

L I V E R P O O L

CONTENTS

GREEN PARTY

INTRODUCTION	1
PEOPLE WHO WANT TO	2
CHANGE SOCIETY	3
WASTE	4
PEACE AND JUSTICE	5
ENERGY	6
TRANSPORT	7
THE HOUSING ISSUE	8
LAND USE	9
PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	10
WATER ISSUES	11
TO SUM UP	12

M A N I F E S T O

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
HOUSING	3
EDUCATION	5
LOCAL ECONOMY	7
SOCIAL WELFARE	11
LOCAL DEMOCRACY	13
HEALTH	15
RECREATION	17
LAW AND ORDER	19
POLLUTION	20
WOMEN'S ISSUES	22
RACISM	24
PEOPLE WITH A HANDICAP	26
ANIMAL RIGHTS	27
WASTE	29
PEACE AND SPIRIT	30
ENERGY	31
TRANSPORT	33
THE NUCLEAR ISSUE	34
LAND USE	35
PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	36
WIDER ISSUES	37
TO SUM UP	39

INTRODUCTION

In recent years more and more people both here and abroad have become increasingly anxious about the many problems which affect their everyday lives - threat of nuclear war, environmental pollution, third world poverty and hunger, destruction of rainforests... a list that could go on and on.

As a result various pressure groups have developed to highlight these problems: CND, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, Greenpeace etc. They have all campaigned to raise public awareness and influence governments according to their own particular cause however, whilst they have had some success there is little doubt that the situation generally has continued to get steadily worse.

Of course many of these issues affect people here in Liverpool and only add to a well documented catalogue of local problems familiar to everyone in the City - high levels of unemployment, inner city decay, communities broken up and dispersed to satellite towns, real poverty and social deprivation... again the list could go on and on.

In the early 70's there emerged a movement which recognised that all these problems shared one common factor - they are all brought about by the blind pursuit of policies based on a commitment to economic growth where profits are of paramount importance. It also recognised that the problems were fundamentally political and as such require a political solution.

Out of this movement emerged the Green Party (formerly Ecology Party). Green Parties are now well established in most of Europe and there are Green representatives in the European Parliament and many state and national parliaments. The success of the Greens in West Germany in securing 42 seats (25 of them women) in the 1987 elections (with over 3 million votes) was particularly inspiring.

Green politics emerged from five basic principles which together underpin our philosophy:

* **ECOLOGY-**

the knowledge that all life is interconnected out of which comes respect for the Earth and all its creatures, caring as stewards and protecting from pollution for the benefit of future generations.

* **SUSTAINABILITY-**

learning to live within the physical means of our planet, learning to rely on those resources that are renewable or can be re-used or recycled.

* **SOCIAL JUSTICE-**

creating a society in which the genuine needs of all are guaranteed.

* **GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY-**

restoring real power to the individual in the community.

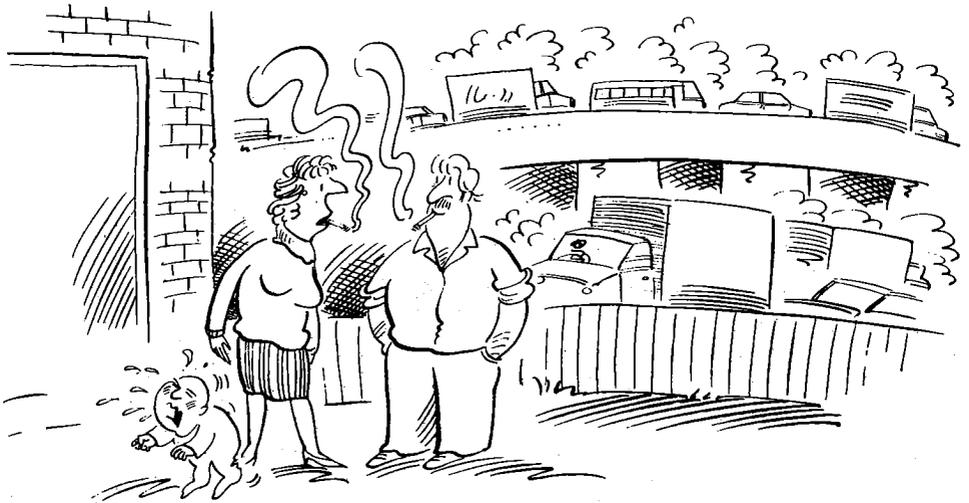
* **NON-VIOLENCE-**

the only way to achieve lasting peace.

Despite the unfair system of voting in Britain which serves the cosy two party system so well, Greens are attracting ever increasing support as more and more people are convinced that we offer a real alternative to the bankrupt policies of the main parties.

The policies that follow have been developed entirely by local members in response to the obvious failure of policies by both national and local government which we believe have served the people of our City so poorly in recent years. They represent the politics of the past- we offer alternative politics for the future-**POLITICS FOR LIFE.**

**WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR PARENTS-
WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.**



"DARLING! THAT WAS HIS FIRST COUGH."

HOUSING

Decent housing conditions are essential to a decent quality of life. Poor conditions result in stresses within the community, which have an enormous impact in both human and financial terms.

Social justice demands that permanent solutions are found as soon as possible to the chronic housing problems which affect large areas in Liverpool. It can be no exaggeration to say that our City has a current housing crisis worse than anything witnessed in the last 50 years.

One tenth of the City's housing stock is permanently derelict and uninhabitable and a far greater proportion is in urgent need of essential repair.

Needless to say it will take vast amounts of money and resources to reverse the decline.

There are many factors which have combined to bring about this situation:

- * Since the War successive Governments have seen fit to take ever increasing measures against local authorities generally, and to dictate policy on housing spending to the present unacceptable level - none more so than the Conservative Government since 1979.
- * Private sector improvement grants have dried up in recent years.
- * At City Council level decisions have been taken without proper consultation of the people, resulting in totally inappropriate housing being thrown up in the 60's and 70's which now has to be demolished.
- * Housing maintenance and repair has been neglected resulting in the final cost being many times what it would have been had matters been attended to promptly.
- * The increase in unemployment and breakdown of social cohesion, combined with the growing divorce rate and increase in number of single parent families, has inevitably meant an increase in demand for public sector housing.

These and many other problems have led to a general decline which has resulted in thousands of people in our City having to put up with appalling and often dangerous conditions. This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

POLICIES

- * Priority would be given to eliminating homelessness within the City.
- * New house building where necessary should be encouraged on a do-it-yourself basis either by individuals or groups with help and guidance from community

architects. Finance could be made available at advantageous rates providing the work is done under supervision. Urgent attention would be given to bringing derelict properties back into circulation.

- * Urgent talks would be sought with both the Government and EEC to secure finance to fund our extensive housing programme.
- * Tenants would be encouraged to maintain their own properties and offset the cost of repair against rent.
- * Individuals would be encouraged to purchase properties in run down areas by offering them for sale at knock down prices on condition that they be repaired/renovated within a six month period. Option would be reserved to the Council to buy back at the original price should the property be sold within a specific period, with credit being given for the cost of repair/improvement. This would minimise profiteering by speculators/property developers etc.
- * A better liaison mechanism would be established to enhance communication between all those dealing with housing in the community to ensure a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach.
- * Energy conservation measures should be given greater priority in relation to all new and existing housing stock.
- * Similar priority will be afforded to the provision of suitably adapted accommodation for the disabled within the community. This is an area that has been sadly neglected in the past.
- * We would explore the possibility of setting up neighbourhood conveyancing and estate agency services for the benefit of local people, at low cost. Local building societies would be urged to support our programme generally, and in particular to provide much more mortgage money for local initiatives involving renovation and refurbishment, as well as housing co-operative ventures.
- * Although we support the continuing trend toward more people owning their own properties this cannot continue to the detriment of the Council's housing stock. We therefore propose that tenants who are unwilling or unable to purchase should be offered their homes on a form of trust holding scheme which would give them the freedom associated with ownership without the City losing its housing stock. In addition, properties would be offered on a shared ownership basis to assist low-income couples to get a foot on the housing ladder.
- * As a general principle the existing housing stock must be maintained and improved in preference to new building.
- * We would press for existing legislation regarding private landlords to be more vigorously enforced

EDUCATION

The process of learning does not begin at the age of 5yrs and finish at 16yrs - it is a lifelong process. It therefore follows that our educational establishments need to change to provide education for life.

