



DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY GREENS
LOCAL MANIFESTO 2022





CONTENTS

Introduction	2
TRANSPORT	3
HEALTH & COMMUNITY	4
ENVIRONMENT	5-6
EDUCATION	7
YOUNG PEOPLE	8
ECONOMY	9



DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Scottish Greens Dumfries & Galloway

Design by DANIEL HOOPER-JONES

*Promoted by Peter Barlow on behalf of the Dumfries & Galloway
Branch of the Scottish Green Party, both c/o Scottish Green Party,
19b Graham Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5QN*

WANT GREEN? VOTE GREEN.

The wellbeing of our citizens is at the heart of a green recovery and that recovery starts in our communities. That's why these elections are so important. We now have Greens in national government delivering free bus travel for young people, record investment in active travel, nature recovery and recycling and the biggest teacher recruitment drive since 2007.

Now we need more Greens elected to councils to carry on this work in our communities but that will only happen if voters Think Global, Act Local and give the Scottish Greens their first preference vote.

- LAURA MOODIE, DEE & GLENKENS CANDIDATE

Stranraer & the Rhins (Ward 1)	Peter Barlow
Mid Galloway & Wigtown West (Ward 2)	Kenny Campbell
Dee & Glenkens (Ward 3)	Laura Moodie
Castle Douglas & Crocketford (Ward 4)	Liz Ashburn
North West Dumfries (Ward 6)	Ann Johnstone
Lochar (Ward 8)	Sandy Rogerson
Nith (Ward 9)	Anne McLauchlan
Annandale South (Ward 10)	Cameron Garrett
Annandale North (Ward 11)	Jennifer Norris
Annandale East & Eskdale (Ward 12)	Stephen Mattock

TRANSPORT

Our transport plans will address emissions, improve social inclusion, promote healthy living and support sustainable local employment and business.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- Fight to bring **BUSES BACK INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.**
- Support the creation of a bus user's forum to inform a **COMMUNITY-LED REWORK OF BUS TIMETABLES.**
- Review and **UPDATE THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGY** on cycling, wheeling and walking routes, especially in rural areas and to support safe routes to schools.
- Lobby for **IMPROVED RAIL LINKS** including electrification of existing routes, new stations and **RE-OPENING THE DUMFRIES-STRANRAER LINE AND A DUMFRIES-LOCKERBIE LINK.**

•Introduce a ring-fenced fund to **SUPPORT ROADS MAINTENANCE** and public and active travel improvements, funded by parking charges.

•Increase the number of seasonal aires - community-owned sites that provide **SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES.**

•Implement a **20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN BUILT UP AREAS,** to reduce air pollution and improve safety for vulnerable road users.

GREEN IMPACT: TRANSPORT

The Scottish Greens are the **ONLY** party that has consistently campaigned for improvements to bus and rail provision in Dumfries & Galloway.

Our local Haud The Bus campaign has seen routes saved, bus information updated and shelters cleaned and maintained.

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

Greens believe high-quality care is essential to thriving and resilient communities and more must be done to attract and retain staff, shorten waiting times and improve access to mental health services, especially for children and young people. Dumfries and Galloway has a wealth of natural assets that can foster better health and wellbeing and these need to be harnessed.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- Prioritise continued **LOCAL PROVISION AND SERVICES IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS** to reduce travel times and ensure local access.
- SUPPORT FAIR WORKING PRACTICES IN HEALTH AND CARE** by protecting working conditions, tackling zero-hours contracts, and ensuring payment for shift handovers and travel.
- Consider incentives and other schemes to **ATTRACT AND RETAIN STAFF** across health and social care.
- PROMOTE CONTINUITY OF CARE**, keeping carers and the people they support connected and tackling loneliness.
- Support **COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS** that boost mental wellbeing, foster active lives and share nutritious food to create healthy communities.
- Encourage the development of **RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD NETWORKS**, including community gardens, community kitchens and allotments.
- Take steps to **IMPROVE UNPAID CARERS' FINANCIAL SITUATION**; providing income maximisation advice and concessionary travel for those on income support, as well as expanding access to respite care and counselling.

- Learn from the **COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS** that arose during lockdown and seek to build new ones.

- **INVEST IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** and additional mental health provision for local NHS and social care staff to enable recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

GREEN IMPACT: COMMUNITY

In Glasgow, Green councillors won funding for local communities, including millions for new play parks, local green spaces, building repairs and food growing projects.

They also pushed for a 10% increase to allowances for foster and kinship carers.

ENVIRONMENT

Dumfries & Galloway Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2025. From ambitious retrofitting strategies for existing housing to community-supported agriculture and active travel innovations, CoP26 showcased what local policymakers can achieve but change here has been slow and the response to the climate emergency often disjointed.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- Support **RECYCLING FACILITIES AND LOCAL INITIATIVES** like the Furniture Project and Shax to enable items to be re-used and encourage community-run repair cafés and tool libraries.

- Provide **SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY**, especially in older homes and for those on pre-payment meters.

- **OPPOSE ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING MINING DEVELOPMENTS** that do not create local jobs and support communities.

