

NORTH DERBYSHIRE GREEN PARTY
MEMBERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
29TH SEPTEMBER 2025 @ 19.00
AT CHESTERFIELD LIBRARY
Notes and Action Points

PRESENT: Louis Hollingworth (Chair)

Steve Newby
Caolan McMahon
Gary Copeland
Caroline Copeland
Andy Welsh
Louis Welsh
Mark Jones
Simon Swift
Frank Adlington-Singer
David Kesteven
Kat Noble
Darren Yates
Vicky Noble (Notes)

The Chair opened the meeting by offering a warm welcome to our 7 new members as well as all other members. A round of introductions was held.

1. Chair's Report – Louis

Louis gave the Chair's report. They explained that this was the second AGM following the creation of the North Derbyshire Green Party. They also covered the focus of the target to win campaigns that we had help for the Derbyshire County Council elections held in May. They explained that this was the first time that we had stood a candidate in all 22 seats of our area as a contribution to the "full slate" target and then explained that the current focus was the distribution of leaflets to as many homes as possible in the area. The focus had previously been only on the two target to win wards of Hasland and Rother and Wingerworth and Shirland.

2. Finance Report – Darren

Darren reported that the current balance in the bank is £2508.49 as at the end of August. There was an opening balance £2143.46, with income of £3012.21 and expenditure of: bank charges of £65.40, leaflets of £1649.55, and other £932.73.

3. Election of Officers

Louis reported that 2 people had expressed an interest in an executive committee role but then not sent in a formal request to be considered.

- Elections Officer – Andy Welsh volunteered at the meeting and was unanimously elected.
- Membership Officer – not filled
- Communications Officer – Simon Swift who had been temporarily holding the position was unanimously elected to the position.

Caolan volunteered to help where he could which was noted and much appreciated.

4. Update from NE Derbyshire Councillor - Frank Adlington-Stringer

Frank gave an update on the activities he was working on as the NE Derbyshire Councillor, his experience in running for Deputy Leader of the Green Party where he came a very close 3rd, and now his tireless work advocating his party's policies as a district councillor have been recognised by colleagues with his new appointment as the national Green Party spokesperson for social security and welfare.

He explained the changes that will be coming in the reorganisation of the current 3 tiers of councils in our area and the impact this will have on local grass roots representation and focus on local issues and democracy. He said that he had discussed the "red lines" on this reorganisation with other councillors and that they would vote against any proposals that crossed these. Most councillors are very unhappy with these proposed changes.

It is recognised that his high profile in the party is good for us as a local party.

5. Future campaign strategy for the next year

Various activities were discussed and it was agreed that standing in some town centres to hand out leaflets and raise our visibility is a good idea and one to be progressed. Chesterfield, Bolsover and Staveley were suggested. Andy suggested a trestle table and banners as well as leaflets to hand out and this approach was supported by the meeting.

AP – Vicky to speak with Andy to discuss how we would implement this.

It was also agreed that we would still have a stand at the Chesterfield Pride event and attend the May Day march but not have a stall at this point.

6. Call for potential candidates

We are looking for candidates to stand in all 22 wards again and that most of these would be paper candidates but we do need to be prepared. This gives us as a party credibility and as we had not done this before the last Derbyshire County Council elections in May, an idea of where our target wards should be. Darren confirmed that the results from that election suggested that there are only 2 wards worth targeting and these are the ones we had previously targeted: Shirland and Wingerworth South, and Hasland and Rother which had over 20% of the votes. The other wards did not get more than 7%.

Vicky mentioned the possible DCC bi-elections and that a team led by Rachael Hatchett was looking to have candidates read. At the moment Frank and David K had agreed to stand and Andy Welsh also agreed to be a candidate.

7. Membership activism and activities – getting involved in our communities

The meeting noted that East Midlands Green Party have declared 5000 candidates and we now have 253 candidates and this is growing. It was agreed that we needed to continue to raise our visibility.

Caroline talked about people's views and how we might change them and what it was people expected from the Green Party in their area and how might we talk to them.

Darren said how Zak had given us a better national profile but we still need to be involved locally. The meeting discussed ways to get involved locally like litter picking.

Frank suggested getting family and friends to join and get involved.

Caolon mentioned Nigel Farage and asked how you would talk to people that had such fixed views so we could challenge the narrative of Reform. Andy said we needed to be able to open a dialogue with people to get them to discuss their views so we could challenge them. Frank said he had a lot of experience in this area that he could share.

Caroline suggested a workshop and it was agreed that we would have a discussion workshop on handling conversations at our next face to face meeting in November.

AP – Committee to arrange a discussion/conversation workshop for November meeting – Louis.

8. How do we encourage new members and volunteers to help campaigning?

See above discussions.

- Saturday 11th October 2025 – East Midlands Green Party Conference
- Sunday 12th October 2025 – car boot sale at Chesterfield FC grounds
- Monday 27th October @ 6.30 pm – members meeting via Zoom
- Saturday 15th November 2025 – Green party social event – pizza party at Figaro's Wingerworth – proposed 6.00 pm but start time to be confirmed
- Monday 24th November 2025 @ 7.00 pm – members meeting at Chesterfield Library

9. Delivery of leaflets – volunteers for distribution of general leaflets to go out Autumn 2025

It was agreed that the leaflets could be delivered with the Hope Not Hate Leaflets as these were not campaign leaflets.

It was recommended that people use a spatula to deliver the leaflets as it made it much easier and safer.

AP – people to message Vicky with the streets they had delivered to so we did not over lap and deliver twice. All

10. Car boot sale 12th October 2025

Any items would be gratefully received and any volunteers.

11. Any communication we want to share?

Notes and action points from the meeting.

12. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 27th October at 6.30 pm via Zoom.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45PM and people took away bundles of leaflets to deliver.