



**FOR A *GREENER*  
*FAIRER* COUNCIL**

## **SHETLAND GREENS MANIFESTO 2022**

**For a Greener, Fairer Council. Delivering for our communities.**





## **YOUR SHETLAND GREEN TEAM**

### **ALEX ARMITAGE**

Alex has Shetland roots but was born and brought up in central London. He moved to Bigton with his family in 2020. He has a long history of campaigning on social and environmental issues, from drugs policy to climate change and has stood twice as a political candidate for the Green Party in London. He is a consultant paediatrician and worked in London, Portsmouth, Southampton and South Africa before moving to Shetland. If elected, he will work to create a fairer, more sustainable society that will withstand the threats that climate change poses to future generations.

### **DEBRA NICOLSON**

Debra has lived in Shetland for nearly 30 years, raising a family in Aith while working as an administration assistant with the Shetland Islands Council. She is an active member of the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council and is a member of a few community groups including Westside Players and Westside Writers. She is currently writing for the West Ovre column in the Shetland Times. One of her priorities if elected is to see more local involvement in projects that affect the community.

### **MARTIN RANDALL**

Martin moved to Shetland in 2018 having been an active member of Liverpool Green Party for a number of years. He is a retired Episcopal minister but with time to contribute to several local groups and organisations, including as a Community Councillor. He believes that Shetland deserves Shetland-specific policies and ideas as we urgently tackle climate change and embrace a just transition to net zero.

## HOW WE WROTE OUR MANIFESTO

This manifesto has been written for Shetland by local members of the Scottish Green Party. As Greens, we are motivated by the desire to create a society which sustains our environment and which allows everyone to live life to their full potential. We've worked collaboratively with Shetlanders from all backgrounds to put this political philosophy specifically into a Shetland context.

This is an open-source manifesto which has been contributed to by over 60 Shetlanders. We are grateful to everyone who has given their ideas, energy and time to this project.

We believe that this manifesto provides a foundation from which we can build a better society in Shetland and we are proud to be presenting it to the Shetland public as part of our election campaign.



## PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Shetland's unique natural environment supports a stunning diversity of wildlife. Greens are committed to protecting habitats of all species with whom we share our home.

1. Create a Farming and Wildlife Advisor to support farmers, crofters and landowners to **protect wildlife** and **promote biodiversity**
2. Make use of Scottish Government grants to conserve and restore **peatlands**
3. Make use of Scottish Government nature restoration grants to increase the availability of land for **tree planting** and **rewilding**
4. All new major infrastructure proposals on peatland will be subject to **independent carbon payback** calculations
5. Work with the Scottish Government to update its peatland carbon calculator to take into account the latest research on the effects of new developments in peatland environments
6. Cease the use of toxic weedkillers such as **glyphosate** in public places
7. Revise **roadside verge** mowing schemes to encourage more **wildflowers**, bees and other **pollinators**



## ENDING FUEL POVERTY AND TRANSITIONING TO NET ZERO

Shetland has high rates of fuel poverty which is set to significantly increase with rising energy costs. Greens are committed to harnessing our local renewable energy resources which can provide cheap, green energy for local people, providing energy security for future generations