We must re-examine what we consider the purpose of education to be. Should it be a process where a comparatively narrow range of academic subjects are taught and where the overriding objective is qualifications.... or should greater emphasis be placed upon creating a more flexible system which is geared to individual needs - a system which faces up to reality and accepts that many people are not particularly suited to an academic career and that it is just as important to impart the practical skills that will best benefit the individual to become a valuable member of the community.

We are opposed to the present system under which a better education can be 'bought' by parents who can afford it whilst the less well off (the majority in Liverpool) have no option but to send their children to the local comprehensive and hope for the best. Having said this, the right of parents to ensure the best possible education for their children cannot be denied. Whilst we recognise this conflict probably cannot be reconciled in the short term we believe our policies, designed to promote greater social harmony and a fairer distribution of wealth, will result in greater unity within the community and that ultimately the schools that serve the community will provide the best possible education for all within the community.

We believe that many parents are dissatisfied with the present system of education. Many are unhappy with the large size and corresponding impersonality of the schools in our city. They are concerned about the increasing numbers of bored, aggressive and anti-social children in our schools. Many children question the purpose of their education when there is no place for most of them in society at the end of it. We believe the time has come to change our system to provide a more holistic approach.

POLICIES

- * A greater involvement of parents and pupils giving both them and the wider community the opportunity to establish their own schools which would accord more closely with their own aspirations. In addition, parents would be encouraged to participate in discussions about curriculae and general school organisation.
- * Parents and others within the community would be encouraged to pass on their particular skill or expertise to the school in a practical way to extend the curriculum.

- * To support the recent trend of schools being thrown open to everyone who wants education regardless of age. School buildings and land, which are valuable resources to the community, would be made available for use by everyone outside school hours.
- * Class sizes generally should be reduced and also schools should be split into smaller units and orientated to serve the local neighbourhood. There should be no need for children to travel half way across the city every day to get to school.
- * Physically and mentally handicapped people would be integrated within the everyday community school wherever practical rather than placed in separate institutions, and schools would be adapted to meet their special needs.
- * Community child care facilities would be provided for under fives.
- * Education should become more balanced by the introduction of a moral and spiritual dimension to the curriculum.
- * Children should have the opportunity to remain at the same school with the same teaching staff throughout their period of formal education. This would provide continuity and stability which is often disruptive when children move on to secondary schools at the age of 11.
- * We oppose animal dissection in schools and believe animal welfare generally should be taught in all schools from an early age (see Animal Rights section).
- * We would support measures to phase out the present examination system and grading of children by so called academic ability and replace it with profiling as soon as educationally practical.
- * We would encourage environmental awareness and responsibility by children and adults connected with schools including cleaning and general upkeep of buildings and surrounding land.
- * We oppose any form of corporal punishment in all educational establishments.
- * Emphasis would be placed on education in healthy lifestyle - in particular the benefits of a wholefood diet would be promoted and the dangers of certain additives and junk food (high fats, sugar, salt) highlighted.

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

In Liverpool today thousands of people are unemployed and the numbers are increasing week by week. This is a tragic waste of human potential, but more importantly it represents misery, despair and human suffering for the unemployed and their families.

In recent years we have witnessed the rapid decline of many traditional industries; firms like Dunlops, British Leyland, Meccano and Huntley & Palmers have become part of the mass exodus from our City. To compound the decline the dock labour force and ancillary businesses have contracted beyond all recognition over the past 20 years, due to the decline in shipping and the transfer of business to the south east as a result of Britain joining the E.E.C.

The claims of conventional politicians - that economic growth will in the long term, bring us back to full employment and benefit all - is clearly false. On the one hand an ever increasing number of people are denied a livelihood, whilst on the other our life support system is being pushed to the limits by the unrelenting pursuit of industrial expansion.

It is imperative that we all become more aware of the impact our individual lifestyle can have upon our environment. If our economy is to become self sustaining the affluent amongst us must make do with less in the material sense; yet at the same time we must all learn to become more reliant upon our own resources, and reduce our reliance upon imported goods; we must replace the economics of more and more with the economics of ENOUGH.

Greens believe we need to find real alternatives which will be appropriate for the new era of a post-industrial economy - alternatives which incorporate the following principles.

1. It is essential that we start to take the responsibility for the future into our own hands (see section on Local Democracy). No longer can we afford to be manipulated and dictated to by the large financial institutions and multi-national companies. We must develop a programme to regenerate our local economy from the bottom up with the emphasis on the principle of LOCAL PRODUCTION FOR LOCAL NEEDS. Decisions to raise and spend taxes should be taken at the lowest possible level.
2. We need to get away from the existing pattern of traditional working based on full time, life-long employment which has been so typical in the past. A more

flexible approach to work must be developed incorporating a mixture of part-time work interspersed with periods of full time employment. Work in the formal economy could increasingly be replaced by self-organised activity by individuals or groups. This work may be paid or unpaid.

3. In direct contrast to the present 'throw away' mentality, far greater importance must be attached to conservation of resources. Protection of the environment must be paramount in any economic activity. Long term planning is essential.
4. We must restore the right of everyone to have equal access to land in our city (see section on Land Use).
5. In the transitional period when structural unemployment is likely to remain at a relatively high level, we must seek measures that will operate to minimise the divisions between those with work and those without. With high unemployment in our City it is essential to provide basic material security which is guaranteed to everyone (see section on Basic Income Scheme).
6. We must start to consider the quality of the work that will be created in the future. We need a strategy of discrimination in favour of HUMAN SCALE activity with the emphasis upon GOOD WORK -fulfilling to the individual and of benefit to the immediate community.
7. There needs to be a shift of emphasis in educational training and leisure so that they involve far more practical skills, self-directed activities and participation in the activities of the local communities.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * We would press for planning regulations to be relaxed so that light industry, small businesses, workshops and other local employment initiatives may be allowed into residential areas where appropriate. This provision would enable communities to be centred around a cluster of diverse activities.
- * We would support the possibility of a community banking network, to channel local savings and investment into local initiatives, providing funds to enable more small businesses to start up within the community. We would urge trade unions to divert their pension funds into local initiatives. These measures

would have the effect of recycling the city's finances.

- * To press for changes in legislation to enable local people to take more control over their own finances thus enabling the City to be free to decide its own taxation priorities.
- * We would explore the possibility of a local currency e.g. community credits, to facilitate the production of goods and services to meet local needs and to prevent wealth from flowing out of the City.
- * We believe that radical measures of land reform are necessary to ensure that all the land is used to the maximum advantage of the City as a whole (see section on Land Use).
- * To adapt and supplement the area of education to ensure that individuals are given the opportunity to acquire a wide range of practical skills which will enable them to participate fully in their community. Such things as carpentry, electrical work, food growing etc. will become more important, but also less technical capabilities like self-confidence, use of time and developing personal relationship skills will rate higher in a life of co-operative self reliance (see section on Education).
- * Neighbourhood councils, as they became established, would be encouraged to become involved and take initiatives in all matters of the economy which directly or indirectly affect their own area.

