

# GREEN NEWS

OLD PORTSMOUTH AND SOMERSTOWN, SPRING 2025

## DEATH BY 1000 CUTS

### CUTS CAN'T FIX COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS



Jay organising food bank donations to King's Church Centre, Somerstown



JAY MERCER



ELLIOTT LEE

Some two-thirds of voters **don't believe** that the Labour government will tackle the **cost-of-living** crisis in 2025, with almost 75% of those polled worried about rising food and energy prices and nearly 50% worried about rent or mortgage payments. Rather than tackle the true root of the financial crisis – **tax avoidance** and **tax loopholes** used by multi-millionaires or billionaires – Starmer's cabinet have chosen instead to continue austerity.

People on the breadline aren't able to cut luxuries, they are forced to cut necessities, putting pressure on already stressed public service. Jay Mercer said:

“Greens would fix this wrong by making the uber-rich pay their fair share. After all, we're the 6th richest country on earth; we should be ashamed that our government is making people choose between heating or eating.”

## INTRODUCING: JAY MERCER

COMMITTED. GENEROUS. ENERGETIC.

That's what people said when we asked them to describe our campaigner for St Thomas Ward, Jay Mercer. While Jay may be young at just 21, they know what many in government fail to grasp after decades in power: **politics** is all about **helping people**.

Jay said “If I had to describe my beliefs simply; I would say that I like it when good things happen and I can make good things happen in Portsmouth by standing up for our principles and our neighbours.”

Jay is meeting many residents on the doorstep to talk about **your concerns**, and was excited and energised by the connections they made.



Jay will work hard things better for our community with safer, cleaner streets.

JAY AND ELLIOTT: AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR ST. THOMAS WARD



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# SUPPORTING SANCTUARY IN PORTSMOUTH

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD DISPLACED BY WARS, CLIMATE CHANGE.

Refugees are fleeing conditions we can barely imagine. Jay said: "Political opportunists will claim that we are the best country on earth but turn away those who risked their lives to come here."

Jay has been supporting two incredible Portsmouth charities dedicated to helping refugees. Portsmouth Green Party has donated furniture, three bags of clothing, toiletries, toys, books and homeware.



Jay leaving donations with City of Sanctuary refugee charity.



Elliott meets Paul at his weekly protest on climate and air quality outside the council.

## LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

PORTSMOUTH'S CLEAN AIR ZONE (CAZ) IS NOT WORKING

NO2 air pollution in the city has remained **almost unchanged** since 2020, despite the introduction of a CAZ. Some of the worse areas have improved but 3 sites remain **dangerously** above the legal pollution limit since 2010. Jay said "The government needs to come up with a **credible** plan to sort this out. Reducing traffic and improving bus services would greatly improve things."

## HARMFUL ADVERTISING

DOES IT EVER FEEL LIKE ADS ARE EVERYWHERE?

Advertising is all around us but many are for harmful products like gambling, certain fast foods, high sugar foods and vaping are damaging to health. We also need to curb carbon intensive products like SUVs. Jay has objected to the installation of more LED screen advertising in Lake Road unless the advertising space can be used responsibly.



Intrusive advertising for harmful products surrounds us in our city such as King's Terrace

## CAN WE HELP? WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?



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