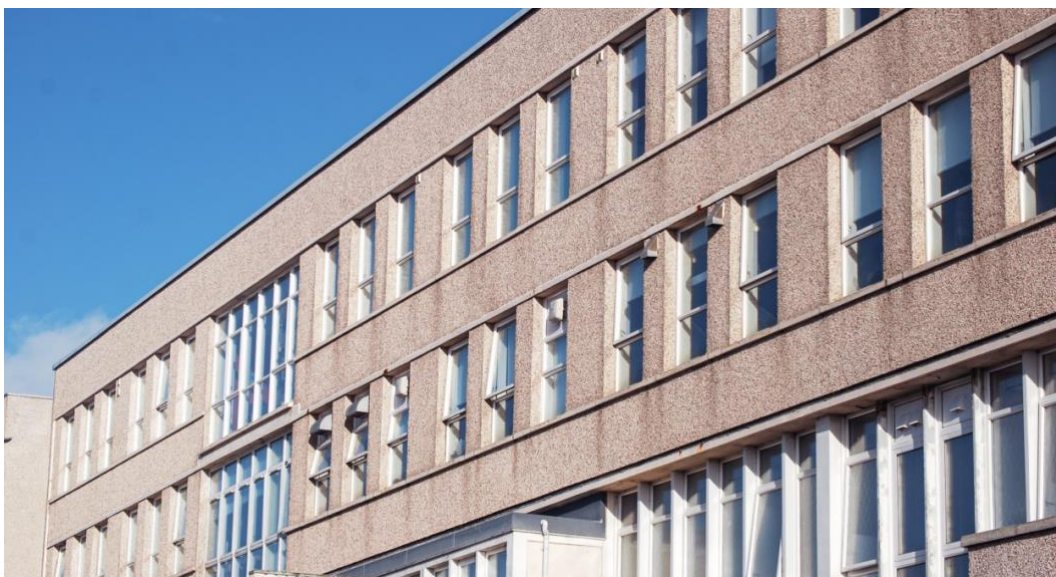
1. Expand Shetland's **home insulation** programme with priority for social housing and those that need assistance.
2. Work to improve the energy efficiency of all **public buildings** in Shetland
3. Develop joint work with SIC and Hjaltsland to install heat pumps across local authority and housing association accommodation to reduce fuel poverty
4. **New homes** to be constructed to high energy efficiency standards using the principles of the [Passivhaus](#) Trust
5. Implement a feasibility study into new **community owned onshore wind, solar** and **tidal** generation to power secondary smart energy grids. This will provide cheap renewable electricity, predominantly for heating and electric car charging
6. Establish a **Shetland Energy Action Advisory Group** to support households and communities to transition to net Zero.
7. Support the **rapid repurposing of the Sullom Voe Terminal**, pipelines and offshore platforms from production of fossil fuels to green hydrogen and its derivatives as part of a **Just Transition** for workers in the oil and gas industry
8. Oppose proposals to produce hydrogen from natural gas
9. Continue to **oppose new oil and gas** projects.



## KEEPING SHETLAND HEALTHY

Shetland's healthcare professionals are dedicated to providing an excellent standard of care to our remote and rural communities in often challenging circumstances. Greens are committed to improving our healthcare system and also taking action on public health, tackling the societal causes of physical and mental illness.

1. Ensure that access to health and social care is equitable for islands communities
2. Adopt a **trauma informed** approach to health and care services in Shetland, building a culture of awareness amongst staff.
3. Develop a network of **patient participation groups** to empower people's involvement in the development of their local health and social care services including mental and physical wellbeing to meet their needs where they live.
4. Continuation of **alcohol licenses** will be conditional on the ongoing appraisal of the impact they have on communities and public health.
5. Work with NHS Shetland, Scottish Government and Police Scotland towards the creation of a **Heroin Assisted Treatment** clinic.
6. Work with NHS Shetland, charities and local communities to explore the feasibility of a **residential rehabilitation unit** to support people with problematic drug and alcohol use through the recovery process.
7. Provide **outdoor exercise resources** for children and adults, where people can meet and get active.
8. Develop a personalised, **active recruitment system** for key NHS and Social Care staff.
9. Develop a plan for the **future of social care services** in Shetland of a National Care Service fit for Shetland.
10. Healthcare contributes to 5% of the CO<sub>2</sub> production in the UK. We will work with our local services to reduce the impact of healthcare on the environment



## **BUILDING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY**

Shetland imports the vast majority of the food we eat from south, despite the fact that we produce high quality food locally. We have become extremely vulnerable to rising food prices and insecure supply chains, which are further threatened by climate breakdown. Greens are committed to developing food security for Shetland that future generations can depend on