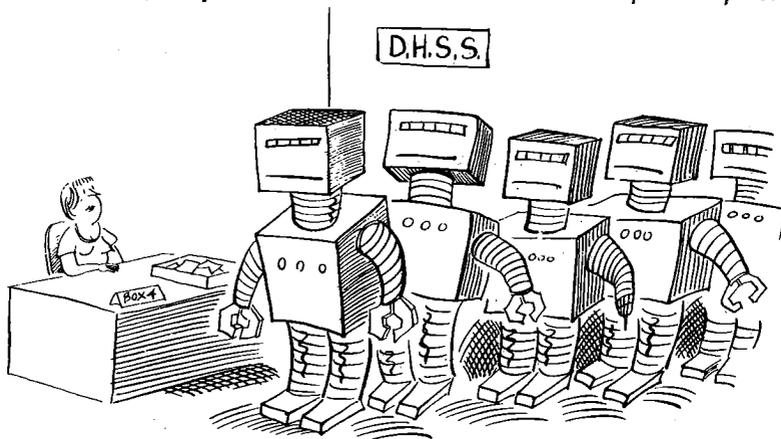
SHORT TERM-

- * We would undertake a comprehensive audit of the city's actual and potential resources to establish to what extent we could already meet our needs. A thorough check would be made on land-use potential, and negative features such as pollution, dereliction and clean up costs would be taken into consideration.
- * A city-wide "Think Local" campaign would be initiated to encourage people to buy locally produced goods.
- * We would support the development of neighbourhood skill centres to provide training in traditional crafts and skills that will be of use to the community.
- * We would try to encourage a better liaison between schools, polytechnic, university and employment agencies to ease the transition from school to

working life and seek to make better use, by the whole community of the considerable expertise and academic resources available within these institutions.

- * We would try to give preferential treatment and support to local businesses and co-operatives involved in socially and environmentally sound initiatives through the council's own buying decisions.
- * We would encourage the setting up of co-operatives. Home-based and other self-employed ventures undertaken by the individual or small groups, where profit sharing is operated would similarly be encouraged.
- * As an employer we would ensure that a truly equal opportunity recruitment policy was operated, with no discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, creed, or colour
- * Wherever possible local residents would be recruited for local jobs and projects, and we would urge all employers to adopt a similar policy. Outside workers should only be considered when positions cannot be filled by local people.
- * The co-operation of trade unions would be sought to promote the transition to a post-industrial economy.

It must be stressed that environmental concerns involving reappraisal of personal living standards and full community involvement to the extent of redistributing profits within the local community, are vitally important if these measures are not simply to become a temporary diversion from the main thrust of capitalism, state or private.



SOCIAL WELFARE

One of the most crucial political issues in Liverpool today is that of unemployment and, linked to that, social welfare. The Liverpool Green Party proposes a radical set of policies which will attack the root cause of the problem and which recognises certain indisputable facts. We offer a different solution because of our belief in a sustainable economy. This is in direct contrast to the growth economy which is supported by Labour, Alliance and Conservative parties alike.

It should now be clear to everybody that we will never return to the position of 'full employment' which existed in the '50's and '60's. If we accept this, it then becomes clear that we must find a way to reduce the increasing gap between those in work and those out of work. In addition we need to find ways of allocating our limited resources to those excluded from the economic system - the elderly, the unemployed and the severely handicapped etc. Our policies aim to achieve these ends in a fair, realistic manner.

The basis of our approach to these matters is the provision of an unconditional payment to every man, woman and child, to be known as the Basic Income. This would replace all the present Social Security benefits AND the Income Tax allowances. Its main advantages would be:

- A) Simplicity- ensuring that those who were entitled to it - all U.K. citizens - would receive it.
- B) Security- unlike Supplementary Benefit it would not be withdrawn as people started work, nor would it be reduced if people have savings.
- C) Universal Application- because everyone would receive it the stigma attached to the present benefits system would be removed.

The Basic Income Scheme, which would have to be introduced nationally, would have a number of effects including: making employment opportunities more flexible and easier to create; ensuring that those who do much of the unpaid work in our society, particularly women, receive some long overdue reward; encouraging people to become more experimental in their lifestyles and use their presently stifled creativity by forming co-operatives or small businesses, seeking further education, doing community work etc; and, crucially, enabling everybody to have a measure of financial independence, and thus, self respect.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To ensure a fair and equitable system of support for everybody in the community within the framework of a sustainable economy.
- * To encourage a greater degree of independence in everybody by extending the democratic system and raising interest in local community affairs.

SHORT TERM-

- * To campaign for the introduction of a Basic Income Scheme (see above).
- * To provide financial and practical support where possible to those who are vulnerable in the present society: single parents; handicapped etc.
- * To actively liaise with responsible voluntary community groups and charities to ascertain what help they need in supporting disadvantaged people.
- * To provide a wide range of advice and support to those presently unemployed (see section on the Local Economy).
- * To place an emphasis on ensuring that everyone has access to decent 'basics' such as good food, heating, clothing and housing.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

A central principle of green politics is that of grassroots democracy. We believe that everybody should have the opportunity to have a say in the decisions which affect them and that all decisions should be taken at the lowest practical level. In the majority of cases this would be the neighbourhood and district levels. This would aim to remove the alienation which many people feel from the present, highly centralised systems of decision making.

Successive Governments have, over the years, drastically curtailed the economic and political freedoms of our City, which has resulted in the arbitrary abolition of the County Council and systematic cuts in grants combined with various penalty measures including rate capping. The response of the Labour controlled City Council however - to borrow heavily - has landed us with a legacy of high interest repayments which will severely restrict future budget decisions. Tackling such critical matters will not be easy but we believe that an essential first step will be to restore power to ordinary men and women in our City so that everybody can participate in the decisions which affect us all.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To divide the city into 20-25 districts comprising of some 20,000 population, each retaining where possible the local names of the old townships i.e. Wavertree, Anfield etc. Each district would be managed by a team of locally elected representatives and have its own administrative centre. Within each district it is hoped that many neighbourhood Councils would develop on the initiative of the local community. It is expected that most services would eventually devolve to these levels.
- * All elections to district and neighbourhood councils would be by proportional representation.
- * To actively campaign for and support the setting up of a North-West regional assembly and the devolution of power from Westminster.

SHORT TERM-

- * To campaign for the introduction of P.R. at City Council elections. (This was passed by the House of Lords in its Local Government Choice of Electoral

Systems Bill but its introduction was blocked by the House of Commons).

- * To ensure that a brief agenda of all council meetings is published in the local newspaper and copies distributed to public libraries. In addition we would ensure that minutes of decisions were made freely available for public inspection.
- * Providing access for disabled persons would be a priority and they would be encouraged to become involved at all levels of local government.
- * With limited exceptions (protection of personal privacy, legal matters etc) we would promote a policy of free access to members of the public to see their personal files, public records and data and fully support the Campaign for Freedom of Information in this respect.
- * In all appointments to the Council we would endeavour to employ local residents.

The emergence of 'people power' in our City, e.g. community councils, demonstrates that increasing numbers of ordinary people desire more control over their everyday lives rather than having their destinies shaped by a few party activists at town hall or a handful of remote and out of touch Cabinet ministers. The only people who really care about the future of our City are the people of Liverpool and it is to them that our future should be entrusted.

HEALTH

The single most important element in human welfare for most of us is our health, health being a 'complete state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of illness and disease' (World Health Organisation). Consequently the Green Party seeks to promote the conditions necessary for each and every person to fulfil their potential and to lead interesting, rewarding lives.

