

# Salford Green Party Manifesto 2021

## 1 Parking and air pollution.

Residents of Salford want Salford Council to manage car parking so that residents can push their prams, shopping trolleys or bikes down the pavements without fear. Obstacles seem to appear from nowhere, such as vans parked across the pavement. Car-parking in multistory towers sometimes seems to help the non-residents rather than the residents of Salford. As a Councillor our Green candidates will act on each complaint about parking. Some areas have succeeded with low-traffic zones. However, St Stephens road was re-opened without consultation, after local people clearly expressed that they want to have a low traffic zone. We aim to reduce air pollution in part by discouraging car users from parking where they shouldn't. Standing traffic also can be reduced by sensible traffic planning. Greens support using smaller, lighter, and electric cars, which if based on Sustainable Energy can be a low-carbon solution. Even better is Cycle-To-Work and using busses.

Greens have worked on a Clean Air Campaign across Greater Manchester. As Mayor, Wendy Olsen aims to pressure the GMCA on emissions and air pollutants. She sees the Greater Manchester authority as serving Salford's needs, not the reverse! She worries that the Greater Manchester Mayor has been pressuring the Salford Mayor into conforming with spatial framework plans. These plans are in tatters anyway at the time of writing. The real situation is that Salford should put pressure on GMCA to get resources from them. This applies to traffic, social care, and bus services. As Mayor, Wendy Olsen has the leadership skills to keep a tight strategic focus.

## 2 Home regeneration not home-building.

Greens aim to create jobs while adding value to existing houses. Home regeneration means adding insulation, solar power, and better windows, with wall cladding.

We also want to keep improving Multioccupancy (HMO) houses. The scheme for landlords to register with the Council enables Salford Council to inspect and advise on improvements, so that Landlords will have to have regular gas checks and no damp walls.

We believe: Don't build on green belt land. But the other parties CLAIM to believe the same. They ACT differently. The Council is full of Councillors who were willing to build on green-belt land. We watch carefully and keep an eye on each proposed development. Overall our view is that we should also avoid having new industrial sites in Blackfriars and Trinity area. Instead we could convert the industrial site at Blackfriars/Silk Street into brownfield and thence to housing. This is a zoning matter and longterm we want a block of Greens+Independents to vote for zoning changes.

## 3 Employment, unpaid work, and wellbeing

Greens favour a 4-day week, working from home, cycling to work or to shop, and cycling/walking as exercise. We promote living near your job - a green idea now widely accepted.

What that means locally is: **More Staffing Less Concrete**. As Councillor we advise the Council staff on priorities: Better services for local people. Attend to your needs: Remove trash, stop the high levels of flytipping, improve removal of large items. There are a whole range of areas where we want to improve your well-being: increase funding of social-care organisations in the Chapel Street area; improve the joined-up planning of

the 'clinical commissioning group' for social care; and promote a trial of the Universal Basic Income. Overall we will always vote for improving your lifestyle. Creating jobs in Salford has to mean decent-waged, longterm jobs.

Greens like Wendy Olsen have been using bike and bus to get to work for long time. But it's not cheap. Schemes that subsidise bike use are worthwhile. Our local bike shop needs support for recycling bike parts, and it needs storage space. They do upgrades, rentals, and tune-ups but the bike users need a subsidy to pay for this work. Overall we want Salford Council to be responsive to new recycling needs. It should be ready to upgrade the recycling scheme, and keep educating people and business owners about



it.

#### **4 Green jobs**

There are local Green jobs in recycling. We could have many more local jobs in window-glazing, insulation, improving homes, solar power, and changing over from unsustainable energy to sustainable energy.

The Green Party can be trusted. Locally we have participated in the Mayoral election here in Salford both in 2016 and 2021. Many people in Blackfriars expressed support for us! We also came 2<sup>nd</sup> last year in 2019. We feel that the words used on green issues have been 'passed' but not adhered to, in Salford Council's policies!! This is hypocrisy. **See what they do, not what they say.**

For example the Council are still using bee-damaging pesticides on local parks. And air pollution is high. Traffic is too high at Barton Aerodrome. There, the Council are determined to create a new shopping/industry hub without proper road access. The Aerodrome should be closed to plane flights immediately. Drones can replace the Greater Manchester police helicopters, which are based there. The Port Salford area's physical growth should be stopped just as it is. More and better bus services are urgent down there and up toward Cadishead and Irlam.

Busses at Chapel Street need to have ticketing integrated with trains. There has been an obvious mistake in the road covering at Chapel Street near Bexley Square. It was cobbles, and now is being re-laid. It's very inconvenient to have a planning mistake like that.

#### **5 Development or Growth?**

Greens want development as human wellbeing, not everlasting increase in Consumer-Goods. Development means a donut system of recycling, with long-lasting appliances. Things should be re-used and not thrown away. We do not want more rapid-build shell buildings. We are ready to monitor the tip entrances if citizens are willing to challenge the throwaway habit. We are preparing to go beyond litter-picking to trash-reduction. We think it's both a campaign of education, and showing people new practices. For example, don't buy nylon clothing. Choose cloths that are natural fibres so they will biodegrade. Natalie Bennett showed us this lesson on her visit to speak at Old Pint Pot

in Silk Street, Salford. She is now sitting in the upper house of Parliament for the Green



Party.

#### **We also want 8 stories or less, not 14 or 42 stories!!**

Some 30-story towers are not nice to live in. Many offer 2<sup>nd</sup> homes for rich visitors to Manchester. Some are used for overnights in the 'air-bnb' type system. There are not family homes nor affordable homes in these immense tower blocks of apartments.

The buy-to-let market is a travesty because people want to own family homes. Subsidising landlords is not what the Green Party would do. We can be trusted to be consistent on this point.

Like other politicians, the wonderful MEP from the Green Party, Gina Dowding, represented the Northwest on the European Parliament. She also sits on the County council in the Lancaster area, protecting the county's parks, greenspace, walkways, and cycleways.

We want more park-like cycle routes in Greengate area leading to River Irwell! The old canal paths should be developed to handle bike routes.

#### **6 Recycling**

We aim to get local restaurants to use more local groceries handling local (REGIONAL) produce. The Council itself can re-examine its buying of food and inputs – make more

local and regional purchases. Eccles cakes, carrots, swedes, and local oats are regional products: the shop ‘Deli Lama’ grocery for example and the restaurants on Chapel Street use local English-produced foods.

We need good shopping experiences and more groceries in the East Chapel Street, Crescent, Blackfriars and Greengate area.

### **7 We Demote Airports And Promote Busses**

The local Labour policy has been to promote airports which are not sustainable including Barton Aerodrome. We can be trusted to oppose further shopping-development and limit all air flights at Eccles/Barton/Cadishead. A local tax on parking planes is a necessary addition to the ‘carbon tax’ system in Salford. Closing the aerodrome would make space available so that further green belt need not be used in that area.

### **8 No Mayoral Precept in your Council Tax.**

Council tax has risen too fast. The Mayoral Precept is a charge based on the Greater Manchester Mayor. He has created a funding scheme for diverse creative objectives like limiting homelessness, based on this growing part of the Council tax. We plan to abolish the role of Salford Mayor via a Referendum of the people. We then will propose to also save money by getting rid of the Mayoral Precept charge in the council tax. The spending in its headings should be scrutinized under the standard budgeting system, eg homelessness goes in social care and housing.