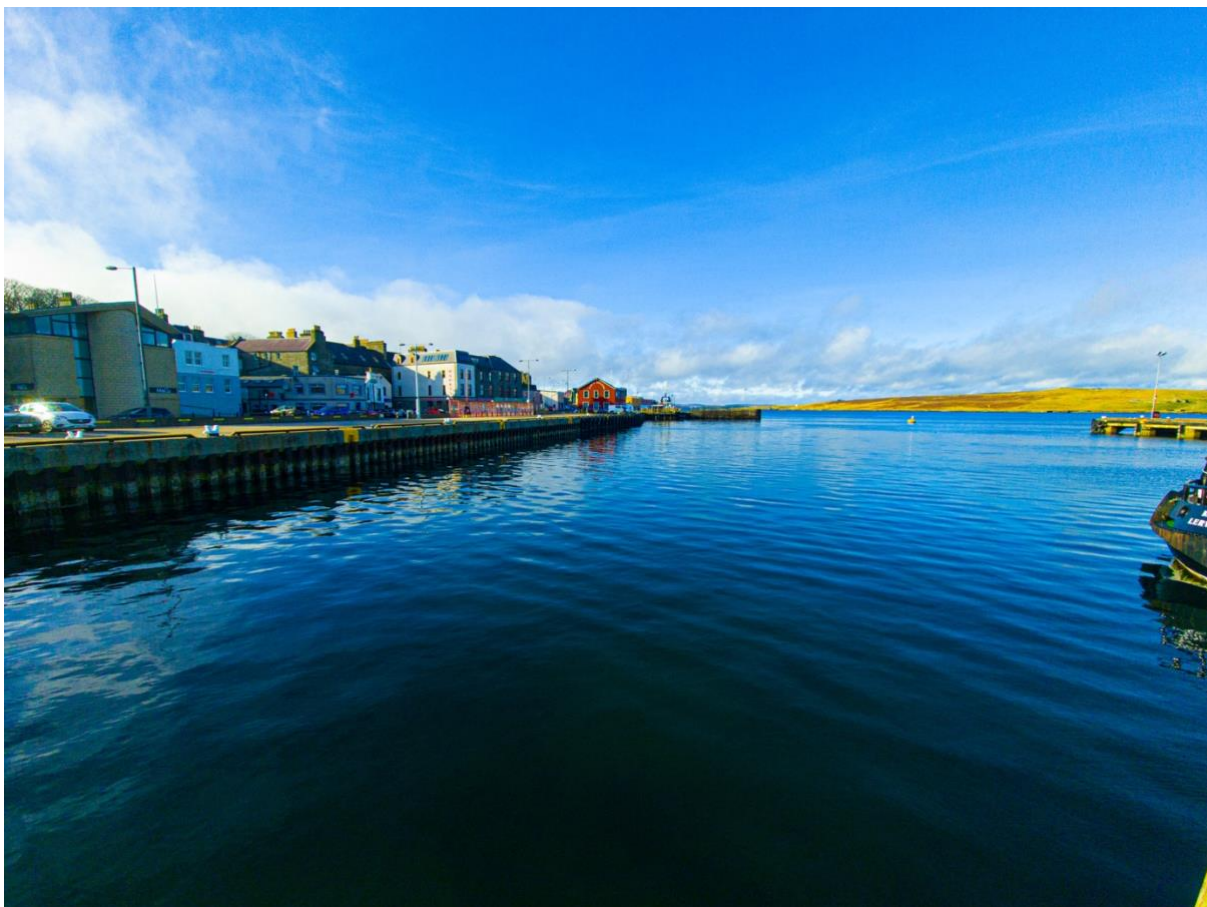
1. Fund initiatives to support Shetland's network of **local shops and producers** to increase consumption of local food, improve choice and affordability
2. Continue to support key aspects of our local food supply chain such as the **Shetland Dairy** and **Shetland Abattoir**
3. Make allotment spaces available with polycrubs and equipment, with revenue funding to enable local people to organise volunteers to pass on knowledge and skills, so people can benefit from **growing food** in the community
4. Invest in infrastructure for local landworkers to increase and **diversify food production** for Shetland
5. A Shetland **Seed Sovereignty officer** to work with local growers to develop a sustainable supply of local seed that is best suited for Shetland's climate, reducing dependence on large agricultural corporations and supporting local crop adaptation
6. Increase procurement of local food for **schools and public canteens**



## **A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

The oil and gas industry is in decline. Shetland must now grasp the opportunity to build our economy to sustain us in decades to come. Greens are committed to creating a diverse economy that sustains our environment and maximises our wellbeing, enabling us to live healthy, fulfilled lives.

1. Campaign to trial a **Universal Basic Income** in Shetland
2. Investigate opportunities to introduce a **4 day week** with no reduction in pay for workers in Shetland
3. **Invest at least 15% of our reserve and pension funds locally by 2027**, prioritising loans for food producers, community energy projects, sustainable tourism and other local businesses.
4. Campaign to overhaul planning guidance to **protect local business** from large corporations.
5. Accelerate the rollout of **fast broadband** internet connection
6. Build **new homes** which are affordable for young people on low incomes
7. Maximise the transition to net Zero by supporting local **green enterprise**.
8. **Divest** Shetland Islands Council's pension fund and reserve fund from arms manufacturers and fossil fuel companies.



