



# DEMAND BETTER

**NORTH DERBYSHIRE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS DISTRICT  
COUNCIL MANIFESTO 2019**

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# Coney Green Business Centre



**Ross Shipman**

**Liberal Democrats Spokesperson for North Derbyshire**



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**Councillor Pam Windley**

**Chair - North Derbyshire Liberal Democrats**



# Demand better for North Derbyshire

Over the past nine years, since the world economic crash and the start of “austerity”, local government budgets have shrunk in cash terms as a result of the Tory Government cuts.

Under Liberal Democrat leadership; we will protect local services that might have been cut or even closed under the Tories and Labour.

Over the next four years, the Conservative Government will put even more pressure on our funding with creeping privatisation and cuts.

Liberal Democrats will go on doing their level best to defend services so that North Derbyshire residents can have the quality of life they deserve.

We will continue to be an independent voice on behalf of the people of North Derbyshire, not an echo of Conservative HQ in London or a mouthpiece for Labour who wish to concrete over every little bit of green space in the District.

We will carefully listen to residents and deliver services which you want. Not listening has been one of the biggest failures of this Labour authority. They have only focused on vanity projects, while ignoring the wishes of thousands of residents across North Derbyshire.



Labour has failed to deliver across North Derbyshire – people are tired and angry with their constant failures and lies.

In taking control of the County Council, the Conservatives have shown that they are no better.

Both parties look to the policies of the past.

We are now about to enter the 2020s – and we need policies and ideas that will take us forward – to create a better future for us, our children, our grandchildren and the environment in which we live.

Labour's failure to deliver a coherent 'Local Plan' has made North Derbyshire a target for speculative development.

Also, the Conservative Government's aggressive planning policies have aided turning our beloved District into a building site.

Of course, there is a need for more housing – but it needs to be the right sort of houses for the residents and communities within North Derbyshire.

The Liberal Democrats demand better housing – housing which is affordable, sustainable and has access to the necessary infrastructure and services at the time of building.





For decades, North Derbyshire has been reliant on neighbouring districts to support our economy. There are too few well-paid jobs available without having to travel to Chesterfield, Sheffield, Derby or Nottingham.

While the Labour-run administration has continued to make dubious spending and reckless borrowing and lending decisions. We demand better for the local economy by investing in our district and focusing business incentives on those areas with higher unemployment.

The Conservative government continues to support fracking, inflicting significant disruption on our districts; while Labour remains slow to invest in renewable energy sources and lack ambition with our recycling system.

Many of our local communities have been abandoned by Labour, who pass the blame onto government. The Conservatives have demonstrated, at County level, they don't care about the individual communities as they cut more and more services – leaving them ever more isolated.

We demand better for local communities – support for those areas which Labour and the Tories have neglected time and time again.

In recent months, through live-streamed broadcasts, we have seen the sheer incompetence of North Derbyshire's Labour Councillors and the arrogance of the Conservatives who are seeking merely to score points.

We demand better accountability: a Council that works in the interests of North Derbyshire's residents, businesses, community groups and visitors.

If you also demand better; use your vote to elect Liberal Democrats on 2nd May for a sensible vision for North East Derbyshire and Bolsover.



**A Lib Dem-led Council would prioritise social and affordable housing by enforcing the 20% allocation in the planning framework - additionally, no District Council land will be sold off for anything other than these types of properties.**

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# **A sustainable housing strategy**

## A SUSTAINABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Liberal Democrats will lay out our position unequivocally; where housing is both affordable and sustainable, we will support it.

The truth is that Labour's local housing plans are neither.

It is vital for both current and future residents that adequate infrastructure is in place ahead of any development in North Derbyshire.

There are over 12,000 houses proposed in Labour's local plans and already approved speculative developments across North Derbyshire. These plans will have significant impacts on our schools, GP services and roads.

These problem developments are why the Liberal Democrats propose building away from already overloaded roads, and we will avoid having large scale developments in or close to existing settlements.

