

JOHN GREEN
Green Party candidate for the
Wirksworth division. 1st May 2025.



John Green for Wirksworth

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Matlock Bath Parish Council have asked me to respond to the following questions. If you have any further questions please either email me or post the question on the Facebook group above and I'll do my best to respond to them. I no longer use X/Twitter.

1. If you were the county councillor, how would you have handled the wall repair on Derby Road and resulting traffic disruption in the village?

I wouldn't presume to challenge the technical experts who specified the work, nor was I aware of any constraints on speed, dates or the size of the workforce. But I would have listened to the concerns of both residents and businesses and pressed for the council to acknowledge them and take action.

2. We have 2 very difficult junctions on the A6 in the village - Holme Road and Temple Road. How would you manage improvement to these junctions?

I am very familiar with both junctions. My son used to work at Gulliver's during school holidays and took music lessons on Holme Road. Holme Road is somewhat alleviated by the proximity of the PELICAN crossing. The problem at Temple Road is the speed of oncoming traffic, limited signage and the angle of the junction. A solution for this could be more prominent signs warning of a dangerous junction ahead. But it will always be difficult to balance the needs of residents and tourism

3. The village has serious problems with illegal parking on both the side roads and on the pavements on the parades. How would you manage solutions to these problems?

In terms of enforcement, unless an actual obstruction is being caused it's a matter for the on street parking enforcement organisation (CPE). The council collects more than half a million pounds annually in fines, so I'm pretty sure a case for more enforcement could be made if the evidence was quantified and presented to them.

4. Though the county council has a clear policy covering pavement clutter, it remains a serious problem along the Parades. How would you manage this?

There is a reporting mechanism on the council website, reports are followed up and the person reporting it kept informed of progress. If delays in dealing with clutter causing an obstruction are occurring I'd happily follow it up.

5. Noisy cars and motorbikes are a serious problem along the Derwent Valley through the village. How do you envisage addressing this issue.

This is a matter for the police. Unfortunately 14 years of Conservative government have cut the police forces by around 24%. I have spoken with traffic officers at Ripley HQ through the Bikesafe program and am aware of their frustration with the current lack of resources. When we first moved here in 2000 the police regularly held spot checks in the layby opposite Masson Mill. I haven't seen one for some time. If funding is improved perhaps these could be restarted.



6. Tourism is important to the village yet it has to be managed but promoted. How do you see this happening so as to achieve the right balance for both the residents and the business community?

Wirksworth, Cromford and Matlock Bath are great places to live, with recreational opportunities and events right on the doorstep. As a consequence people come to visit and to spend money. It works pretty well in my opinion. There has to be a bit of give and take on both sides. Keeping businesses and residents aware of each others' priorities and concerns is key to maintaining that balance.

7. We serve as Parish Councillors because are passionate about the village we serve. As you do not live in our village or perhaps even in the ward you are to serve, what is the reasons for you to stand and represent us at county level.

According to Google Maps, I live 1.3 miles from Matlock Bath and I have a fine view of both High Tor and the Heights of Abraham from my living room where I'm writing this!

The Wirksworth division is quite large, encompassing Carsington, Hlland, Cromford, as well as Matlock Bath and Wirksworth itself of course.

Prior to moving here 25 years ago, we used to visit Matlock Bath regularly as tourists. Since moving here, my kids have been educated at Highfields, I have been Child Protection Officer for the Matlock Canoe Club, been the treasurer and trustee of the MARS charity which fundraised for the ARC centre in Matlock for ten years, Master of Targets at Derwent Bowmen as well as holding various other voluntary posts and participating in campaigns about local issues such as the public toilet closures, parks and playgrounds etc.

My wife and I perform the monthly bumblebee and butterfly surveys along the Cromford Canal and Rose End Meadows and provide data to the respective national conservation agencies.

As an ex-kayaker I am acutely aware of the pressures on the Derwent and other waterways in the area from both flooding, pollution and tourism pressures.

My daughter, Highfields educated, is now a chemistry teacher and her husband teaches physics, so I get plenty of quality advice about education issues.

So I consider myself to be well involved with my community and fairly well informed. I don't consider this area to be particularly well served by the county council and I'm not the sort of person to sit on my hands if I think something needs doing. I hope that explains my motivation.

8. If you do not live in the Wirksworth ward, how will you manage the conflicts of interest between the ward you represent and the ward where you live?

I think the interests of the Derbyshire Dales divisions are largely complementary, particularly the Matlock and Wirksworth divisions.

If any conflict should arise I would put aside personal (and party) interests and act appropriately in the interests of the division I represent, as I hope any elected councillor would.

The Green Party don't 'whip' their councillors at the local level. Although our priorities around health, the environment, education etc. will of course tend to align with the national party.

9. We are a very active parish council often dealing with quite unique and challenging issues. What commitment will you make to responding to emails and phone calls quickly and attending our meetings usually every 2 months?.

There are a lot of parish and town councils in the division and I doubt I'll be able to attend every meeting of all of them. But I'll certainly read your published agendas and minutes and will attend if there's anything specific to county council business that you need to tell me about face to face..