## SUSTAINING FISHERIES AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

We recognise the unique role of fishing in the historic, cultural and economic life of Shetland. We wish to see the fishing industry develop in a way that is sustainable and which contributes positively to the marine environment.

1. Involve local fishers in all negotiations around the development of the **offshore wind** industry in Shetland waters
2. Campaign for **effective and impartial enforcement** of current regulations particularly in respect of unregistered landings, dangerous and intimidatory behaviour at sea and the discarding of fishing gear and other waste at sea.
3. Work with Shetland UHI to support research to produce more **high quality data** on local fish populations and issues to guide Marine Scotland and local fishing crews.
4. Campaign for the **replacement of the present, wasteful quota system** with best-practice regulations as demonstrated in Faroe and Norway
5. Campaign to end the commercial use of small hooks which target undersized fish



## A STAND-OUT DESTINATION FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Shetland is a fantastic place to visit. Our tourism industry is growing fast and has the opportunity to become a major part of our economy. Greens are committed to facilitating the continued growth in tourism and will work to ensure that this happens in a way that benefits the lives of Shetlanders in as many ways as possible

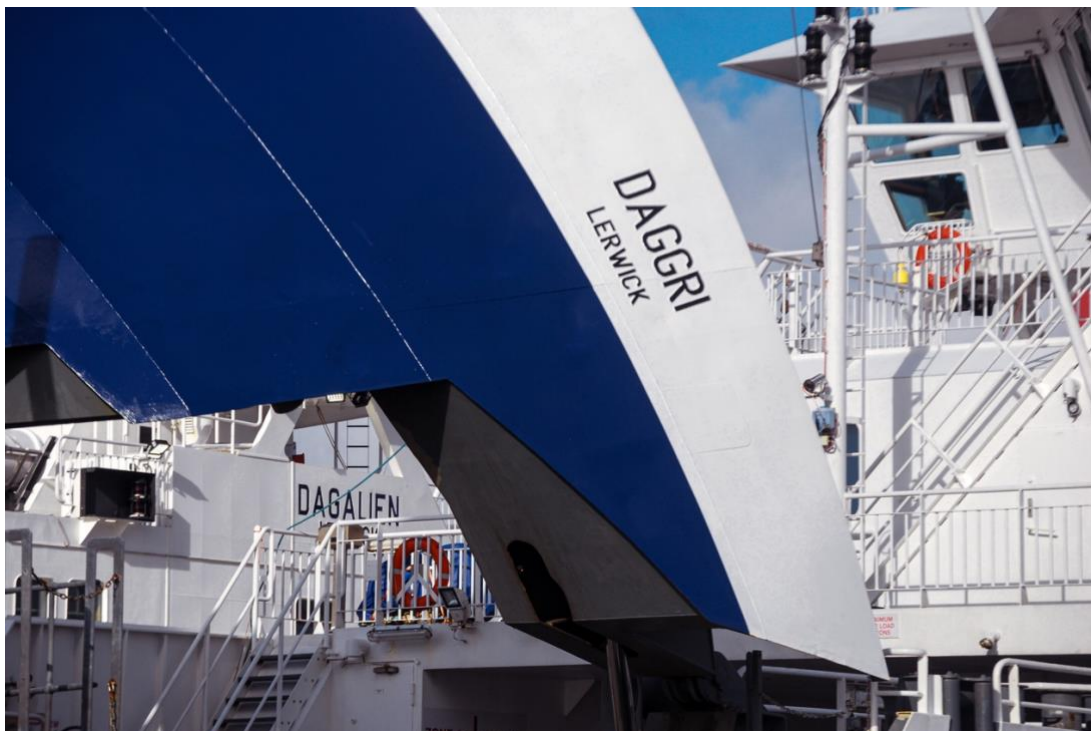
1. Invest in the growth of a **sustainable tourism economy** - creating interactive, immersive experiences for visitors encouraging growth in our non-cruise ship related tourism economy.
2. Create a New Zealand style network of **walking routes, böds and composting toilets** to facilitate the development of Shetland as a walking holiday destination
3. Create a "Shetland Way": a network of **safe walking and cycling routes** with signage and facilities to meet the needs of cyclists including those with e-bikes



## TRANSPORT FOR THE FUTURE

Shetland's population is dispersed across a large area, creating significant challenges for connectivity. Added to this is the challenge to reduce both costs and carbon emissions associated with transport in Shetland. Greens are committed to investing in infrastructure and new technology to make it easier to travel in Shetland without the need to use a car.

