

South-East Hampshire

Green Party -

Covering Fareham, Gosport, Havant,
Portsmouth, and Waterlooville

Green Party 

Real Progress

PRESS RELEASE:

GREENS SHOW SHOPPERS THEIR SPENDING PLANS

Photocalls: Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

11.30am-12.30pm Outside Safeway, High Street, Gosport

1.30pm-2.30pm Outside St Faith's Church, West Street, Havant

Green Party Parliamentary candidates will go to Gosport and Havant markets tomorrow to explain to shoppers how they would pay for plans to increase spending on education, health, crime reduction, public transport, and pensions.

Andrea Claire Smith, who is contesting the Gosport constituency, said: "We believe health spending needs to increase by about £30 billion a year. This is an increase of about a third on what is currently being spent. Our focus for the money would be preventing ill health by cutting pollution, making it safer to cycle and walk, and reducing man-made toxins in the environment. "This strategy would create its own savings. However, we would also fund it by cutting defence spending and introducing a higher rate of income tax for earners on more than £100,000 a year."

Tim said: "We would raise the state pension by between a quarter and a third, pay it to all regardless of their NI contribution or savings and link the value to the cost of living, so that as the country grows wealthier, pensioners share in the prosperity." In the immediate term, the National Association of Pensions Funds believes that this could be funded by reorganising the existing pensions system.

Green would increase education spending by approximately £5bn a year. This includes the cost of scrapping tuition fees and restoring maintenance grants. This would be paid from the tax collected as a result of introducing the higher rate of income tax and through increasing corporation tax.

Andrea said: "Greens want to tax large companies more, but smaller businesses - rooted in their communities and less likely to leave for the chance of cheaper wages abroad - would benefit from our proposal to end National Insurance."

Other spending plans:

* Invest £30bn in public transport over ten years by cutting the roads programme.

* Put £3bn into crime reduction by scrapping ID cards

* Reduce VAT and replace it with eco-taxes that penalise products that use a lot of material resources.

* Increase international aid by placing a tax on international transfers of capital. This tax would also serve to discourage currency speculation that can play havoc with national economies.

ENDS

Andrea Claire can be contacted on 023 92 361 988 / 07787 326 724

Tim can be contacted on 023 92 471 811 / 077 661 65 946