There is little doubt in our opinion that most ill-health today is caused by a combination of social, economic and environmental factors. Certainly, in Liverpool few can deny that people's health depends upon their experience of life, employment, housing, transport, income, access to resources etc. It is therefore the aim of the Green Party to promote health through all policy areas and to generate a new value of health to the community.

As the green approach is to eliminate the causes of ill-health rather than to merely treat the symptoms, we place great emphasis upon primary care and prevention rather than secondary care and cure (currently less than 1% of the Health Service budget is spent on prevention), and it is our aim to direct resources to a far wider section of the population in order to reduce inequalities in health. This would make healthier choices the easier choices.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * Decentralisation of all local health services where possible so that they become directly accountable to and subject to the democratic control of the community.
- * Free, unrestricted access to health information to all groups in the community.
- * The creation of a new local Environmental Health Agency comprising representatives from the Health and Social Services, the Housing Department and industrial safety agencies, to monitor health hazards, carry out advisory and educational roles and have powers to enforce legislation.
- * Research and funding to be directed towards in-depth work against the most wide-spread illnesses and diseases rather than to high-tech, high-cost treatment of rare cases, and to emphasise the health of communities rather than individuals.
- * Incorporating health education into professional training and conduct, e.g. a Primary Health Care Team, so that people are given proper advice on how to make their habits and their environment health-supporting.

SHORT TERM-

- * Exploring new mechanisms whereby all agencies involved in health in the broadest sense forge links with local councillors in tackling health issues in the City.
- * Securing better integrated health care facilities for the physically and mentally handicapped, together with the provision of properly funded Community Care.
- * We would discourage smoking on all forms of public transport and other confined public spaces and introduce measures to restrict local advertising and sponsorship of all tobacco and alcohol products.
- * Support the funding of health networks and self-help groups in the community by the Health and Social Services.
- * We would campaign for a far greater allocation of resources to be devoted to health education, particularly in schools where the emphasis would be on a healthy diet and lifestyle.
- * The encouragement of the development of alternative and complementary medicine and therapies aimed at treating the whole person eg, homeopathy, acupuncture, clinical ecology. They should be equally available to all on the NHS.
- * Pressing for stricter controls on the use of drugs and medicines.
- * Support for the development of community health centres which incorporate treatment, educational and promotional facilities and the transfer of GP's into health centres where practically possible. GP's time and general counselling is far more effective in the long term than dispensation of medicine and drugs.

We believe that the above measures, which encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health and well-being, together with our policies on education, employment, housing, transport and the environment which promote rational social organisation, would go a long way to restoring health within the individual, the community and the City as a whole. In this way, the health needs of all the people of Liverpool would be given attention, rather than that section of the population who at any one time are receiving treatment from the health services.

RECREATION

As human beings we all have basic needs: obvious ones such as food, shelter, security, but also others such as vitality, creative self-expression and the freedom to explore ideas which are essential for both our physical and mental health. Consequently the Liverpool Green Party believes that sporting, recreational and cultural opportunities should express creativity rather than promote consumption of leisure services. We believe such opportunities should not be taken out of people's lives and 'zoned off' into mass pleasure domes such as leisure complexes, art galleries, theme parks etc, but should be available to ALL in every sphere of life and at all times. Positive feelings of vitality, energy and creativity should be particularly available to those groups whose needs are often forgotten by politicians, planners and bureaucrats - the elderly, the disabled, young children, women and families, ethnic groups, and people living in outlying housing areas.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * Integrating sport, recreation and culture into general social and community life in the City e.g. developing true Community Schools with sports, arts, library, educational and workshop facilities etc, together with ensuring that decisions on local recreational and cultural needs are made by neighbourhood councils in conjunction with the local community.
- * Adopting a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to sport, recreation and culture in the City i.e. not seen in isolation, but in relation to Work, Health, Education, Transport, Land Use etc, ensuring our policies reflect recreation and cultural initiatives developed for Liverpool under the new 'Healthy Cities' Plan.
- * Supporting the involvement of women, the elderly, the disabled, and ethnic minority groups in the organisation of sport, recreation and culture in the City.
- * Supporting the development of a more diversified and balanced pattern of recreational activities in the City through the integration of formal i.e. competitive sports, with non-competitive activities such as Outdoor Pursuits and health and fitness activities which emphasise a healthy mind and body.
- * Encouraging greater sporting and cultural links with people from different countries eg Twin Towns, 3rd World etc. In this way the people of Liverpool would be encouraged to 'think globally, act locally' to emphasise internationalism and peace.

SHORT TERM-

- * Encouraging the involvement of the community in the running of local facilities e.g. sports centre management committees etc. In this way recreational and cultural needs could be better identified.
- * We would continue support for reduced charges/free use of Council run facilities for the unemployed and other disadvantaged groups.
- * Campaigning for greater free public access to, and use of, the local environment for recreation e.g. providing nature areas, heritage trails, opportunities for walking, cycling, swimming and running etc (see 'Parks and Open Spaces' section).
- * Opposing sponsorship of sport and art by tobacco and alcohol producers and other organisations involved in health-damaging activities such as the Nuclear Industry.
- * Encouraging support for local artists, crafts people, writers and entertainers who presently lack the necessary finance or outlets for displaying their talent.
- * Ensuring that performing artists are allowed and encouraged to entertain in public places e.g. street theatre and buskers.
- * Supporting greater opportunities for local community-based arts and media initiatives eg. T.V. and video workshops, community radio, photography, drama, creative writing etc.
- * Investigating ways and means of securing funding for the city's cultural heritage so that all civic buildings etc are made far more accessible and open to the whole community and are free from the threat of commercial re-development (e.g. proposals for converting St. George's Hall into a leisure complex).
- * Encouraging participation in physical exercise as part of the daily routine e.g. alternative forms of transport such as walking and cycling (see Transport section) campaigning for more changing and showering facilities at places of work, use of local facilities during lunch periods etc.

These policies, together with others which will be developed through time, present a wide range of options to the people in our city which incorporate rights to all forms of creative expression and initiate a move away from passive leisure and mass culture/entertainment. If taken into consideration with our other policies, particularly those on work (for 'work' and 'leisure' are two parts of the same process), we hope that people may come to recognise fully the personal value of the way they spend their waking hours and that sport, recreation and culture can be absorbed as a much more harmonious and natural strand of the social pattern.

LAW AND ORDER

The Liverpool Green Party, together with members of the police force and many others in our City are deeply concerned about the changing role of our police. Their main function, that of helping people to feel secure as they go about their everyday business, has been undermined by their use as a 'front line' in maintaining order within a system where unemployment and social disintegration cause unhappiness and alienation for so many. Riot shields, tear gas and plastic bullets are fast becoming the first line of defence of our modern police force.

If we are to avoid a repeat of the disturbances in Toxteth and other parts of the City in the early 1980s we must all address ourselves to the question of devising means to reverse the conditions which contribute to the breakdown of social harmony - poor housing, unemployment, racial discrimination to name but a few. Greens believe that the maintenance of social harmony depends more upon the elimination of poverty and inequality and promoting closer links between community and police, than on more new laws or tougher sentences in court.

POLICIES

- * To promote a policy of crime prevention with Community Policing becoming the normal method of policing. The development of smaller, more self reliant communities throughout the City would facilitate this process (see local democracy).
 - * To ensure that the police are directly accountable to the communities they serve. An Independent Complaints Board to deal with complaints both against and by the police would be considered.
 - * Emphasis would be placed upon the rehabilitation of offenders within the community where practicable.
 - * We would encourage citizens to take greater responsibility for the policing of their own neighbourhood. The neighbourhood watch scheme is a good example of this in action.
 - * To improve the sensitivity and support offered to victims of crime and encourage the development of more victim support groups throughout the City.
 - * To explore the possibility of setting up a neighbourhood reconciliation service to mediate in local disputes, e.g. noisy neighbours etc. This may help individuals to find their own solutions to problems, without automatically resorting to the police or legal proceedings which are often inappropriate.
- Ultimately, if we are to make our City secure and safe from crime we must act to restore community spirit and promote good citizenship, for it is only then that we may achieve a truly civil society.

