Green View

Porthill Ward edition

News and views from Julian Dean, Community Campaigner for Porthill, Frankwell & Kingsland





Julian Dean - your local campaigner

Keep fighting to protect A&E services in Shrewsbury

Our recent community survey highlighted that 97% of you said you were "very concerned" about the future of A&E in Shrewsbury. Whilst the combined strength of Shropshire GPs and *Shropshire Defend Our NHS* had pressured the Clinical Commissioning Group to vote **against plans for only one Shropshire A&E,** partly due to worries that longer travel times will lead to unnecessary deaths, those behind '*Future Fit*' have not given up. They have mounted a propaganda war with 'artists impressions' of a new single

A&E centre accompanying a major article in the Chronicle.

Future Fit originally claimed to be about better local services so people would rely less on A&E, but those extra services are nowhere to be seen. Campaigning has already succeeded in putting *Future Fit* on the back foot and pushed our MP to ask for a rethink. Julian says, "I support *Shropshire Defend Our NHS* and urge everyone concerned about this issue to link with them on social media or at

shropshiredefendournhs.org to back the campaign". Councillors need to know that it will never be forgotten or forgiven if they allow vital services, already under unacceptable pressure, to close.

Will our green spaces survive the cuts to council services?

Shropshire Council plans to slash spending on a huge range of services, including upkeep of green spaces, one of the things people most love about this area. They want town councils to take over these services, likely at a reduced level, and to foot the bill. **This plan would also mean huge increases in the tax we pay for town services**; the 'precept'.

However, the people who use and need these services, me and you, have yet again not been asked if we want these cuts. We should be asked if we are happy to pay more to receive less. Town and County Councillors have no mandate to cut services further whilst at the same time increasing local taxes. Julian says, "I believe that they should be leading a campaign against the cuts, but unfortunately Shrewsbury Town Council is planning to cooperate with these plans".



Julian visiting the Frankwell Community Garden

Other campaigns

Julian also supports the Keep the Pool in Town campaign and the newly-launched Shrewsbury Food Hub. Please go to www.quarrypool.co.uk or www.shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk to find out more.

EU Referendum

Porthill Greens invite you to an informal discussion "Is staying or leaving better for social justice and the environment?"

6.30pm on Thursday 16th June at the Woodfield Stores Annex, Woodfield Road, SY3 8HX.

Everyone is welcome.

Should we stay or should we go? The Green Party are convinced that the better option is to stay. We certainly don't think the European Union is perfect, but we do want to defend the environmental protection, workers' rights and freedom of movement for ordinary people that the EU represents.

A decision to leave will not give power back to 'the people', rather it will mean less protection for the environment and for working conditions. It will mean more power in the hand of people like Boris Johnson, who hid reports on dangerous pollution levels whilst London Mayor, but we do also think the EU needs to change. It needs to stop punishing poor countries like Greece with disastrous austerity policies, it needs to take decisive measures to help refugees fleeing war and it needs to move much more quickly to lower CO2 emissions. This is not easy, but it is nigh on impossible to imagine these things moving forward after Brexit.

Not convinced or want to know more? Porthill Greens are hosting an informal meeting at the Woodfield Stores Annex on 16th June starting at 6.30pm. It would be great to see you there.

<u>Contact us</u>

There are lots of ways you can get in touch with us:

@porthillgreens

facebook.com/ThePorthillGreen

Email - porthillgreens@gmail.com

Phone - 0845 223 5423

What do you want?

In the survey we distributed last month, I asked what you want from your local political representatives. You gave us a wealth of information, and these were your priorities (taken direct from the survey forms).



Julian couldn't agree more with these priorities, and will use them to campaign on your behalf.

Other events coming up

Green Drinks - this is an **inclusive** event not only for Green Party members, but just to meet likeminded people for a chat. Green Drinks take place on the second Tuesday of every month at the Old Post Office on Milk Street. **Next events are 14th June and 12th July starting at 7.30pm**.

Green Party Ceilidh - come and join in the fun and (optional!) dancing at our fundraising ceilidh at the Radbrook Community Centre on 25th June at 7.30pm with the famous Melomanics. More info on this and all our events at www.shrewsburynorthshropshire.greenparty.org .uk/events

Repair Café - another way of looking at the reuse part of reduce, reuse, recycle! Have you either got the skills to mend things or things you would like some help with fixing? Friendly people with all kinds of skills will be on hand at Participate Contemporary Artspace in the Riverside Shopping Centre on Saturday 18th June from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Keep an eye on the Facebook event page for more details www.facebook.com/Shropshiregreens/events

Julian Dean - working for the community of Porthill, Frankwell & Kingsland throughout the year