1. Create **fixed road links** to support island communities
2. Increase the frequency and flexibility of **bus services**, especially at weekends to reduce car dependency and forced car ownership
3. Increase infrastructure to improve pedestrian safety throughout Shetland
4. Work towards an upgrade to **electric buses and ferries**, with provision for carrying bicycles
5. A network of safe, segregated **cycle lanes** throughout Shetland to enable workers to commute by bike/e-bike and to boost the development of Shetland as a cycling holiday destination
6. Covered **bicycle storage and bike charging points at key locations such as bus stops and workplaces** to encourage more people to access the bus network
7. Develop an app based platform for safe, efficient **car-sharing**
8. Increase the provision of **rapid charge points** for electric vehicles in all areas of Shetland
9. Campaign for free bus travel for young people to be expanded to inter-island ferries



## INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Creating the right environment for children to grow up in is vital for the future of our society. Greens are committed to making sure that every child is valued as an individual. We will work with children's services to maximise the inclusion of children in our education system

1. Create high quality opportunities for low carbon industry **apprenticeships** for school leavers
2. Work to increase support and understanding of **neurodiversity** within education to ensure that neurodivergent young people are supported and included as much as possible and do not face punishment.
3. Ensure that children have increased opportunities for **physical activity** and movement in school.
4. Promote a health and social care **workforce sustainability fund** to support young Shetlanders through bursaries for completing health and social care training
5. Work with education to develop **multiagency support for personal, social and health education** in schools
6. Work with young people to produce a Shetland schools' **charter against discrimination** to help tackle all forms of discrimination in our society
7. Investigate the feasibility of a "**Folkehøgskole**" - a residential school for young people providing education on traditional Shetland crofting/textiles/music/boatbuilding/craft. This would be linked with the Norwegian system, allowing Norwegians to access the Shetland Folkehøgskole and vice versa



## **A FAIRER, SAFER SHETLAND**

People should be free to find fulfilment in any way they wish, with the exception of those activities that endanger other people or the environment. Greens are committed to creating a thriving society in which we all feel safe, secure and connected with our environment.

1. Continue to support and develop the role of local organisations to **support survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault**
2. Work with police to set up a multi agency **drug safety testing** laboratory and safe consumption facility to reduce danger for people who use drugs
3. Work with police and the local community to investigate the use of **cannabis and other drugs within the community**, to reduce stigma associated with drug use and have a balanced approach to policing, intervention and support
4. Work with local police and criminal justice services to divert vulnerable people who use drugs away from the criminal justice system and towards help and support
5. Prioritise and safeguard pedestrians, cyclists and children in local residential areas by introducing **20mph speed limits** and more pedestrian crossings
6. Support and encourage the use of **restorative justice** in Shetland



## SHETLAND FOR EVERYONE

Throughout history, Shetland has welcomed and been enriched by incomers from all over the world. Our culture of inclusivity extends to accepting all people, whatever their identity. Greens are committed to opposing discrimination of any kind and building a rich and inclusive society.

1. Welcome and support more **refugee families** into our community
2. Work positively, openly and collaboratively with Up Helly Aa committees, campaigners and the Shetland public to **address equalities issues within our fire festivals.**
3. Develop a new Autism Action Plan to promote public understanding of autism and **neurodiversity**, and provide support for neurodivergent and autistic people to thrive in our society
4. Campaign to increase representation and **diversity in the council chamber**
5. Campaign to change **councillor pay** so that anyone from any circumstance can represent their community as a councillor





## **DEEPENING OUR DEMOCRACY**

For a society to function well, it's vital that as citizens, we can contribute to how things are run. Greens believe that holding council elections every five years is not enough. We are committed to creating new ways for people to find their voice and have their say in our democracy.

1. Create opportunities for members of the public to **submit questions** to council leaders in full council meetings
2. Campaign for increased **autonomy for Shetland** in areas where this is appropriate and reasonable and reflects the reality of our distinct island culture.
3. Use **citizens assemblies** to make decisions that have a high impact on Shetland's future.
4. Create a standard of **kindness and fairness** in all communication, to counter the often toxic nature of online debate.
5. Green councillors will hold **ward surgeries** to listen and act upon to residents' concerns.
6. Green councillors will work transparently and **collaboratively** with other councillors and the Scottish Government for the benefit of Shetlanders and our environment.

## **WORKING FOR A GREENER FUTURE FOR SHETLAND**

**VOTE GREEN #1 TO WIN!**