SOCIAL JUSTICE = SOCIAL HARMONY

POLLUTION

The fundamental principle upon which Green philosophy is based is ecology. Ecology describes the complicated system of interrelationships between organisms and their environment. In common with people all over the world, we in the Green Party have become increasingly concerned about the damage the human race has caused to those delicate relationships upon which the very existence of life on our planet depends. By polluting and exploiting the environment we are causing the destruction of our eco-system at all levels - local, national and global.

Our actions can have highly damaging and destructive effects on the health of our environment which is as evident here in Liverpool as anywhere else. The symptoms of deterioration, neglect and decay in our City reads like a horror story: the Mersey is one of the most polluted rivers in Europe, the Irish Sea is the most radioactive sea in the world, solid wastes such as sewage, fats and oil are washed up on our shores and coastline, and the quality of drinking water is a matter of growing concern. Then there are the all too familiar problems of widespread graffiti, fly posting, vandalism, derelict shops, buildings and houses, neglected parks and cemeteries, dogs fouling the pavements etc.

We have to realise that as almost everything we do affects the environment, its protection, together with the control of pollution, requires national (and international) action, and moreover, a radical change in attitudes and behaviour. Things could be very different, as the transformations brought about by the International Garden Festival and Albert Dock development have proved.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To develop and deploy a strategy for the 'greening' of the City over the next 10 to 15 years.
- * To clean-up the Mersey.
- * To introduce ecologically acceptable methods of treating sewage.
- * To find ways of drastically reducing pollution from vehicle exhausts.
- * To work towards the reduction of excessive noise in the City.

SHORT TERM—

- * To encourage environmental education at every level providing adequate resources as necessary. A clean up the City campaign would be launched.
- * Expand the Council's Environmental Health Dept. giving it responsibility for monitoring and co-ordinating all aspects of environmental pollution.
- * To strictly apply provisions contained in the Control of Pollution Act 1974 - particularly relating to exhaust emissions.
- * To minimise the problem of fouling of pavements etc by creating specific dog toilet areas and encouraging owners to train their dogs to use them. Fines for offenders would be increased. The problem of stray dogs would be tackled.
- * Low level radiation levels would be monitored. Contingency plans would be drawn up to deal with a Chernobyl type incident at any of the surrounding nuclear power stations.
- * To establish a District Food Commission which would monitor food quality, provide information on food production and provide advice for the consumer.
- * To promote the development of an extensive programme of conservation work and environmental improvements around the City.

If we are to make our City a decent place to live in, both for ourselves and future generations, we have to embrace a new set of values: non-exploitative, non-violent and non-materialistic; for success in tackling our deep-rooted environmental problems depends as much on the attitudes and behaviour of us all as on new legislation or measures introduced by the Council.



WOMEN'S ISSUES

Despite some advances over the years, women in Britain still suffer from discrimination of many kinds. Not only does this discrimination result in a denial of basic rights but it is also an all-pervasive limitation of women's potential. It is experienced by women every day in the way our society forces them to be dependent on men, in the violence and humiliation women suffer at the hands of men, and in the attitudes men have towards women. This experience is propagated by the exploitation of female sexuality in the media.

Measured on any scale, the contribution by women, to the Family, to the local economy and to the community generally is enormous. Because the traditional work of women falls almost entirely into the category of essential work, to remove it would result in the collapse of family, economy and community. The fact that women are in a majority and continue to endure this discrimination is deplorable.

Greens seek to correct one of the greatest historic errors: confusing what are seen as "feminine virtues" - nurturing, co-operation and sharing, with weakness, and crediting "masculine attributes" - aggressiveness, competition and ruthlessness, with strength. In all our policies we are concerned with the liberation of both men and women from these traditional stereotypes and demonstrating that our future strength lies in balancing the masculine and feminine elements present in us all.

The long term aim of the Liverpool Green Party is the creation of a City in which all aspects of life are conducted with the full and equal participation of women. The introduction of our Basic Income Scheme (see Social Welfare) would end the existing economic discrimination against women and remove many practical difficulties they face in combining child rearing, family commitments and careers. It offers the flexibility that men and women need to enable them to share domestic duties.

POLICIES

- * One aim of Green Politics is for women to have much greater representation on all legislative bodies, both nationally and locally. Until a better balance is achieved in Liverpool City Council, a Women's Consultative Committee would be established to ensure equal involvement of women at all stages of the decision-making process.
- * Community nurseries should be established to enable women to participate more fully in all aspects of society.

- * In order to help alleviate the increased incidence of violence towards women we would:
 - A. Improve street lighting.
 - B. Introduce special "women only" night time bus services on a trial basis.
 - C. Establish special units to deal with victims of rape, where female doctors would be available.
 - D. Give greater resources to women's support groups.

- * Better facilities would be provided for Ante/Post-Natal care at a local Level. We would also support the demand for more female Consultant Gynaecologists and Obstetricians in the Health Service locally, (out of 9 Consultant Gynaecologists in Liverpool only one is a woman).

- * An equal opportunities policy would be applied in the appointment, training, and promotion of Council employees, and in the setting and teaching of school curriculae.

- * All sexist advertising over which the Council has control or influence would be discouraged.

- * Campaigning for the development of equal provision of sports facilities for women, e.g. facilities and activities for women only, creche facilities, and the appointment of women sports motivators together with support for projects such as the Merseyside Women and Girls Sport and Recreation Project, and the 'Sisters Network' in women's running.

A radical change in our perception of men and women in society will necessitate a widespread and fundamental reappraisal of our attitudes and values, in order to escape from the existing patriarchal system. At local level our policies should go some way towards improving the situation in Liverpool.



"NOW LISTEN, YOU SEXY LITTLE THING, I WAS INTO FEMINISM BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!!!"

RACISM

The Liverpool Green Party in common with the party at large, seeks to create a new way of thinking and working which is based upon co-operation and sharing. We place great emphasis on providing for everyone's needs in a way which does not require the exploitation of other people, whether in this country, or elsewhere in the world (the exploitation of the people of the Third World is just another form of racism). The policies of the Green Party are therefore geared to providing for the needs of everyone regardless of race, colour or creed. The essence of Green Politics is Anti-Racist.

We in the Green Party feel that racial discrimination in Liverpool must be tackled on a number of fronts, e.g. in improving the economic status of ethnic groups, improving their political representation on the City Council, and generally educating the people of Liverpool as to the nature of racial discrimination and the pain and suffering it causes.

POLICIES

- * To set up an Advisory Committee comprised of people from the black community to give guidance and advice on all areas of policy which relate to the needs of racial minorities, until such time as they are more equally represented on the City Council. In the long term we hope that our policies on local democracy would help to eliminate the present imbalance of political representation on the City Council.
- * As an employer the City Council would ensure that the number of black employees corresponds more equally with the proportion of black people in the City as a whole.
- * In keeping with our policy of local production for local needs we would encourage the development of small businesses and co-operatives which are more likely to employ people from the local neighbourhood. Thus the black community would have an opportunity to develop a local economy which would benefit their own community.
- * To support racial groups wishing to maintain their own cultural identity. The city as a whole would benefit from such a policy as it would be culturally enriching.
- * We support community based initiatives that aim to combat racism.

- * To launch a public education campaign to help everyone understand the nature and effect of racism.
- * To support the efforts of the local anti-apartheid groups in their opposition to the South African regime.
- * To encourage and support a variety of multi-cultural and multi-ethnic events and activities which reflect Liverpool's long standing, richly diversified community structure, i.e. equal opportunity for creative expression by the City's Chinese, Asian, and Afro/Caribbean communities.



