

1 PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

As Lib Dems, we stand for a council with priorities that are the priorities of the people - a council that is open and transparent, one where council tax is being used properly and where **the leadership of the council is fully accountable to residents.**

We will put an end to the reckless spending we've seen under the Conservatives and **deliver on the things that matter to you, your family and our community.**

How we will do it:

- Introduce a 'Residents Card' to give discounts on parking and use of council facilities for residents of our council area.
- Create community councils to put power back in to the hands of local residents and work positively with parish councils to get the best for residents.
- Strengthen the role of the public at council committee meetings and introduce 'Community

Liberal Democrats

Conversations' to give residents a voice.

- Put the needs of local residents and businesses before those of tourists.
- Encourage local, sustainable businesses to bid for council contracts.
- Ensure the planning system considers capacity of schools, GP surgeries and sewers before granting permission.



2 DEFENDING LOCAL SERVICES

The Lib Dems are fighting for a fair deal - good quality schools, responsive police, support with the cost-of-living crisis and **an NHS that is properly funded and managed.**

We have a rescue plan for our NHS - recruiting more doctors, dentists and paramedics, cutting waiting times by fixing our social care system and supporting our staff in health and care services. **Our public services deserve better. We deserve better.**

How we will do it:

- Protect, support and invest in youth services - young people need somewhere to go.
- Push Government for health and social care reform so services are properly integrated.
- Build council houses with affordable rents so that no families are housed in B&Bs or inappropriate shared accommodation.
- Review the provision of special education attached to mainstream

schools to help families keep their children in their own communities.

- Upgrade libraries to community hubs - with staff able to support residents with council queries and reporting, plus space for volunteer reading support, tool and toy libraries, etc.
- Work with the bus companies to improve public transport and support modal shift with the 'Residents Card'.



3 CLEAN & SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS

We will **prioritise the basic council services that matter to you** and keep our local area free from potholes, fly-tipping and litter.

Our neighbourhoods should be clean and safe for us and for our children. We will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by establishing Partnerships & Communities Together (PACTs). We will create a strategy to improve play facilities for children and get the Climate Emergency response back on track.

How we will do it:

- Get the Climate & Ecological Emergency response back on track, introduce community experts to help scrutinise climate policy and create 'Green Ambassadors' for our communities.
- Reverse the cuts to highway maintenance to tackle potholes and prioritise improvements to pavements.
- Introduce a 'Play Strategy' so play parks are properly maintained, fully

accessible and appropriate for varying age groups and abilities.

- Expand the 'School Streets' program and enforce against dangerous parking to reduce the risk to pedestrians, particularly children.
- Establish PACTs bringing together the police, the community and Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch volunteers to reduce crime in our communities.



4 THRIVING ECONOMY & COMMUNITY

We will **build a thriving economy and community where local groups are well supported** and businesses are heard. Other towns are thriving, but ours are run down and in desperate need of rejuvenation.

We will invest in our town and district centres and restore pride in our highstreets. **We will ensure local businesses have the support they need to grow. Other towns are thriving and we can too!**

How we would do it:

- Support our vital community groups and local charities who are helping combat the cost of living crisis and environmental crisis.
- Refocus 'Future Places' on a smaller number of strategic sites for regeneration and only widen if results are delivered.
- Support businesses and traders in areas that want to create Business Improvement Districts.

■ Proactively seek and support new business opportunities locally and learn from other thriving towns across the UK and beyond.

- Improve the safety and presentation of our town and district centres by working with existing trader groups, BIDs and businesses to reduce crime and visually improve our public spaces and high streets.