**The Liberal Democrats have opposed their local plans by submitting motions and formal objections.**

The District Council's are now trying to rush through their local plan because of pressure from the Conservatives overly aggressive planning policies and Labour's failure to get their plans produced on time; which is leading to inappropriate over development of our area and poor planning decisions.

### **Our priorities in the next four years will be:**

- ● Replace the local plans in NED and Bolsover - Our solution is to investigate building a new settlement in each district with appropriate amenities to meet the needs of its residents.
- ● Protect the greenbelt; by first using up all brownfield sites, then looking at greenfield sites which do not encroach on existing settlements.
- ● Exercise existing powers to bring back almost a thousand homes into use which have been empty for at least 2 years.
- ● Work with neighbouring authorities and organisations to look at how the District Council can collaborate to reduce homelessness in our area by making use of best practices.
- ● Prioritise social and affordable housing by enforcing the minimum allocation in the planning framework while encouraging developers to include over and above that. Additionally, no Council land will be sold off for anything other than these types of properties.
- ● Undertake a review into the Councils' planning procedures to restore credibility to the process.





**A Lib Dem-led Council would replace the local plans in NED and Bolsover - Our solution is to investigate building a new settlement in each district with appropriate amenities to meet the needs of its residents.**

A photograph of Regina Kay, a woman with short white hair, wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket and dark blue trousers. She is standing on a paved street in front of a large, ornate stone archway. The archway has a pointed top with a cross and a small arched window. In the background, there are stone buildings, trees, and a clear blue sky. A white text box is overlaid at the top left of the image.

**A Lib Dem-led Council would give those age 60 and over access to free swimming during off-peak times.**

**Regina Kay**

**Dronfield Liberal Democrats Campaigner**

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# Improving our health and well being

## IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Good health is a prerequisite to taking full advantage of life's opportunities, and we must do all we can to help people stay healthy across North Derbyshire.

The NHS has been the envy of the world, but it is now facing the greatest crisis in its history, and we urgently need to increase its funding - Liberal Democrats at a national level would raise income tax by 1p in the pound.

As a country, we are living longer, but that means more people are living with conditions like diabetes and dementia and they need help to live with dignity and the maximum degree of independence.

We must set the highest standards in care, abolishing the artificial boundaries that prevent local Councils, health and social care services working together.

Health and wellbeing are affected by far more than just the quality of health and social care services. We will work to improve the broader factors that affect people's health such as access to health activities so that everyone can have the best chance to lead a healthy life. - District Councils can play a role in promoting activities across the District to support the NHS and Social Care system.

### **Our priorities in the next four years will be:**

- **Building on existing leisure and recreation facilities by providing further activities and facilities to promote a healthy North Derbyshire.**
- **Work with the NHS and social care services to find ways to integrate their work with that of District Councils and community groups.**
- **Promote healthy activities across all age groups such as cycle tracks and walking routes, while providing adequate resting places.**
- **Give those age 60 and over access to free swimming during off-peak times.**
- **Facilitate the creation of groups to support both physical and mental health in the absence of funding from government.**
- **Taking air pollution seriously; and implementing measures to reduce the effects of local residents**





Keeping  
North  
Derbyshire  
healthy.

Improving  
existing facilities  
and creating  
more for you.



Supporting  
you to live the  
life you  
deserve.





**A Lib Dem-led Council would increase the number of available apprenticeships delivered through the Council and partnerships.**

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**Building a  
local  
economy that  
works for you**

## A LOCAL ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR YOU

There are stark contrasts between districts within the East Midlands, between old and young, and between the successful and those left behind.

New technologies are beginning to transform the economy. Machine learning, artificial intelligence and automation are affecting the type and the scale of employment.

Britain needs a sustainable and balanced economy not just to help fund public services but because growth and enterprise create jobs and opportunities for all.

Liberal Democrats believe that there is much to be done to create an economy that ensures that the whole population benefits from the technological advances which are ahead of us. The Liberal Democrats will work to support growth across North Derbyshire for a sustainable economy – a local economy that works for the long term: which is prosperous, green, open and fair.