PEOPLE WITH A HANDICAP

People who have a physical, mental or emotional handicap often have to carry the additional burden of society's quite unnecessary discrimination. The resulting divide between 'normal' and 'abnormal' only serves to impoverish everyone - handicapped people are deprived of the wide range of contacts they need to develop their full potential whilst others are deprived of contact with a section of the community who can inspire by demonstrating their patience and great courage in overcoming adversity, together with the extensive and valuable skills they can offer.

The creation of small, more caring communities combined with our policies on education and health would help to minimise this discrimination. However, additional specific policies would be necessary to facilitate better integration and mobility.

POLICIES

- * To ensure the right of handicapped people to use and enjoy, without inhibition, libraries, cinemas, theatres, museums and shops with special access times arranged where necessary.
- * Full provision of access for handicapped people to be incorporated in licences for all future public building works and the handicapped to be consulted at all stages of planning.
- * Existing public places and public transport to be made more accessible.
- * Self-help groups and organisations specifically set up for the disabled, such as the Greenbank Project in South Liverpool, to be actively encouraged and supported.
- * To explore the possibility of promoting counselling centres to provide advice and assistance relevant to the special problems encountered by handicapped people and their families.
- * To recognise the fundamental right of handicapped people to work. We support the development of sheltered employment schemes in existing workplaces throughout the City.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

The principle of ecology is that all life on Earth is interdependent. Due to the combination of a population explosion and expansion of industry and economic growth, an intense conflict of interest has arisen between humans and nature which has inevitably resulted in the pollution of water, air and land and the extinction of many species of animals, insects and plants. It is a destructive trend that threatens all life on earth and can only be reversed if we all adopt a fundamental change in attitude towards fellow beings, both human and animal and nature generally; an attitude which is not based on exploitation for profit, greed or vanity.

We must begin to question the system which permits animals to be regarded as mere resources to be eaten, surgically manipulated or otherwise exploited for sport or money.

At least of equal importance to controlling abuses as they occur is the need to incorporate into the school syllabus a compassionate regard for all life. To this end lessons should be designed to foster a change in outlook in children who, like the rest of us, have a culture founded on the exploitation of animals. The moral questions should always be considered whenever the 'use' of animals arises - whether for food, medicine, sport etc.

We must realise that by denying the right of animals to live in peaceful co-existence with us we debase our humanity, however, by respecting the right of animals and other lifeforms we automatically protect ourselves and justify our unique position as trustees and stewards of our planet. On a personal level therefore many Greens choose to be vegan/vegetarian as they feel it is wrong to work for peace and human rights whilst continuing to exploit animals.

POLICIES

- * To support the right of young people in schools by:
 - (a) All schools to provide an alternative of non-meat meals.
 - (b) Domestic science classes to allow children to prepare vegan/vegetarian recipes as an approved alternative.
 - (c) An alternative syllabus be provided for all children who do not wish to undertake animal dissection in biology classes.
 - (d) The introduction of lessons on animal/pet care and behaviour with voluntary specialists from animal welfare organisations to supplement professional teachers where necessary.

- * We oppose the dissection of animals in any experiment and support the use of models, diagrams and other forms of non-animal display.
- * We oppose the commercial trade in animal products e.g. furs.
- * We oppose all experiments on live animals and shall seek to persuade the University and other research establishments within the City to stop such practice and develop alternative research methods.
- * We are opposed to all forms of 'factory' farming methods and will therefore use all means at our disposal to end factory farming in Liverpool.
- * We would review the licencing system relating to pet shops with a view to imposing conditions which are likely to severely restrict the keeping and sale of animals.
- * We would enter into discussions with the RSPCA and other animal welfare organisations to consider the best course of action to control and protect dogs and cats in the community e.g. a licencing system for dog owners to finance a dog warden scheme and neutering service.
- * Circus events which include animal 'acts' would not be permitted on local authority land. It will be a condition of letting of council property for fairs and similar events that animals are not given as prizes.
- * We support the movement to end all blood sports in the area - in particular the Waterloo Cup. We oppose the use of lead weights by anglers.

WASTE

Let's clarify one thing straight away - most of the stuff we throw in our bins is not rubbish. Such things as glass bottles, paper/cardboard, metal and vegetable waste are valuable resources worth millions of pounds to our city every year. Until now it has not been considered necessary or economically worthwhile to recover and recycle these potentially valuable materials, and therefore the policy to-date has been to bury it out of sight at great cost to the ratepayer. The Green Party is very much opposed to this appalling waste of resources.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To campaign for the introduction of regulations to encourage minimum safe packaging of all locally produced goods.
- * To campaign for a policy for returnable deposits to be charged on all reusable food containers.
- * The implementation of a natural resources tax to be levied on all locally produced raw materials, thereby assisting local community ventures involved in the recycling industry.

SHORT TERM-

- * The launch of a public information and education campaign to encourage recycling, repair, re-use and conservation of these valuable resources.
- * To secure grants from Central Government to support community based recycling schemes.
- * To introduce a scheme for separating municipal and domestic waste at source to facilitate recycling.
- * To use recycled paper for most council business and for school use.
- * To restore to the people of Liverpool an efficient and reliable system of refuse collection.

These measures would create many employment opportunities, improve the local environment and help restore community spirit.

PEACE AND THE SPIRIT

Most conventional politicians talk about the economy and peoples' needs as if material things were all that mattered. The quest for money, power and possessions has become the dominant theme in our society today. Many people feel a sense of hopelessness when confronted with the mounting problems of unemployment, drugs, nuclear weapons etc. Greens believe it is important to recognise these problems for the profound spiritual failure they represent.

The purpose of any economic activity is to secure, if not enhance, our future wellbeing. Nobody denies that good health, a feeling of security for ourselves and loved ones and freedom to satisfy our spiritual, intellectual and emotional needs are just as important to our general wellbeing as the satisfaction of our material needs.

The problem is that our present economic system is geared to consumption and competition where such drives as greed and envy are cultivated and rewarded, in a system which adheres to the deeply ingrained belief that the pursuit of growth and material wealth is an end in itself. It is this system which crushes our spirit, stunts the intellect, diminishes the quality of our lives and serves to widen the gap between those 'with' and those 'without'.

It is becoming increasingly clear that increased resources for law and order have not reduced crime (in fact just the opposite) and increased spending on defence has only served to undermine our sense of security.

What Greens are saying is that 'success' in our society is generally achieved at someone else's expense. Under the present system we are continually at war with one another and because our material wealth can only be achieved by destroying our environment we are also at war with nature. If we carry on like this lasting peace will never be attained whether or not nuclear weapons are removed.

Greens believe it is therefore essential to work toward peaceful, non-violent solutions to our problems, beginning with the individual in his or her personal relationships with others, and from there extending outwards to the wider community.

Only when we sense our unity with other life forms will we stop attempting to conquer nature by exploiting animals and destroying the environment. Only when we develop love and respect for life in all its manifestations will we discover the purpose and meaning of our own life. Only then will we be able to attain our full potential and achieve that lasting peace which will guarantee the future for our children.

In the final analysis, lasting peace can only be based upon a genuine understanding of the relationship between people and planet.

ENERGY

We live in a world which is quickly using up its stores of vital, and in many cases irreplaceable, resources. In the field of energy this is especially the case. Coal, gas and oil, are all the products of millions of years of evolution, yet our present society is using them up at an astonishing rate. Future generations will have to survive with much less, and following Chernobyl the dangers of producing nuclear power make this an unacceptable option. (See section on The Nuclear Issue).

