



High Peak Green Party for the common good

Autumn 2017

Better care closer to home?

Changes to community health services affecting local people were recently agreed by the North Derbyshire and Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). These include the closure of older people's mental health beds in the Cavendish Hospital in Buxton and closing Newholme Hospital in Bakewell.

To counter this, a specialist older people's mental health inpatient service will be developed in Walton Hospital in Chesterfield, along with the development of 'Community Dementia Rapid Response Teams' intended to provide care for patients in their own homes. Meanwhile, services for older people with mental illnesses other than dementia are to be transferred from Cavendish hospital to Stepping Hill hospital. 'Intermediate care' beds in community hospitals in Bolsover, Clay Cross, Newholme and Whitworth hospitals will also close, with the development of a specialist rehabilitation service with beds in Chesterfield and Cavendish hospitals, 'beds with care', and an 'Intermediate Care Service' to provide more domiciliary care.

High Peak Green Party supports changes that enhance independence and help restore it when it is lost. But while welcoming the idea of "better care closer to home", we see that changes are being made within a regime of austerity, where there is an anticipated £219 million gap between Derbyshire's projected health and social care budget in 2020/21 of £1,914M, and what would be needed to fund services if they do not change. In these circumstances, it's easy to see how making savings could become the main measure of success for the proposals.

So we share the concerns of many in our communities that these changes could result in reduced, lower quality services. It is a positive result of people voicing these fears that the CCGs have given a commitment that no services will close until appropriate alternatives are in place. We must hold the CCGs to this commitment.

Moving in-patient care away from our community hospitals will have a serious impact on the ability of family and friends to visit. It's undeniable that if people from High Peak are admitted to hospital in Chesterfield, visiting could become impossible for many people. Our public transport services are already inadequate and more cuts are likely. This must be taken seriously. We need a review of public transport to make sure that visitors can get to wherever services are.

**Towards a Greener
Glossopdale**

30 September 1-5pm

Glossop Labour Club

**A chance to discuss transport
and energy issues as we
confront the climate change
emergency**

**To book, contact
peter.allen@greenparty.org.uk**

Hen Harrier Day

On the 5th August the High Peak Green Party attended the 2017 Sheffield Hen Harrier day. Hen Harrier day is a national day of action with events running all over the country and aims to raise awareness about the plight of the Hen Harrier. The event was a tremendous success with larger crowds, more media coverage and the #stopkillinghenharriers trending nationally. Only a small number of Hen Harriers successfully breed each year however the UK has the habitat to support a larger number of birds. According to National England data between 2007 and 2014 48 young Satellite tagged Hen Harriers simply disappeared and the ones that are found dead are often discovered with injuries consistent with illegal persecution.

Speakers at the Sheffield Hen Harrier event included former Green Party leader Natalie Bennett and Springwatch Presenter Iolo Williams. The speakers talked about their personal encounters and experiences with the bird that the RSPB has termed the 'SkyDancer' due to its spectacular aerial displays. They also spoke about the connections between the illegal persecution of moorland wildlife, specifically Hen Harriers, and driven grouse shooting. Natalie Bennett spoke about the 'slaughter' of the wildlife on the moorlands not only of Harriers but other wildlife as well.



The main message that I took away from the day was that the National Parks and the wildlife within it are for the use of the general public and not just for those who choose to go shooting on them. If you want to find out more about the Hen Harrier campaign then please visit <http://henharrierday.org>

Luke Robinson

Want to know more about the Green Party?

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