



# Whose Railways? Our Railways!

Green Party members in Beccles took part in a national day of action on 5 January to object to the latest round of rail fare increases and to demand that the railways are returned to public ownership.

The Green Party proposal, as outlined in Caroline Lucas' Railway Bill, is a pragmatic approach that would bring each franchise back into public ownership on its expiry at zero cost to the taxpayer.

The failed East Coast franchise was taken back into public ownership in November 2009 and has been run by a publicly owned company for 5 years. In this time

the tax payer has benefited financially and the service has improved. The franchise will revert to the private sector in March in what can only be described as an ideologically motivated decision. We believe that our model for the railways will cost the taxpayer less money and will deliver a better, more integrated service.

Graham Elliott, Green Party



*The Green Party  
at Beccles station*

Parliamentary Candidate for Waveney said:

*“The year on year increases in fares is unacceptable. The Green Party would bring the railways back into public ownership and reduce fares. A joined-up railway network should be an essential component of a truly integrated transport system working for the common good instead of for shareholders.”*

## Meet **Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw**

**Elfrede has been selected to stand for the Green Party in Beccles in the District Council election in May.**

Elfrede, who is 31, lives in the heart of Beccles with her husband and two children who attend Albert Pye School. She joined the Green Party because she is passionate about creating a better world but also passionate about our fantastic town! Over the last few months she has called on many houses in the town with Graham and Nicky Elliott and hopes to get round to everyone before too long!



*Elfrede*  
District Council  
Candidate

# Green Party demands a place in the Leaders' debate



## A huge 79% of the British public would like to see the Green Party included in the pre-election TV debates.

In 2014 the Greens' outvoted the LibDems in the European Parliament election and they are now regularly beating them in national opinion polls. And now Green Party membership has surged past both UKIP and the LibDems and this only increases the Greens claim to a place in the debates.

The Green Party is offering the only genuine alternative to the establishment parties and would also put a woman into debates that would otherwise have four men in grey suits.

Ofcom are conducting a review of the list of major political parties for the forthcoming elections. They currently suggest the Greens are not a major party and will therefore get only marginal broadcasting time in the run up to the election.

If you would like the Greens to be treated as a major party please respond to their consultation.

### Respond to the consultation online at:

[stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/major-parties-15/](http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/major-parties-15/)

### Or write to:-

Adam Baxter  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2A Southwark Bridge Rd  
London SE1 9HA

*The consultation closes on the 5th of February*

# Green Party to fight all seven seats in Suffolk

**For the first time ever the Green Party will fight all seven Parliamentary seats in Suffolk.**

Graham Elliott has again been selected to stand in Waveney and he has been joined by Barry Broom (Ipswich), Rhodri Griffiths (Central Suffolk & North Ipswich), Helen Geake (Bury St Edmunds), Robert Lindsay (South Suffolk), Niall Pettitt (West Suffolk) and Rachel Smith-Lyte (Suffolk Coastal).



The seven candidates

Green Party membership doubled during 2014 and has been rising even more dramatically during the first few weeks of 2015. This surge in membership has put The Green Party ahead of both the LibDems and UKIP and it is coupled with an even more impressive rise in the opinion polls, making the coming general election the most open ever.



## Beccles - A Fairtrade Town

### Ever wondered why this is on the Town signs?

Fairtrade Town status is awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation, to recognise communities where everyone's doing their bit for Fairtrade. From the Town Council to cafes, local shops to supermarkets, community groups to churches, everyone can do something. In a Fairtrade Town like Beccles, they do!

We are one of over 1000 Fairtrade Towns across the world.

### What makes goods Fairtrade?

- A fair price has been paid to the producer
- A little extra has been paid to invest in producers' communities, including schools and health projects
- Worker's rights and environmental standards have been met

Choose items with the Fairtrade mark when you are out shopping and know you are helping families in the developing world trade their way out of poverty. At the same time you are buying a quality product, be it chocolate, tea, coffee, cocoa, bananas or one of over four thousand other Fairtrade products now available.

### Want to find out more or join the Beccles Fairtrade Town Steering Group?

Email: [Wendon.mox3341@talktalk.net](mailto:Wendon.mox3341@talktalk.net)

Come to our next meeting at Hungate Hall on Wednesday April 15th at 7.30pm

# Beccles Railway Station Building

The station building at Beccles has been in a poor condition for a number of years but you may have noticed it is now being restored to its former glory.

Graham Elliott, Green Party Councillor for Beccles, has been working with the owners of the building for the last couple of years to try and provide some much needed facilities at the station.

Graham said:

*“Our plan is to create a welcoming gateway to Beccles that gives visitors a great first impression of the town. We want to provide some essential railway station facilities such as a café and waiting room, public toilets, a taxi hotline, cycle hire and tourist information. We also want to create a thriving hub of activity that, along with CCTV, will put an end to the vandalism that has plagued the railway station. The building will be taken on and managed by Beccles and District Regeneration Company.”*

Christine Pinsent, chair of Beccles Regeneration Company said:

## Would you like to help?

If you would like to have a poster for your window or to help your local Green Party in the run-up to the District Council and General Elections in May 2015, please contact us using the details below.



*From left to right:  
Graham Elliott, James Crisp,  
Jackie Crisp and Chris Scott (BDRC)*

*“We are very pleased to support the refurbishment of Beccles Station, working with Cllr. Graham Elliott and the Crisp family. This is a gateway to Beccles and its refurbishment will be very welcomed not only by visitors to Beccles, but the whole community. We are all looking forward to seeing it up and running in the next few months. It will showcase Beccles and enhance all that we already have in our town.”*

A planning application has recently been lodged for the change of use of the station

building and to create a new serving hatch from the café directly onto the platform and a new door to provide access to the proposed public toilets.

### What's On

#### BECCLES PUBLIC HALL & THEATRE

**Saturday 7 Feb - 8pm**  
**A Night at The Races**

**Saturday 14 Feb - 2.30pm**

**Disney FROZEN SING-ALONG**

**BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST**

**Saturday 14 Feb - 8pm**  
**Valentine's Soul Time!**

[www.becclespublichall.com](http://www.becclespublichall.com)

For further information on the Green Party please visit:- [www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk) or phone **01502 714661**, e-mail [waveney@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:waveney@greenparty.org.uk) or write to 2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB.



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