However, even with this wasteful misuse of resources we still see many senior citizens dying each winter because they cannot afford to pay the high heating bills.

Until now energy conservation has never been given a high priority, but there is an increasing awareness of the economic benefits even if the environmental arguments are ignored.

Taking these basic facts into consideration, we in the Liverpool Green Party believe that present energy policies are not just inadequate, but also unsustainable and unjust. They are a crime against present and future generations.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To decentralise the system of energy production.
- * To restore to the people of Liverpool the freedom to make the decisions on energy production and distribution.
- * To develop a programme of research into all forms of renewable and sustainable energy to secure the long term future.

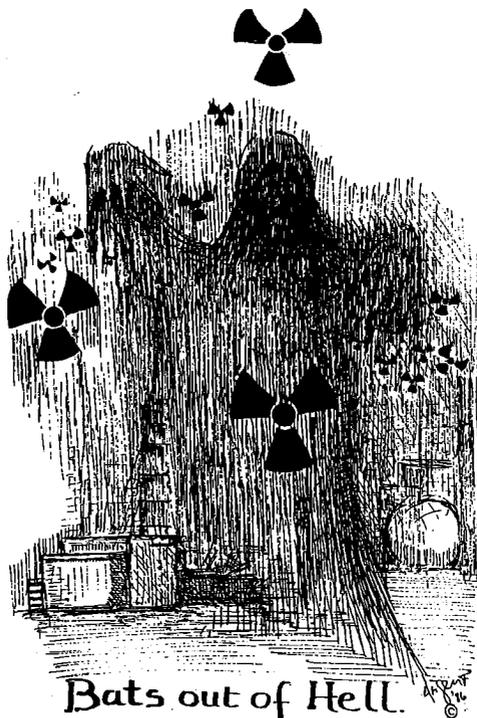
SHORT TERM-

- * The establishment of a District Energy Authority to assess the needs of the city, and to give advice and guidance on energy conservation and policy formation.
- * The building of small Combined Heat/Power Stations to produce electricity and heat for the local community. These are well established on the Continent, and

locally, Liverpool University has successfully installed a CHP to supply heat to most of its buildings.

- * To promote energy efficiency in all new buildings and refurbishment incorporating increased insulation levels and better design criteria than at present.
- * To extend the programme for draught proofing and insulation of housing, giving priority to the elderly and benefit claimants.
- * Development of local alternative energy sources, such as methane from organic waste and harnessing the potential power of the Mersey Estuary.
- * To promote energy efficiency in transport.

These are some of the main policies which we put forward as solutions to our present energy problems. The advantages would include creating useful work and the reduction of pollution. The essential point to remember however, is that we live on a planet with limited resources. We must begin to recognise this fact and develop our energy policies accordingly.



TRANSPORT

Our long term objective is to conserve energy and natural resources by reducing overall demand for transport. This will only be achieved by developing smaller, self reliant communities where people work at or near to their homes, and live near the services they rely upon. There would be a new approach to planning based on the objective of ensuring equal safety for all modes of transport, which recognises that all road users - cyclists, pedestrians and motorists - should have equal rights.

POLICIES

- * We are essentially opposed to the privatisation of our bus service which was imposed upon us by Central Government and will press for a return to democratic control as speedily as possible.
- * We shall seek to introduce a free bus service in the city linking central facilities.
- * Extensive bus priority measures such as bus lanes, would be introduced on all main routes, where practicable.
- * Conductors would be re-introduced on some services.
- * The importance of walking and cycling as means of transport would be promoted.
- * An extensive cycle route network would be developed throughout the city to ensure that cycling becomes as safe as other forms of transport. Secure cycle parking facilities would be provided in the city centre. A cycle co-ordinator would be appointed to initiate improvements and liaise with other departments to ensure new development does not adversely affect cyclists.
- * Road surfaces are a hazard to pedestrians and road users alike. Priority would be given to repairing and maintaining existing footpaths and roads.
- * Park and ride schemes would be introduced, and car pooling would be encouraged.
- * Measures to control traffic flow and reduced speeds would be introduced in densely populated areas and near schools.

An alternative transport system such as this would help to conserve energy, increase flexibility of travel, reduced noise and pollution, and improve road safety. Additionally this would lead to greater personal health.

THE NUCLEAR ISSUE

Following the near disaster at Three Mile Island in 1979 and the accident at Chernobyl in 1986 many people are questioning the wisdom of continuing the search for safe nuclear power. The experts were quick to reassure us that the Chernobyl disaster could not happen here (while at the same time West German experts were reassuring people that Sellafield could not happen there), but many remain sceptical.

Merseyside is surrounded by the nuclear industry - Uranium and spent fuel from overseas is shipped in through Barrow and Workington; Uranium fuel for power stations is made near Preston; Uranium is enriched for fuel and nuclear weapons at Capenhurst in Wirral; we are encircled by nuclear power stations - Trawsfynydd in Snowdonia, Wylfa in Anglesey and Heysham in Lancashire. Spent fuel from both here and abroad is reprocessed at Sellafield in Cumbria where there have been many serious leaks of radioactivity. Nearby Drigg is the largest radioactive waste disposal site in the country, whilst the Irish Sea is the most radioactive sea in the world (House of Commons Select Committee Report 1986). Until recently Plutonium was frequently flown out of Liverpool airport; Uranium, spent nuclear fuel and military Plutonium is regularly transported throughout the North West by road and rail.

The nuclear industry embodies everything in our society of which Greens are most critical. It is centralised, secretive, authoritarian, extremely dangerous, beyond democratic control and dismissive of future generations.

Many people are concerned, and rightly so, about the mounting evidence linking low level radiation with cancer, particularly leukaemia in children. When we add this to other aspects such as the possibility of terrorist attack and the insurmountable problems in trying to safely dispose of nuclear waste we believe it is crazy to carry on a moment longer with the nuclear option.

A disaster on the scale of Chernobyl COULD happen here - the chances are small, but the consequences would be devastating. The irony is that we don't need nuclear power because our energy requirements can be met by other means. We believe the only safe future is non - nuclear and therefore support the movement for the IMMEDIATE CLOSURE OF ALL NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS in the area, both civil and military. In the meantime we will actively support the development of nuclear free zones throughout the North West.

LAND USE

We believe that land, like the air we breathe, is not capable of being owned in the way that we own a car or video, and that whilst we are free to acquire the products of our own making, we are not at liberty to acquire the Earth in this way.

A large proportion of the land in Liverpool is owned by commercial interests. We maintain that this land belongs collectively to the people and forms part of our common wealth. We therefore seek radical measures of land reform designed to return the City to its citizens

As a long term objective we would seek to introduce a Community Ground Rent. This would be a rental on all land payable to the local council and would replace the present general rating system.

The effect of this would be that unused land would become a liability rather than an asset as rent would have to be paid whether the land was used or not. Large areas of our City presently 'owned' by large organisations would gradually be released and taken up by more efficient community based activity.

The main benefit of this would be the removal of an underlying cause of unemployment and would result in a very significant boost towards the regeneration of our local economy. The restoration of equality in the right to use land would immediately help to reduce the levels of unemployment, as previously unused land would become productive (see Local Economy).

We need to understand that the present society based on capitalist values, and which exploits people, animals and the environment alike in pursuit of profit, is grounded in land ownership and could not survive without it.

LONG TERM AIMS—

- * To establish a system of land tenure to provide the framework for ecological use, with security of tenure vested in the individual and in small-scale enterprises rooted in the community.
- * To re-establish land as a community asset, no longer subject to monopoly and speculative pressures.
- * To ensure that the returns from land use that are not attributable to the efforts of the individual, benefit the community as a whole.

