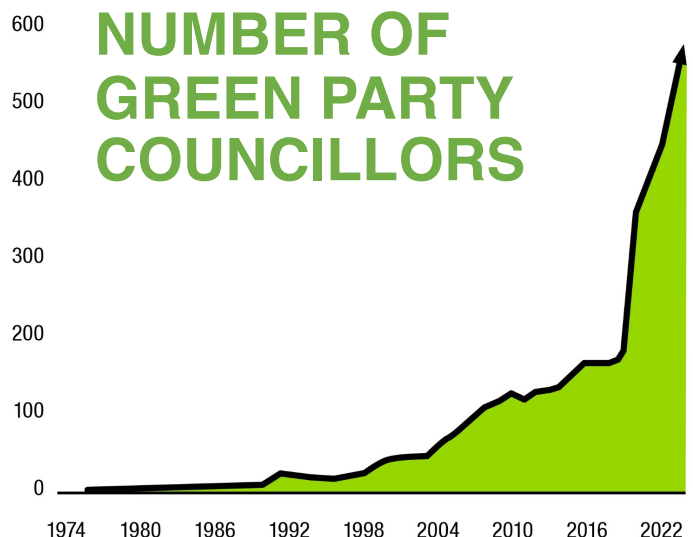
Newsletter delivery: Contact **Fran** on 07504 690 238

A GREEN WAVE!

Record number of Green councillors

There are no scheduled elections in Tonbridge this year, but May saw elections taking place across the country. There are now **more Green councillors** than there have ever been before and we now have over 550 councillors on 166 councils, including nearby in Maidstone, where Stuart Jeffrey became the first Green councillor elected to Maidstone Borough Council.

Tonbridge gets its chance in 2023 and we will **keep working hard** to hold the council to account and to make sure that your voices are heard in the Council chamber.



ONE YEAR ON!

Over the past year, your County Councillors, **Mark Hood** and **Paul Stepto** have been busy making a difference in Tonbridge. They have used their KCC Member Grants to support more than 20 local charities and community groups. Here's some examples of where they've helped:

- Training resources for domestic abuse charity, DAVSS;
- Renovating Slade School's playground;
- Resources for Tonbridge Dementia Friendly Café;
- Child-friendly barriers for St Stephen's church playgroup;
- Support for Tonbridge Calling;
- Helping Refugease and Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees;
- Tools for Haysden Country Park Volunteer Group.

If your local community group or charity wants support, please contact us (email and phone number below).



Above: Councillors Paul Stepto and Mark Hood volunteering at Tonbridge Calling

PLAN TREE

Kent County Council recognises the benefit of tree cover in urban areas, with trees proven to mitigate the effect of air pollution, while absorbing and storing CO2 – critical if Kent is to meet its climate targets.

In an effort to increase the number of trees in Tonbridge, the **Green Party** has teamed up with a number of organisations and has been out and about planting. We've supported Friends of the Earth with the cherry trees at the Racecourse sportsground and we also helped plant alongside Shakespeare Road in Judd Ward. If you know of any public areas that could host some new trees, please let us know!



EVIDENCE MATTERS

When she was elected in December 2021, **Councillor Anna Cope** promised to support sustainable development, but not development at any cost.

One of her first challenges was the proposal to build 14 flats on the site of one house on the corner of Yardley Park Road and Shipbourne Road.

Anna diligently reviewed the proposals and researched the property history. This uncovered a covenant preventing development into more than two dwellings on the proposed site. The planning application was "called in", meaning it was discussed and debated at a planning committee. Having heard the evidence, that committee resoundingly rejected the proposals.



Contact us We would love to hear from you if you have any issues, concerns or queries:

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Your Green Party Councillors in Tonbridge



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Making a difference in Tonbridge