

**South-East Hampshire**

**Green Party -**

Covering Fareham, Gosport, Havant,  
Portsmouth, and Waterlooville

**Green Party**



**Real Progress**

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **Trade, aid and debt must be tackled to end poverty - 24 April 05**

The Green Parliamentary candidates for Gosport and Havant have marked World Poverty Day by outlining their party's policies to end deprivation.

Havant candidate Tim Dawes said: "Reducing inequality at home and overseas is a key Green Party issue. In fact, the World Development Movement said our stance on development issues was 'hard to fault'." [1]

Andrea Claire Smith, the candidate for Gosport, said: "We have been lobbying for a reform of the international trade rules that have disadvantaged developing countries. They are not allowed under World Trade Organisation rules to protect fledgling industries - just the measure that rich countries took when their industries were trying to get established. "

Developing countries may also face higher trade tariffs than industrialised countries. The average tariff imposed by countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on manufactured goods from developing countries is more than four times than that put on goods from other members. [2]

Tim said: "That is plain unfair. Industrialised countries often developing countries put in a "heads we win, tails you lose' situation. This has got to stop. By making trade fairer, we will be tackling one of the root causes of migration - poverty."

The Green Party is committed to increasing international aid to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product within five years and 1.0 per cent of GNP within ten years. Emergency aid should be an addition to this from the Government's contingency reserve.

As for debt, we suggest that instead of repaying debts in hard currencies, governments of countries with debts to the British Government or private banks will be required to make payments in their own currencies into local development funds. These will be administered by local people to establish local, ecologically sustainable economies and projects. Each repayment will be matched by a corresponding reduction of the foreign debt.

Claire said: "We believe a fairer, more equal world is a safer world for everyone. We are taking a 'a big picture' view, but these are massive, interconnected issues and need a broad approach."

**ENDS**

1. <http://www.wdm.org.uk/electionbriefing/election05guide.pdf>

2. United Nations Human Development Report 2003

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