



OUR TOWN, OUR BOROUGH, OUR FUTURE

A Manifesto for Change

Rugby Liberal Democrats set out their plans

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Rugby Liberal Democrats.

Our Town - Our Borough - Our Future

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With Rugby Borough Council in no overall control, it is only right that each political group should let residents know what their ambitions are for the future of Rugby Borough Council.

Rugby Liberal Democrats will put residents (customers) first and meet the needs of our community by effective leadership, by empowering our communities by listening to our residents and by working in partnership to improve the prosperity and wellbeing of all who live and work within the Borough. If this means working more closely with another political group, we will so we can secure a better future for residents.

Our Priorities for Our Town, Our Borough, Our Future

1. **Health & Wellbeing**, to transition to a wellbeing economy, delivering economic prosperity, improving local health services including mental health building stronger communities by reducing inequalities.
2. **Communities & Democracy**, to put residents first and have active, inclusive communities helping to shape the area we live in for the future.
3. **Climate change**, bringing forward adaptation and innovation, supporting projects such as the Rugby Eco Hub with the aim of net zero by 2030.
4. **Community wealth building**, working to become a community wealth building council that maximises investment for the community and focuses resources on community priorities. Regenerating our town.

Our Town & Our Borough



We want to make Rugby an even better place to live. We want to transition into a wellbeing economy, delivering prosperity, improving local health services including mental health building more resilience for our local people reducing inequalities. Our Communities & Democracy will be active and inclusive. Controlled development with infrastructure.

We will do this by: -

- Driving forward town centre regeneration, promoting Rugby as a place to invest in. Where possible we will use compulsory purchase orders to take back control of our town from absent landlords who don't care about Rugby.
- Increase the number of festivals a year celebrating all that Rugby has to offer, Bike Fest, Food, Literature, music Festivals.
- Celebrate our heritage and cultural offer. Establish a friend of Rugby Museum & Art Gallery securing its future.
- Invest into tourism, arts, and music to further develop the already vibrant scene. Establish a bi-annual cultural Festival celebrating the Arts and Music of Rugby.
- Develop a cultural quarter in the town that will seek to draw together independent shops and entertainment.
- Break down fortress town hall, with opening hours to suit you, listening more closely to residents getting the basics right phones answered letters and emails replied to setting standards.
- Re-invigorating our local forums such as the Youth Council and Older People's and Disability Forum, which are, key too many of the improvements needed.
- Devolve powers away from the Borough to those Parish Councils that seek it.
- Create area forums in partnership with others to deliver real neighbourhood improvements. Local cleaning teams that are accountable to local neighbourhoods
- Hold listening days and making participation in budget making the norm.

A Cleaner & Safer Community

Our Residents Surveys tell us that residents are concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour. Liberal Democrats will seek to act, in partnership with the Police and others, to make our neighbourhoods safer. Liberal Democrat initiatives have already secured extra money for Neighbourhood Watch and more Police Community Support Officers. We need real action, not just talk.



We will do this by: -

- Supporting the Police and work with them in taking firmer action against anti-social behaviour.
- Taking positive action to help older people with a safe and warm campaign that delivers warmer homes and puts crime prevention first.
- Take firm and positive action, in partnership with others, on the alcohol and drug issues within the Borough.
- Engage with and involve young people in planning and providing facilities to give them the opportunity that they need to do something more constructive than hang around on street corners.

- Review the licensing hours and operation of Off Licenses with trading standards.
- Strengthen and further develop Neighbourhood Watch.
- Support a free graffiti removal scheme for all properties public and private. Establish art graffiti boards that can be used.
- Establish a “Keep Rugby Tidy” campaign (www.encams.org.uk) working more closely with such groups as Rugby Litter Busters.
- Increase the road sweeping.
- Improve car parks in the Borough making them safer to use and use Park Mark standards <https://parkmark.co.uk> also install new machines and stop using Ring Go.



Greener and Healthier Communities

Developers are after Rugby. The Liberal Democrats will continue to oppose the destruction of Rugby’s open spaces and campaign for sustainable planning. We will also as a key priority invest more into having healthier communities. Climate change, demanding action now and better use of energy within the borough, pushing projects with an aim of net zero 2030.



We will: -

- Invest into more healthy activities for young people for example a new pumptrack for cyclists.
- Make us more friendly cycling town. Working with cycling UK and Sustrans.
- We will drive for improved health services locally in rugby, working with the NHS bodies responsible. Putting Rugby Place Health

Partnership at the forefront for action in increasing health care.