According to government data, 86,000 trips are taken to North Derbyshire each year, the equivalent of 151,000 nights, contributing £10 million to the local economy.

Promoting tourism into our area should be crucial for the Council.

### **Our priorities in the next FOUR years will be:**

- ● **Attracting business by offering business rate reductions; and for properties which have been brought back into use after being empty for over six months.**
- ● **Develop towns across North Derbyshire to increase higher paid job opportunities which are for local people - keeping people working and buying here boosting the local economy.**
- ● **Increasing the number of available apprenticeships delivered through the Council and partnerships.**



A photograph of Natalie Hoy, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black blazer and black trousers, standing on a paved street. She is positioned in front of a brick building. To her left is a white building with a blue door. To her right is a shop with a sign that says 'Cutting Service' and 'PAINTS'. Further down the street, there are signs for 'JUST EAT' and 'DRY CLEANING'. The street is paved with cobblestones and has a metal bollard in the foreground.

**Natalie Hoy**

**Clowne Liberal Democrats Campaigner**

**A Lib Dem-led Council would attract business by offering business rate reductions and abolishing them for start-ups and properties which have been empty to bring them in to use.**





**Ben Marshall**  
**Pilsley and Morton Liberal Democrats Campaigner**

**Blaine Uknighted**

**Grassmoor Liberal Democrats Campaigner**

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# Protecting the environment

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A couple of years ago, it seemed that the world had come to a consensus on the need to take the perils of climate change seriously. Countries across the globe had recognised that rising temperatures and pollution were not just an environmental issue, but an economic and security problem.

The Conservatives seem determined to take Britain back to the 1980s when the UK was the 'dirty man of Europe'. They have cut support for renewable energy and home insulation, sold off the Green Investment Bank, failed to control air pollution and refuse to ban Fracking in England and Wales.

Their actions put not just Britain's environment at risk but the health of its citizens and its economy, undermining the increasingly successful green industries which already employ more than half a million workers.

Liberal Democrats are determined that we live up to our environmental obligations, that's why we will follow the lead of South Cambs District Council and pass a motion to ban the use of single-use plastics and go carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Our priorities in the next four years will be:**

- ● **Produce a 'Green North Derbyshire' report which will direct us on how best to turn our district green by recycling more and banning single-use plastics in the Council and encouraging local suppliers to support this.**
- ● **We will create a 'micro-grid' in conjunction with other authorities using renewable energy.**
- ● **Campaign to ban Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking) in England and Wales. Council land would not be allowed for Fracking under any circumstances.**
- ● **Installing on-street recycling in our towns and villages to encourage residents to recycle on the go; as well as publishing advice to local residents on things they can do to help our environment.**
- ● **Planting more trees and flowers to help tackle air pollution.**
- ● **Set out a plan to go Carbon neutral by 2030.**





**A Lib Dem-led Council would go carbon neutral by 2030.**



**A Lib Dem-led Council would introduce a database to contact local people, promoting events, activities and consultations in their area directly to their phone and email.**

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# Supporting families and communities

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A fair society is one in which everyone has the means to get by and the chance to get on. It means being able to provide for your family, afford somewhere to live and work within your community.

That's why we will be focusing on helping more people while saving money. It's why we will work to build more houses and make them affordable. Moreover, it's why we will empower communities to run their services – free from the interference.

Other local authorities have looked at new ways to support community groups and projects that provide a vital service, and by learning from the success stories and working with our neighbours, we can build a brighter North Derbyshire.

One person on the streets is one too many, that's why a Liberal Democrat-led Council would always make sure there were beds provided and programmes to encourage and support homeless people.

