

# *Trafford*

# **Green Party**



## ***Press Release***

20<sup>th</sup> April 2009

### **GREEN PARTY CALLS FOR A MAJOR CHANGE OF HEART AND CORPORATE PRACTICE BY PEEL HOLDINGS IN STRETFORD**

This week Trafford Green Party has written to Peel Holdings to encourage a change in its corporate practice that would be to the greater benefit of local people, the centre of Stretford, and the Borough in general. (1)

Peel Holdings are owners of the Trafford Centre and are hoping now to benefit from an adjacent major hotel complex. News has also recently come out that the Company may be pursuing proposals for a food superstore that could be harmful to the future of both Stretford and Urmston Town Centres. Peel Holdings also exercise control over the Bridgewater Canal and some of the canalside land and, as such, it has great influence upon a key feature of our community in Stretford.

For many years, residents in Stretford have been saddened by the way in which their town centre has been reduced to a junction of the A56, and a Mall which is closed at night to the public. For many years too, the canalside - which could be an area providing facilities and features of which residents could be proud, has not fulfilled its potential as a focal point for the community. There have recently been planning applications for residential blocks along the canalside in Stretford considered by the council. One of the applicants was Peel Holdings. This application is for a multi-storey block of flats that offers nothing to the community in terms of local regeneration opportunities. It is, in short, another purely commercial, profit-making proposal.

There have recently been more positive, informal suggestions made for this area. These include a tentative proposal for the development of a boatyard, as well as ideas explored

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some years ago with the Town Centre Partnership for an alternative transport interchange and café in the old station building.

Trafford Green Party is keen to see appropriate developments across the borough; that provide good local facilities for local people, encourage responsible travel, and discourage excessive car usage with its associated health and environmental hazards. We challenge Peel Holdings to divert some of the profits it has made, and is making, out of the Stretford area, into a genuine local regeneration project for the canalside in Stretford.

Bridget Green, Chair of Trafford Green Party said "Such a development could be linked in with the re-design of the main A56 carriageway, which is not only a health hazard but also responsible for the destruction of the heart of Stretford. It could also bring much needed employment to the area at a time when so many people are being affected by the recession."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. A full copy of the open letter to Peel Holdings is attached
2. Trafford Green Party was set up in January 2007
3. Further information can be found on our website [www.traffordgreens.org.uk](http://www.traffordgreens.org.uk)
4. For details of national policy and activities of green councillors in other areas see [www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)
5. Trafford Green Party has sent a Climate Change Challenge to Trafford Council and is talking to residents about this. See details below

## **10- point Climate Change Challenge**

### **Working towards a low carbon economy**

1. *Cut CO2 emissions by an extra 9% every year (creating a cut of 25% by 2011 and nearly 90% by 2030).*
2. *Collect 70% of all household waste for recycling or local composting by 2015.*
3. *Set a 20mph speed limit on residential roads across the Borough and put pedestrians first.*
4. *Make public transport more attractive by improving service, reducing fares and introducing more family and season tickets.*
5. *Support policies designed to reduce individual car use, encourage car-sharing and support walking, cycling and public transport initiatives.*
6. *Support sustainable energy by sourcing all electricity, including street lighting, from genuinely renewable supplies.*

7. *Say no to the destruction of our environment by blocking expansion of Manchester Airport and any new road building.*
8. *Help Trafford residents to do their bit with free insulation. Support the creation of micro-generation power schemes and other kinds of decentralised energy production.*
9. *Set the highest possible standard for new buildings by insisting that every new development surpasses the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard.*
10. *Eat local with a food strategy that re-localises food supplies to schools and other Council facilities. Make it easier for everybody to grow their own and buy local through allotments, farmers' markets and other projects.*

### **CONTACTS**

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