

# Green Hustings

Talk by Richard Foster

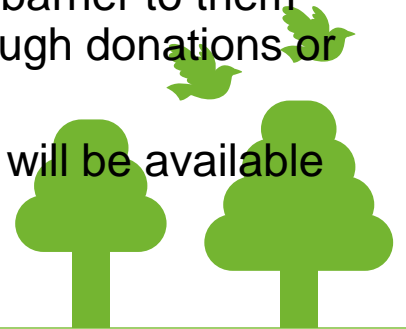
Ex-chair of the West Berkshire Green Exchange

12<sup>th</sup> February 2024



# Green Hustings – In advance

- Choose and book the venue, having regard to size, audio system, accessibility etc
- Invite an assertive, neutral chairperson
- Invite ALL candidates on the ballot paper
- Promote widely within the constituency. Important to say that it's a green hustings and only questions relating to the environment will be accepted.
- Invite questions in advance, or on the day in writing
- Set up a booking system, eg on Eventbrite
- DO NOT make a charge for the event. In the spirit of democracy, it is important that someone struggling to put food on the table should not feel that there is a barrier to them asking a question that they want answered. Instead, cover your costs through donations or grants.
- Decide whether there will be a mid-session break, and whether tea/coffee will be available
- Decide whether the session will be recorded
- Invite the local press



# Green Hustings – Questions

- Do not leave the choice of questions entirely to chance. You have taken the trouble to organise the event, so make sure that somebody submits and asks the questions that you want answered.
- Ensure that the chairperson and candidates are briefed on how to use the microphones. We found it was necessary to rest the microphone on your chin below your lower lip. It's really important that everyone can hear the question and the answers. Maybe brief the chairperson always to repeat the question before inviting answers.



# Green Hustings – On the Day

- Manage car parking if necessary
- Test the audio system in the hall
- On the door: check-in the attendees who have registered, or take contact details so you know who has attended
- Have a separate desk for submission of written questions
- Have a person/team dedicated to sorting questions and a communication route to the chair for inviting the next questioner to ask their question.
- If you can, have a separate room set aside for reception of the candidates
- Have people available to pass round roving microphones.
- Consider having a person appointed as a timer who signals to speakers how long they have left, and then informs them and the chairperson when their time is up.



# Green Hustings – Format of the event

- The chairperson welcomes everyone, introduces themselves and the candidates and describes the format of the event
- Each candidate has a set time to introduce themselves and their party's approach to, or policies on, environmental matters. The chairperson should be prepared to cut them off as soon as their time is up.
- The chairperson invites the first questioner to ask their question.
- As in the BBC's "Any Questions" the chairperson will vary the order in which candidates respond to questions. The chair will always try to treat candidates with equal fairness.
- At the end of the event each candidate will have a pre-arranged set time to sum up their position. The amount of time allocated per candidate to this and to their introduction will depend on the number of candidates.
- The chairperson will then close the event.