- Strengthen local planning guidance and resist poor development. Establish two new country parks. We will use best practice as presented by the Building Beautiful Commission. <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/building-better-building-beautiful-commission>.
- Accelerate “pocket parks” and “community edible gardens” for the forgotten corners of our neighbourhoods.
- Promote a balanced community with affordable housing policies and use such schemes as “Community Land Trusts”. (www.communitylandtrust.org.uk) Lib Dems were the first to promote this.
- Rugby Borough council has over 4,000 council houses we will reduce the carbon footprint of our housing stock and introduce locally produced renewable

energy, like wind and solar power, we will also increase the grants for better home insulation.

- Building pride in our neighbourhoods. Establish a grants pot for public realm improvements by local community groups. We will reward the best neighbourhood in the Borough. It will be judged in conjunction with Britain in Bloom
- Tackle the increasing traffic problems in partnership with the County Council and air pollution by seeking out alternative public transport solutions, with bus services direct to places of employment and establishing a bus interchange in the town centre.
- Improve the mental health of all ages within the whole community by investing in the capacity of the voluntary sector and by having a joint strategy for leisure and public health. Extra support for Compassionate Community's.
- We will drive for improved health services locally in Rugby, working with the NHS bodies responsible. Putting Rugby Place Health Partnership at the forefront for action in increasing health care. Better provision of easily accessible local health services including chemists and GP's
- Work closely with Warwickshire College on establishing a young person's charter and on skills development.
- Support our communities by introducing the Living Streets concept, which puts people before cars. (www.livingstreets.org.uk)
- Strengthen the environmental work needed in recycling and food waste.

Making Rugby prosperous by delivering cost effective services

Rugby needs economic development and a Council that is efficient and cost-effective in order to help deliver the thriving economy we need. Community wealth building, working to become a community wealth building council that's efficient, accessible, maximises investment for the community and focuses resources on community priorities. Regenerating our town.

We will do this by: -

- Encouraging participation in learning opportunities to achieve a life-long learning culture and so improve the skill base of the Borough by working more closely with Warwickshire College and others such as the Percival Guildhouse.
- Encourage new high-tech green industries to provide a mixed and more sustainable economy.
- Encourage the provision of shopping, leisure and employment facilities throughout the Borough that are accessible to all.



- Seeking to establish better transport offers with a bus interchange in the town centre.
- Cut waste and delays in the delivery of the Council's services to give you a better service and better value for your Council Tax. This may be either by changing how the service is delivered, or who delivers it, or both.
- Make openness and transparency in decision-making the norm - not the exception.
- We will create a senior Director post for "Customer Services" with a laser focus on improving the contact centre and communications we will look to create a new set of standards which we publish so you can judge the Council's performance.



- Bring forward a review of how the Council operates, changing Cabinet responsibilities, testing services against the market to ensure value for money.
- Look at sharing services and market testing services to make sure they are value for money.
- By introducing a new set public facing set of indicators using the "Shared Ingredients for a wellbeing Economy"

<https://www.centreforthrivingplaces.org/a-recipe-for-a-fairer-greener-economy-for-all/> and the nationally recognised indicators as a benchmark
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-local-government>

Conclusion

How we operate and how will you know we are succeeding?

Rugby Borough Council will operate and deliver decent, accessible local services that are value for taxpayers putting customers first and it will be a Council that is fair, inclusive, open and accountability. It will engage and involve residents in key decision making especially in the stewardship of the environment.

Residents are treated as individuals not, simply as passive customers of the council. Information is given widely and responses from the public are acted upon. Councillors will be expected to demonstrate clear Community Leadership.

Our first task is that we will look to fully streamline the Council by reducing splitting the Council into three clear areas of operation, we will deliver a corporate strategy by October 2024 which is fit for our Borough fit for the future by getting the basics right, getting phones answered.

Our Directorates will be,

1. **Resources**, all internal functions such as IT, HR, create a new post putting customers first, communications, all RBC assets in one place.

2. **Caring Communities & Liveable neighbourhoods**, affordable housing, housing for all ages, growth, infrastructure, planning economic strategy.
3. **Greener Communities** our parks, circular economy, green spaces adaptation climate change, Operations grass cutting, road sweeping etc.

We will align Portfolio Holders to our priorities along with a senior Strategic Director.

Liberal Democrats embrace the above principles to improve the quality of life for Rugby residents and will seek to deliver effective, efficient, and affordable services to the people of this Borough.

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