### **Our priorities in the next four years will be:**

- ● Invest in programmes to support the homeless across North Derbyshire and introduce a policy of compassion, by always making sure a request for shelter from a homeless person is met with a roof above their head.
- ● Creating a 'North Derbyshire Lottery' where all money raised will be invested into community projects and groups, with up to £10,000 as a prize each week for individuals taking part.
- ● Promote and organise various community events to improve cohesion throughout our communities.
- ● Introduce a database to contact local people, promoting events, activities and consultations in their area directly to their phone and email. Communication in real-time is key.
- ● Going paperless where possible within the Council, allowing money to be saved to invest back into delivering services for your family.
- ● Review into disabled access and walkways and work with the County Council to make adjustments where necessary.





**A Lib Dem-led Council would invest in and promote various community events to improve cohesion throughout our communities.**



**A Lib Dem-led Council would introduce live video recording of all public Council meetings and make changes to standing orders to improve scrutiny.**

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# **Making the Council more accountable**

## MAKING COUNCILLORS MORE ACCOUNTABLE

Britain suffers from a political system with a lack of openness and accountability. North Derbyshire is unrepresentative of the electorate, and local government is hobbled by central control, and people feel they have no effective means of making known their concerns and priorities. It's no wonder people feel frustrated and angry at the system.

We believe in a District where people have power over their own lives and how their District is run. To make this happen, we need to revitalise our political system – strengthening devolution and increasing trust in the Council to deliver for local people. This means we need to work cross-party to make the best decisions.

To regain the trust of the electorate, we must lay out a manifesto that genuinely aims to capture the imagination of North Derbyshire with proposals which put transparency at the heart of what the District Councils do.

It should only ever be local people who help shape policy in our local area, and by giving you more opportunities to see what's going on inside the Councils and refusing to line our own pockets with taxpayers money - our 'lay everything out for people to see' approach shows the direction we want to take the authority.

### **Our priorities in the next four years will be:**

- ● Introduce live video recording of all public Council meetings.
- ● No pay rises for Councillors under a Liberal Democrat-led District Council until at least 2023. (Bolsover District Councillors' basic allowance would be reduced by 20% to bring them in line with the national averages for a District Councillors allowance.)
- ● Campaign for further devolution of services and the expansion of the Localism Act.
- ● Reduce the special responsibilities allowances by 20% - so you get more for less from your Councillors.
- ● Make local people aware of who is representing them and promote the best way to contact them for help.
- ● Change the standing orders so that all Chairs on scrutiny committees are made up of opposition Councillors.





# Summary

- Replace the local plans in NED and Bolsover - Our solution is to investigate building a new settlement in each district with appropriate amenities to meet the needs of its residents.
- Exercise existing powers to bring back almost a thousand homes back into use which have been empty for at least 2 years.
- Review into the Councils' planning procedure to restore credibility.
- Promote healthy activities across all age groups such as cycle tracks and walking routes, while providing adequate resting places.
- Free swimming for age 60 and over residents during off-peak times.
- Attracting business by offering business rate reductions; and for properties which have been brought back into use after being empty for over six months.
- Increasing the number of available apprenticeships delivered through the Council and partnerships.
- Turn our district green by recycling more and banning single-use plastics in the Council.
- Campaign to ban Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking) in England and Wales. Council land would not be allowed for Fracking.
- Installing on-street recycling in our towns and villages to encourage residents to recycle on the go.
- Plant more trees and flowers to help tackle air pollution.
- Go Carbon neutral by 2030.
- Go paperless, where possible, within the Council; allowing money to be saved to invest back into delivering the services you need.
- Introduce live video recording of all public Council meetings
- No pay rises for Councillors under a Liberal Democrat-led District Council until at least 2023.
- Reduce the special responsibilities allowances by 20%.
- Review into disabled access and walkways throughout the district.



This manifesto sets out North Derbyshire Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for local government elections on 2nd May 2019.

**Further copies may be obtained from:**

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**Website:** [www.nedbd-libdems.com](http://www.nedbd-libdems.com)

This manifesto can be found online at:  
[www.nedbd-libdems.com/manifesto](http://www.nedbd-libdems.com/manifesto)

For further information on obtaining copies of this manifesto in alternative formats please email:

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