



THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

**SCOTTISH GREENS LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2022
ANGUS COUNCIL - FORFAR**

Scottish Green Party



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THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

Many of the challenges we face are global, but we know that solutions can and must be delivered at a local level. Last summer, the Scottish Greens made history by becoming the first Greens to enter central government in UK history.

Action by the Scottish Greens has already led to free bus travel for young people, unprecedented action on single-use plastics and record investments in recycling, nature restoration and active travel.

Now, more than ever, we need to empower our councils to carry on this work for our communities. Green Councillors across Scotland have made a real difference already, opposing destructive developments, leading local authority action on the climate emergency and saving vital local assets like libraries and swimming pools.

This election is an opportunity for Scottish Green Councillors to play an even bigger role, entering councils that have never benefited from a Green voice before and leading change across Scotland.

Councils have a crucial role to play in addressing the local impact of the climate and economic crises. The pandemic has shown us that global events can have a very profound local impact, but it has also shown us the differences communities can make when we work together to tackle the big challenges we face. We must continue that spirit and cooperation to deal with the climate and economic crises.

Scottish Greens are committed to empowering local authorities to meet the needs of their communities. That is why our MSPs in the Scottish Parliament have secured new powers for councils, new money for active travel and recycling, and the biggest increase in funding for teacher recruitment in a generation.

By electing Green Councillors to Council Chambers across Scotland you can change how your council works. Electing a Green Councillor by giving them your first preference vote is the best way to make your council one that supports you and your community to create a better place in a better world.



SO WHO AM I?

As a Forfar resident of 15+ years I, and my family, have long been a part of the local community. My children attend the local schools and are heavily involved in local clubs such as Phoenix Gymnastics Club, Scouts, Beavers, Forfar Falcons Swimming club, Strathmore Cricket Club and Strathmore Rugby Club. I established and run Spotlights Community Youth Theatre, which offers local children an opportunity to learn about the theatre for a minimal cost. Although I was born in Dundee, I have made Forfar my home and would love nothing more than to bring a different perspective to the local council.



WORKING FOR FORFAR'S FUTURE

With the evidence of climate change all around us there has never been a more critical time for looking after the world we live in. Scottish Greens believe that change on a local level is as important as change on a global one. Local government is ideally placed to make small changes that can have a global impact

CORE GREEN VALUES

- ✓ Caring for and protecting the planet.
- ✓ Building a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future.
- ✓ Meeting basic human needs first.
- ✓ The protection of equal rights for all.
- ✓ Balancing rights and responsibilities.
- ✓ A commitment to quality of life
- ✓ A belief in cooperation, caring and nurturing.



WHAT CAN I BRING TO ANGUS COUNCIL?

Angus council has long been unrepresentative of minorities. As a disabled woman from a working-class background, who has dealt with discrimination, poverty and homelessness, I believe I am uniquely placed to represent parts of Forfar who are not usually represented.

SCHOOLS

Forfar has some excellent schools in the area but there are pressures on them in terms of space, resources and dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. I would listen to the needs of children, young people, parents and teachers to try and find the best way forward for all involved.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Children with additional needs have often felt forgotten during the pandemic and I would listen to them and their parents to help them access the support they need. This would include fighting for rural and smaller schools to be able to access ASN support when needed so children do not need to change schools in order to be able to participate in school life.

GREEN SPACES AND PARKS

Forfar has some excellent green spaces from the Forfar Loch to the Reid Park, and we are so lucky to live within walking distance of the countryside. I would work hard to preserve these green spaces and to improve the biodiversity of them, as well as looking to encourage appropriate use of them rather than vandalism. I would also campaign for Forfar to create a playpark such as those already built in other Angus towns such as Carnoustie and Arbroath, and as part of this I would look to consult with the children and parents that use the parks.

FAIR WORKING PRACTICES

I have a deep-set belief that fair working practices should apply across the board including for social care staff. Like other Green candidates, I support the calls for social care staff to be paid at least £15 an hour. I also believe that one of the few good things to come out of the pandemic is that it has shown that flexible working is a real possibility for many workplaces and I would encourage businesses to continue to offer flexible working and home working wherever possible to help improve work life balances and inclusion.

FARMING

As a market town, Forfar is surrounded by farms. I would look to build on the work already being done by some local farmers to embrace sustainable farming and increase biodiversity. I would support green initiatives by these farmers and I would strongly promote buying locally produced food wherever possible to support local business and reduce food mileage.

INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY

Angus council has been plagued by scandal in recent years. I would work to ensure that the council operates in a transparent and honest manner. I would regularly update residents on council decisions and give the reasons for those decisions. I would be honest and up front when there is something that I am unable to do or that is outside of my powers. I would work with community councils and similar community organisations to reach out to local residents who would not normally think to approach a councillor.



KEY POLICY POINTS

SCHOOL

- Ensuring adequate provision within Forfar schools.
- Protecting rural schools.
- An emphasis on learning over testing.
- Ensuring adequate provision for children and young people with additional support needs.
- Supporting pupils in the aftermath of Covid.
- Listening to the needs of pupils, parents and teaching staff.

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Supporting fair working practices including the living wage, flexible working and tackling zero-hour contracts.
- A recognition that social care staff should have better pay and conditions.
- Promote continuity of care, keeping carers and those cared for connected and tackling loneliness.
- Better support for unpaid carers.

CRISIS AND ANTI-POVERTY SERVICES

- Work to prevent homelessness through empowering tenants and improving temporary accommodation.
- Help people access the benefits they are entitled to.
- Focus on the prevention of violence and anti-social behaviour.

REDUCING AND MANAGING WASTE

- Supporting a zero-waste policy.
- Improving bin collection, recycling and composting services.
- Supporting local businesses to reduce waste and to improve recycling.
- Make recycling and composting more accessible for rural communities

LOCAL ECONOMY

- Supporting socially responsible businesses.
- Pushing the council to buy local whenever possible.

- Making ethical policies a requirement for council support.
- Pushing for fuel poverty to be an area of high priority.
- Supporting local community buy-outs and increase the availability of grants, loans and financial advice.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

- Protecting libraries as community hubs.
- Supporting festivals and community events.
- New park for Forfar.
- Improving existing parks and consulting with families about what they actually want.

TRANSPORT

- Improving bus services in and around Forfar.
- Improving walking and cycling opportunities.
- Repairing roads after hard winters.
- Supporting the roll out of low carbon busses.
- Developing a charging point network for electric cars.

HOUSING

- Support for people who rent.
- Support for homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Working to bring empty homes back into use.
- Supporting the building of sustainable social housing.
- Prioritising new housing that is affordable, low-carbon and built on brownfield sites.

STREETS AND GREEN SPACES

- Protecting parks and green spaces to be enjoyed by the public.
- Working with the police and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour and improve community connections.
- Supporting local food production and gardening initiatives.
- Placing conservation and biodiversity at the heart of how the council manages land.
- Investment in flood management.
- Working with farmers and landowners to promote sustainable farming and land management.

PLANNING FOR A GREEN FUTURE

- Ensuring transparency and accountability within Angus Council.
- Protecting wildlife areas and green spaces from development.

PROTECTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

- Fighting to keep power and important decisions locally accountable.
- Supporting more powers for community councils and other local community bodies to make decisions about public spending.
- Improving communication between the council and the community.
- Building upon technology to allow better participation for a diverse array of voices.

Only the Scottish Greens understand that the climate and nature emergencies need urgent action by governments, by businesses and in our communities. We have proved that we can provide leadership in Scotland to tackle poverty and the climate emergency. Giving the Scottish Greens your first preference vote will build our leadership in your local council too.

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