- **REDUCE THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC** in Council buildings and procurement channels.

- Support **GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY ENERGY INITIATIVES** and use the planning system to build more sustainable communities.

- Review the management of council-owned land to **MAXIMISE HEALTHY HABITATS AND MINIMISE HERBICIDE USE.**

- Require new developments to include **BIODIVERSE AND HIGH-QUALITY GREEN SPACES,** including funding for maintenance.

- Welcome **NATIONAL PARK STATUS** which generates high quality jobs, affordable housing for local people and limits the impact of second homes and holiday lets on our communities.

- Work with landowners to encourage more **MIXED WOODLANDS** that deliver multiple benefits - flood prevention, nature conservation, public recreation and tourism.

- Support the **PROVISION OF LOCAL ABATTOIR FACILITIES,** including mobile abattoirs.

- Support **RESTORATION OF FORMER PEAT BOGS** damaged by conifer planting and extraction.

- **SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS** to make best use of the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) package, as well as the Local Nature Recovery scheme and Landscape Recovery scheme.

GREEN IMPACT: ENVIRONMENT

Our campaign to end peat extraction showed the power of Greens to affect change. Thanks to the hard work of our campaigners, two applications to extend peat extraction in Dumfries & Galloway were refused. This saved more than 5,000 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas Emissions - equivalent to taking over 1,000 cars off the road.

www.greens.scot/stop-peat-extraction

EDUCATION

Scottish Greens believe young people deserve an education that equips them with flexible skills and the confidence to contribute to society in a climate emergency.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- **ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO INNOVATE** and use the flexibility embedded in the curriculum for excellence.
- Ensure **EDUCATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE** is integrated into the curriculum, in line with the recommendations of Teach the Future UK.
- Promote more use of **OUTDOOR LEARNING**, particularly at secondary level.
- Enable schools to fully embrace **PLAY-BASED LEARNING** in early years and first level, using the philosophy of Upstart Scotland.
- Encourage provision of **PRACTICAL, VOCATIONAL AND CREATIVE LEARNING** which is afforded equal status to academic learning.
- Rebuild the **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUITION** service ahead of the forthcoming national entitlement to universal free tuition.
- Encourage local colleges and universities to **INCREASE PROVISION OF COURSES** relevant to the local economy.
- Support rural primary schools, **REDUCING THE CAP ON CLASS SIZES** for single-teacher schools to 19 or fewer, and **INCREASING TEACHER NUMBERS**.
- Provide timely and on-going **SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**.
- Ensure **COUNSELLING** is available to all students.
- Maximise COVID-19 safety in schools through implementing **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HEPA AIR FILTRATION** in classrooms, secured in Holyrood by the Scottish Greens.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People are not only the future but the present. Because of this, Scottish Greens in Dumfries and Galloway want to ensure young people's rights, service funding and ability to have their voice heard is protected and upheld.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- Ensure young people's **RIGHTS, VIEWS AND NEEDS** are at the heart of the Council's decisions, embedding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Council policy and decision-making.

- Fight for increased long-term funding for youth services, including a **BIGGER ROLE FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY YOUTH COUNCIL.**

- Increase Investment in **CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

- Promote the benefits of **D&G YOUTH WORK SERVICE** and community-run youth groups, especially in rural areas, and ensure improved provision across the region.

- Encourage and promote **MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS** within Dumfries and Galloway and create opportunities for those wishing to stay in or return to the region.

GREEN IMPACT: YOUNG PEOPLE

Laura Moodie, our candidate in Dee & Glenkens, has worked hard to improve the built environment for young people in her area. She oversaw the construction of a new community-owned skatepark and helped secure private and third sector funding for a new playpark in her village.

Cameron Garrett, our candidate for Annandale South, is 19 and one of Scotland's youngest candidates

ECONOMY

Scottish Greens believe in local economies that support people and the planet. We will champion community ownership and thriving social enterprises to create high-quality secure jobs and improve wages.

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR WILL:

- Work with communities to **SET-UP LOCAL HUBS** offering business space, offices and workshops with shared admin and IT facilities to help build a more 'circular' local economy.

- Build on the work of South of Scotland Community Housing and the Nith Valley Leaf Trust to **EXPAND PIONEERING LOCAL PROJECTS BUILDING AFFORDABLE RENTED HOMES**, targeted at supporting local families, built to PassivHaus Standard.

- **DIVEST THE COUNCIL'S PENSION FUNDS FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES** and encourage

other major local employers to follow suit, investing in the Green Economy instead.

- **SUPPORT THE TOURISM SECTOR** to build on the natural resources of Dumfries & Galloway to promote sustainable, nature-based tourism and low impact holidays.

- **SUPPORT THE GROWING CREATIVE SECTOR** in Dumfries and Galloway by funding local arts festivals, providing platforms for local artists and offering specialist business support and development opportunities.

GREEN IMPACT: ECONOMY

Green councillors in Glasgow have reversed cuts to Citizens Advice Centres and women's aid organisations and won £4m for anti-poverty work targeted at the families who need it most.

