

Bournemouth Deserves Better

Manifesto for Bournemouth Council 2003-2007



Conservative Failure

The Tory run Bournemouth Council fails four basic tests: Value for money, good services, listening to public opinion, and a clear vision for our Town:

- A Council Tax rise of almost 50% over the last four years.
- Meanwhile services have declined with weeds and litter on our streets and public loos shut. Why is Bournemouth so wasteful?



- The Tories have remained out of touch on many issues. Worst of all they ignored the results of their own consultation on the Winter Gardens.

- With no clear vision or direction the Tory Council has not tackled the Town's key problems.

When the Conservatives took control of the all-powerful

Cabinet they said it would be clear who was responsible.

Cllr Stephen MacLoughlin, leader of the Tory group said: 'We think local government in Bournemouth is best served if the public know that there's a party in power and other parties in opposition - so they can say "that crowd have done a reasonable job, we'll vote for them" or "They've been totally useless, we'll vote for someone else."'

The Echo, 19th March '02

Bournemouth Deserves Better

The Liberal Democrats will put basic services first, improve the way the council works, promote equality of opportunity, and entrust local decision making to local communities wherever possible.

Liberal Democrat Priorities

A Liberal Democrat Council will focus on taking action. These will be our top eight priorities:

1. Value for money. Try to get efficiency savings every year and explain better how your money is spent.

2. Services. Put the basics first: we will ensure that less money is spent on red tape and more on frontline services.



3. Listening. Neighbourhood Councils will be set up and given real support by the Council, and a real say in decisions. One-stop shops will help to make services available locally.

4. Environment. Extend the recycling service and ensure a 'green audit' of all council and contractors' work, to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainability

5. Crime. Focus on drug related crime, update CCTV, consult with local residents, and fight cuts to the Dorset police budget.

6. Transport. To make our roads safer and public transport better, reduce congestion, and provide cheaper or even free travel for older people and students.



7. Getting the small things done. To establish a £100,000 fund for local improvements suggested by residents.

8. Review of the Town Centre developments.

To look at the future of the Winter Gardens, the Pavilion and the BIC before the Council gets any further into debt.



Bournemouth's Environment



Since '99, under the Conservatives, the amount of recycling has fallen, bottlebanks have been left full, graffiti has got worse, and residential streets have not been cleaned for months and months on end. And shrubs have grown in the gutters and pavements of Bournemouth.

It is a disgrace.

Funding has been cut to cleansing services, public loo refurbishment, and Toilets were closed during the winter when the funding ran out.



The Liberal Democrats will:

- Avoid crisis in the future by sorting out the Council's financial management and planning.
- Decide on, and plan for, future waste disposal and recycling
- Undertake an environmental audit of the Council to reduce the impact of our business and cut costs.
- Support Bournemouth's tradition of excellence in parks and public areas, but cut our use of peat and reduce watering.



Get a full copy of the manifesto from: www.bournemouth-libdems.org

The Liberal Democrat Guarantee

This manifesto is an ambitious programme for the next four years for Bournemouth Council. It will transform the quality of public service the Council delivers, the way it delivers it and the way the

Council engages with the people of Bournemouth.

This programme includes pledges against which you will be able to measure our performance in key areas.

Your Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Listen to you
- ✓ Communicate with you
- ✓ Ensure value for money
- ✓ Deliver quality, universal services
- ✓ Be open, accessible and accountable
- ✓ Employ and train our staff to be courteous, well informed, and helpful
- ✓ Take responsibility for our environment
- ✓ Encourage and promote communities within and across Bournemouth
- ✓ Work in partnership with local people, businesses and other agencies including the Health Service, the Police and the voluntary sector.

Your Liberal Democrat councillors will:

- ✓ Attend Area Committees
- ✓ Hold advice surgeries in their area
- ✓ Answer your letters
- ✓ Return phone calls and e-mails promptly
- ✓ Publish their telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and contact details
- ✓ Attend local community meetings
- ✓ Act as your advocate to the Council even on matters about which they personally do not agree with you

A record of action ...

Keeping in touch all year round, not just at election time.



... a promise of more.