

Derbyshire Dales Green Group County Election Planning Meeting 02/09/2019

Attendees:

John Green (chair), Darren Yates, Steve Martin, John Hill, PK Whalen, Caroline Hallett, John Ward, Liz Pasteur

(1) Apologies:

Matt Buckler, Neil Buttle
(due to district council EGM on travellers)

(2) Arisings from previous meeting

Previous minutes were not reviewed in detail as our previous plans have been disrupted by Covid-19.

(3) County council elections 2021

Due to the postponement of the 2020 elections, Derby City elections will take place at the same time. This may stretch our resources.

The City team have selected their target ward: Arboretum.

Our policy is to stand (at least on paper) in all divisions. We may then choose one of them as a target division on which to focus our campaign efforts. After selecting candidates, sometimes there is horse-trading with other parties, leading to stand-downs in some wards, but these are discussions for much later.

According to the 'Target to Win' manual, we should have already started a programme of multiple leaflets and newsletters. 2 of these wards have been selected in Derbyshire, but they are not within the Dales (Wingerworth and Shirland). Regional party funding is available and has been applied for. The Dales team may select one of our wards for a more modest level of targeting, as resources allow.

Criteria for target selection:

- Avoid existing marginals. In these binary races, the Green vote tends to reduce as people vote tactically to oppose their least preferred party.
- Consider longer-term benefits of campaigning – e.g. winnable district wards within the division.
- In a safe seat, try to win second place this time and become the recognised opposition, as a jump-off for a target to win campaign next time. This worked in Duffield in 2019.

Dales divisions with proposed candidates are:

Dovedale (Neil Buttle)
Wirksworth (possible candidate, not confirmed)
Bakewell (John Ward)
Ashbourne (John Hill)
Matlock (Matt Buckler)
Derwent (none yet)

Action: John Green to discuss with potential Wirksworth candidate, and ring around other members if necessary.

Action: PK to ring around members in Derwent division – John Green to supply list of members

It is suggested that we would target Matlock and Dovedale divisions to best support Neil and Matt's current hold on their district wards within these divisions.

Decision TBC – discuss with candidates

Action: PK to check whether free/reduced cost Royal Mail leaflet deliveries are available for county elections.

Post-meeting: PK spoke with the Royal Mail Elections Team (03456 076 416) which informed that for local elections, such as the one in May, there are no special exemptions or reduced fees. Costs will be the same as it would for any citizen/business.

(4) Next meeting

Wednesday 5th Oct, on zoom. Time TBC.