GREENS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

POLLY GRAY ON BEING CONSERVATIVE ROTHER'S ONLY GREEN COUNCILLOR SINCE 2019 AND STANDING UP FOR NATURE



What motivated you to stand?
My experience as a social worker in child protection, with two young grandchildren. I felt deeply concerned about climate change for future generations. I had to do something. The only Green candidates were my husband John, me, or Teddy (our dog).

How did you win?
I attended the Green Party Campaign School in 2018 and followed their advice to the letter. I chose a ward close to my home, where Conservative councillors were inactive and unknown to residents.

What has been your greatest achievement?
In September 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and a goal of carbon net zero by 2030. Every Council decision since has been made through a Green lens. We changed the Council structure, releasing funds for new posts focused on promoting green practices across all aspects of Council work.

What has been the reward?
Immense learning, inspiring support from council colleagues, and great satisfaction in helping residents resolve day to day problems.

What is your advice for those standing for council?
Follow the Green Party campaign strategy, secure the support of your family, have the commitment, devote the time, and you will make the Green difference.



A big thank you to Cllr Polly Gray for chatting to us!

UPDATE FROM OUR ORGANISER

We want to say a MASSIVE thank you for your kind donations and monthly contributions. Without which we wouldn't have been able to hire Talia Ellis, our new(ish!) Campaign Organiser for the South East. Not only that but your generosity means we were able to hire another! [more details next time]

The addition of Campaign Organisers to our teams across the nation is a mark of how far we've come as a party and a reminder of the bright future we have ahead of us. We couldn't have done it without you!



TALIA ELLIS SE CAMPAIGN ORGANISER

Talia says "The Campaign Organiser role is very dynamic in that the kinds of things I work on are ever changing based on the regions needs. My role is a means to support my Field Organiser with areas of the region that need more support, have a lot of seats to defend or significant potential next election.

My role reflects the needs of the local teams that I work with. My day to day can therefore consist of designing & delivering training, fundraising, event planning, literature support, capacity building, candidate recruitment, election preparation and much more!"

ELECTIONS UNIVERSITY

The South East team have been hard at work this month running our special elections university. The five-part course gives you all the basics you need to run a great election campaign. Don't worry if you missed it though - you can find all the recordings and resources here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rzqI46AXOfU49hQ55HN1rLPFRbltplbq?usp=sharing

REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Regional Council (GPRC) provides a forum for dialogue between regions, is responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party and for supporting and advising the Green Party Executive (GPEX), particularly on matters of political strategy.

Martha James is the South East GPRC representative and co-chair. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Andrew Bradbury (former GPRC SE rep) for his hard work and dedication in the role.

As Andrew has stepped down there is now a vacancy for one GPRC SE representative. Details on the process will be published soon.



Martha continues to work hard representing the matters that South East members have raised. Recently GPRC adopted a process for accepting documents into the framework for ethics and have agreed to include documents relating to antisemitism and islamophobia

We have contacted all liberation groups and asked them if they want to contribute documents. If you want to find out more about the framework for ethics you can find it at: https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/68

If you want to find out more about the GPRC vacancy or anything that relates to Green Party Regional Council, please contact your South East representative Martha James on: **gprc@southeast.greenparty.org.uk**

The South East region also has a vacancy for a representative on the Disciplinary Committee, again more details will be provided soon but in the meantime if you would like to find out more please contact South East Field Organiser Alice Spendley on: **alice.spendley@greenparty.org.uk**