

The Green Party in Kent

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National and local UK politics

UK local politics (three tier – more or less, ‘first past the post’):

- Central government (Conservative/LibDem)
- County Council (major services – health, schools, roads, waste...)
- District Council
- Town/Parish Council

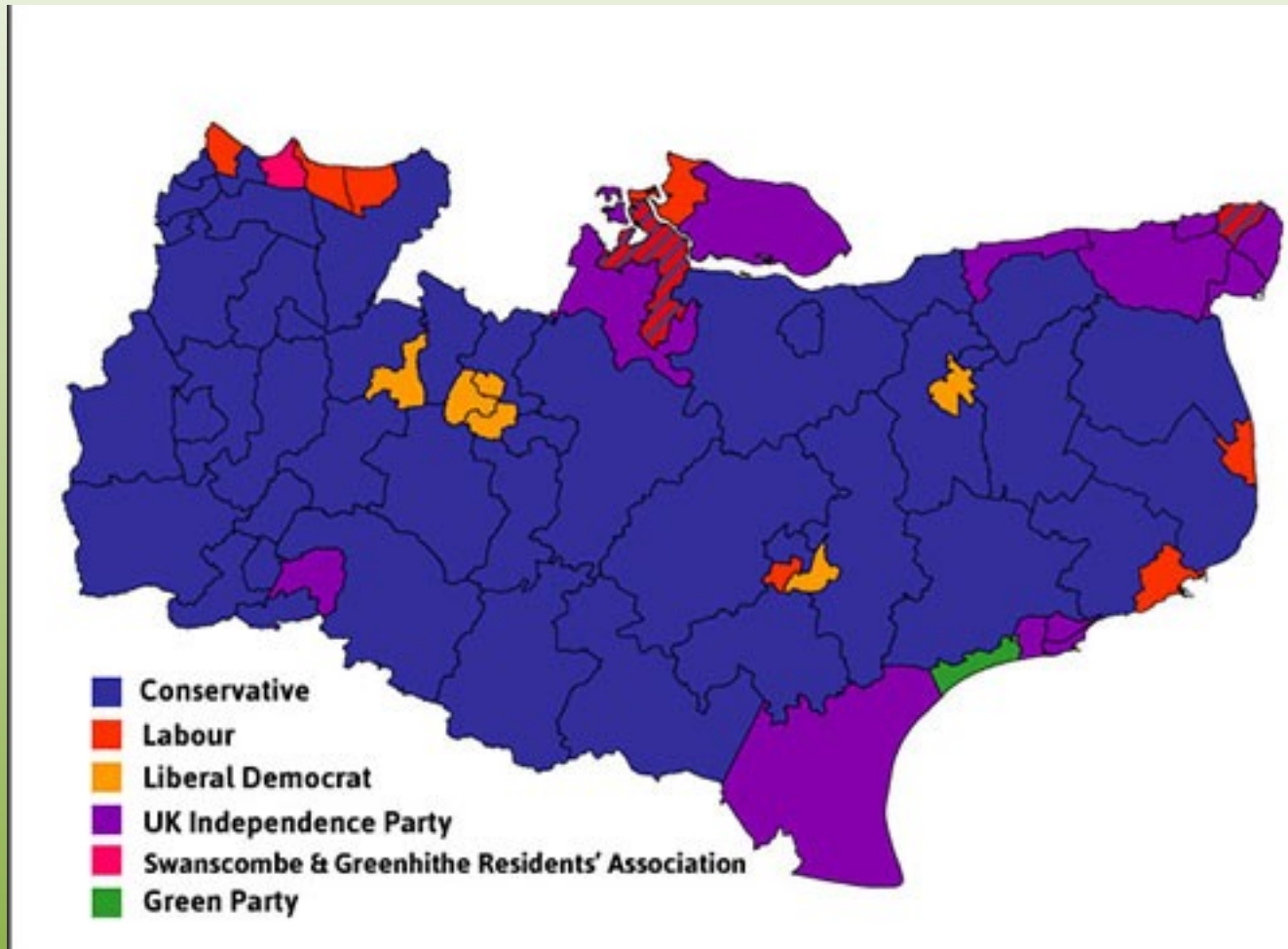
Kent County Council result, 2nd May 2013, Hythe

Before in Hythe (June 2009):

After (May 2013):

➤ Conservative	2771 (54%)	Green Party	1659 (35%)
➤ Liberal Democrats	1161 (23%)	Conservative	1346 (28%)
➤ UKIP	707 (14%)	UKIP	1100 (23%)
➤ Labour	263 (5%)	Labour	418 (9%)
➤ BNP	208 (4%)	LibDem	248 (5%)

The County Council map today



Source: KCC

National issues

- A major austerity drive to reduce the national debt
- Across the board but a major focus on reducing benefits so poorest the worst hit
- Little difference between the three main parties – “treading on each others’ toes to occupy the same ground”
- The rise of the populist anti-European right-wing – UKIP
- A weak and one dimensional economy, rising unemployment particularly among the young
- Environmental issues, climate change pushed down the agenda in favour of growth at all costs

Local issues

- The South-East is extremely crowded, so pressure on housing, infrastructure, a lot of opposition to new developments
- The loss of major employers, including Pfizer in Sandwich, a lot of depredation in coastal towns and rural communities
- Decline of high streets
- Decommissioning of Dungeness power station
- The threat of fracking
- Plans to expand regional airports – Manston (Ramsgate) and Lydd, Thames Estuary

The Green Party in the UK

- Our first MP – Caroline Lucas
- The only anti-austerity party
- A force in Europe
- Increasing membership particularly among young voters
- Breaking through at other levels of government despite the electoral system (e.g. Brighton)
- Potentially we can capitalise on the fragmentation of UK politics, with old divides breaking down
- Increasing media coverage, although still an uphill battle

Working together?

- Sharing ideas and information – will what works in Kent work in France and vice versa?
- Joint campaigns (e.g. fracking, green jobs, tourism, European elections)
- Joint publicity and events
- Other ideas?



Merci!

- www.shepwaygreenparty.com
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