We cannot make land free but we can all share in its benefits. When we have achieved this objective we shall have established one of the basic requirements for REAL DEMOCRACY.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Parks, recreational areas and other green spaces act as important breaks on the built-up environment in Liverpool. They provide a positive contribution to our general wellbeing and should not be merely regarded as gaps between buildings and roads. As a general policy therefore, they would be given a higher priority. In addition some amenities such as allotments serve useful functions and would be increased where possible, in an effort to create an environment which would improve our city and enhance the quality of life for everyone.

POLICIES

LONG TERM-

- * To ensure that good quality parkland and other open spaces become key features on the City's landscape to meet the needs of local people.
- * There is no social justification for marginal, unused or derelict land in Liverpool - green spaces and recreational areas should be created where possible.

SHORT TERM -

- * To upgrade and enhance existing parks to encourage people to use them.
- * To develop wildlife habitats, nature trails etc within parks, to enable local people to educate themselves about the natural environment.
- * To actively promote the use of allotments by maintaining present sites and creating new sites where required, especially for people without the benefit of a garden. This would have the added advantage of producing fresh food for local people.
- * Where possible, to maintain both existing provision of leisure facilities such as bowls, putting etc, and to extend it, incorporating areas for walking, relaxing and socialising, together with running, orienteering and fitness trails etc.
- * To encourage the development of city farms and community gardens.
- * To commission a study investigating the future land-use potential of the Garden Festival Site to serve the needs of the people of Liverpool.
- * We oppose the increasing use of pesticides and other toxins and would promote the use of organically based alternatives wherever possible.

The protection and improvement of our parks and open spaces ultimately depends on the co-operation of local people. Community involvement in the development and maintenance of the above measures would be actively encouraged.

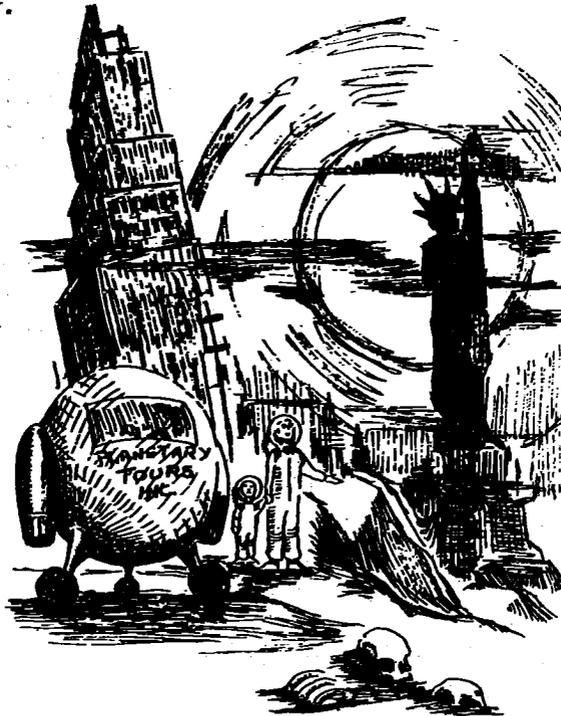
WIDER ISSUES

Obviously some of our policies outlined in this manifesto could not be fully implemented without changes in national legislation. Much of what we would like to achieve will inevitably be frustrated by the limited powers presently vested in local authorities.

We therefore set out below a brief summary of the aims and policies of the Green Party extracted from our National Manifesto:

- * The introduction of proportional representation for all elections.
- * Self government for Scotland, Wales and the regions. Gradual devolution of power from Westminster, leaving National Government to coordinate such things as pollution control, resource management, defence and international affairs.
- * The introduction of a National Basic Income Scheme, abolition of National Insurance contributions and reform of tax laws to allow District Councils to determine their own taxation priorities. Rates to be phased out and replaced by Community Ground Rent
- * To establish a Central Energy Authority to replace existing boards i.e. gas, electricity, and coal, with a view to eliminating unnecessary competition for energy. Another function would be to administer the decentralisation of control to local energy authorities. The closure of all nuclear power stations as fast as possible.
- * To reverse the current agricultural policy by encouraging small scale mixed organic farming and promoting greater ecological diversity. The ultimate aim is to become as self sufficient in basic foods and renewable resources as possible.
- * To create a Pollution Commission responsible for nationwide monitoring of all forms of pollution and possessing far reaching powers to penalise offenders.
- * To radically restructure the National Health Service to establish a decentralised, democratically accountable health service where informed participation by the individual, combined with cooperation between health professionals in the community, promotes good health for all. Advertising and sponsorship of tobacco and alcohol products to be banned.

- * To transfer investment from motorways to railways and canals. The road fund tax to be replaced by increased tax on fuel so as to reflect the true social and environmental costs of road transport.
- * The introduction of a Bill of Rights and Freedom of Information Act to restore and safeguard the liberty of the individual.
- * Dependence on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons would be renounced. All foreign military installations and bases would be removed. We would withdraw from NATO and try to establish a genuinely defensive, non-nuclear and non-aligned posture. The development of Social Defence based on non-violent resistance and non-cooperation with an invading force. The export of arms and nuclear technology would stop.
- * Tariffs on imports and exports would be introduced to reduce levels of international trade and encourage local and regional self-reliance.
- * Aid to the third world would be increased and given (not loaned) to promote locally self-reliant and ecologically sound economies and not merely as a means of supporting U.K. industries. 'Debts' of many of the poorer countries would be written off.



USED TO BE CALLED THE EARTHLY
PARADISE.

TO SUM UP

In this manifesto many new ideas have been put forward to challenge the conventional policies of the main parties. The politics of right, left and centre can be likened to a three lane motorway, with different vehicles in separate lanes all trying to overtake each other but all heading in the wrong direction. Green politics is heading in a totally different direction to that of all the other parties. It is the similarities between the policies of the mainstream parties which links them together far more than their superficial differences distinguish them. All are dedicated to economic growth and expansion of the means of production. Similarly they are committed to a materialistic approach in order to provide for peoples' needs.

Green politics and citizens' movements are rapidly being established all over the world to respond to the urgent situation arising from the unrelenting attack upon our planet, brought about by the blind commitment to growth at all costs of the industrialised countries. It is a system which perpetuates division - rich from poor, North from South and East from West. It is a system which is pushing nature to the limits beyond which there may be irreparable damage to our ecosystem. Some of the hidden costs of industrialism are now looming large on the horizon - the global warnings are there for all to see. On top of this, the spectre of nuclear war and the vast resources committed to maintaining the so-called defence budgets further undermine our security and fundamentally diminish the quality of life.

The aim of Green politics is not to impose our ideals and beliefs on others but merely to highlight the need for fundamental changes in our society and to point in the direction in which we should be heading.

Green politics is a mixture of common sense and vision; it's about finding sustainable solutions to our problems and about people taking power within their own community. We have all become conditioned to the process of passing our responsibility to 'specialists', we must relearn to accept responsibility for ourselves once again.

Many of the changes we desire do not depend upon the Green Party securing control of the City Council. They can be achieved quite quickly and effectively by individuals joining together in their neighbourhood to work out solutions to their own particular problems. The development of community councils is a growing trend in our City. Of course this process of self empowerment cannot be fully implemented without the passing down of power from above. The role of the Green Party is to act as a catalyst in this process.

We sincerely hope that by producing this manifesto the Liverpool Green Party have demonstrated that there really is an alternative to our present way of life. If you share our hope for the future please join with us to make it into reality.

OTHER PARTIES MAY PROMISE THE MOON -
ONLY THE GREENS GUARANTEE THE EARTH.

If you would like to join the LIVERPOOL GREEN PARTY, then please send a cheque/P.O. payable to the ' LIVERPOOL GREEN PARTY ', to the address below.

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