



Liberal Democrat
MANIFESTO 2008
for the Wokingham borough

Wokingham Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group Manifesto 2008



What do the Liberal Democrats stand for?

.....locally

“We believe the council should act fairly and openly, enabling every resident of Wokingham Borough to take part in the decisions that affect them and achieve a good quality of life. We believe the council should support all the communities in the borough, to enable them to enhance their prosperity and vitality.”

Liberal Democrat Council Group Vision for Wokingham Borough

.....and nationally

“The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full.”

Extract from the Preamble to the Constitution of the Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrats in Wokingham Borough are fighting for:



Sustainable development



- ☑ Less infill development
- ☑ Less greenfield development
- ☑ More infrastructure
- ☑ More environmentally friendly construction
- ☑ Less extra housing but more of it affordable

To be achieved by:

- changing the council's policies to opt for a major development in a single settlement, preferably at Arborfield Garrison, with infrastructure provided. This will reduce the pressure on infill, back garden and greenfield development across the entire borough.
- putting pressure on the Council to encourage environmentally friendly construction.
- promoting better town planning to design out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Liberal Democrats in Wokingham Borough are fighting for:



Safer Roads



- ☑ 30 mph limits in villages
- ☑ 20 mph limits near schools during school hours
- ☑ More routes for cyclists
- ☑ More places to cross the road safely
- ☑ Make safety paramount in road scheme designs

To be achieved by:

- proactively bringing in lower speed limits in residential areas and outside schools, as a matter of council policy
- reviewing school transport operation
- using developer contributions better to provide crossings and cycle paths

Liberal Democrats in Wokingham Borough are fighting for:



A Better Quality of Life



- ☑ More for young people to do
- ☑ Tackling anti-social behaviour more effectively
- ☑ Fostering community spirit
- ☑ Improving our town centres
- ☑ Cleaner, tidier and safer neighbourhoods
- ☑ The Council playing its part to tackle climate change

To be achieved by:

- Working with Police to prevent anti-social behaviour, through more use of diversionary schemes and improved co-ordination between community safety partners
- Introducing up to date methods of tackling graffiti and concentrating on cleaning up litter hot spots
- Refocusing youth provision to take more account of what young people want
- Giving everyone a voice to influence what happens in their communities
- Working more closely with community groups and voluntary organisations of all kinds to help them flourish
- Focusing on revitalising town centres by talking to stakeholders
- Completely reviewing the Council's energy consumption and helping our residents save energy

Liberal Democrats in Wokingham Borough are fighting for:



A Fair Deal for Everyone



- ☑ looking after the interests of vulnerable people
- ☑ Keeping travel tokens for the elderly and disabled
- ☑ Campaigning for the council to be treated fairly by government
- ☑ Looking after the interests of all parts of the borough
- ☑ Playing our part to make poverty history

To be achieved by:

- Re-instating care services to people who have had services withdrawn as a result of the Tory budget cuts, unless alternative services are in place
- Enhancing the travel tokens scheme in line with inflation
- Making sure council funds are spent fairly across different communities
- Campaigning for fair funding for council housing (unfair funding currently costs the council over £4 million each year)
- Seeking Fairtrade status for the Borough to help some of the poorest food producers in the world

Liberal Democrats in Wokingham Borough are fighting for:



The best Education for our children



- ☑ Ensuring every child's needs are met
- ☑ Bringing all our school buildings up to standard by investing in them now
- ☑ Focusing on solving pupils' problems early to avoid future crises
- ☑ Involving all stakeholders in decisions about the future of education in our Borough

We would do this by:

- Putting more money in the capital budget to properly repair and maintain our crumbling school buildings
- Ensuring the best possible educational start for our young pupils to avoid escalating problems later
- Providing a secondary school in the south of the borough to meet expanding need
- Providing a vocational centre to serve the whole of Wokingham Borough



Better local government closer to home



This manifesto sets out the Liberal Democrat priorities for Wokingham council. These priorities take into account what we need locally as well as the national policies of our party.

The principles behind this manifesto are simple. Liberal Democrats believe in involving people in the decisions that affect their lives. We believe that openness, fairness and transparency are vital if you are to trust politicians. As a party we have always campaigned to protect the environment, to care for the vulnerable and to invest in the future.

Those of you who make a habit of reading manifestos will see that the content is the same as it was last year. Why? Because the ruling Conservative majority has failed to address any of the issues that we Lib Dems think are important. We believe in

- ✓ *a community where everyone matters*
- ✓ *a community where our young people are equipped for life*
- ✓ *a community where our environment is safeguarded*

In pursuing those aims we will always strive to provide value for money for the borough's residents.

This manifesto seeks to show how we would translate this vision into action for the benefit of the residents of Wokingham Borough in 2008.

Prue Bray

Prue Bray
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Wokingham Borough Council



Photographs on Safer Roads and Education pages courtesy of the Liberal Democrats