



Liberal Democrat

# FOCUS

Stratford North  
County Council  
division

From your local Liberal Democrat team

## County Council election May 6th

# COHL WARREN-HOWLES CHOSEN TO STAND AT COUNTY ELECTION

Cohl Warren-Howles has been chosen by the local Liberal Democrats to stand for election to the County Council on May 6th.

Cohl, who is an existing Town Councillor in Stratford, said, 'I hope that my record shows that I have been able to make a difference through my work on the Town Council. However, we need to recognise that COVID has dealt an enormous blow to the town, both to residents and businesses.

I believe that it is now time for our councils - both county and district - to be more ambitious for Stratford. Government money is available, but I don't consider that our councils have done enough to make sure that Stratford benefits fully from what is on offer.

### IT'S THE RESIDENTS WHO SHOULD COUNT

It's important for councillors to recognise that they are elected to represent the views of residents and that means listening to what you say. Because of the pandemic it's been difficult over the past year to make face to face contact. However, I'm always available on the phone or email and I hope residents will continue to contact me with their thoughts'.



**Cohl Warren-Howles**

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### About Cohl ...

Cohl has lived in Stratford and the surrounding district for over 30 years. During this time she worked for a large local company implementing best practice across sites in both the UK and Europe.

She has degrees in Art, Social Work and Psychology. Cohl is a Stratford Town Councillor for Avenue ward and since being elected has been involved in a number of environmental initiatives including the St Peter's Graveyard Conservation Project. She is a committee member of Stratford in Bloom.

She is Vice Chair of the Climate Emergency Panel at the Town Council. She is passionate about helping biodiversity and safeguarding our environment.

She is part of the Stratford Support Group, working to support residents since the start of the Covid lockdowns.

Cohl believes in keeping in regular contact with residents throughout her ward and not just at election time. She welcomes the opportunity to work at County Council level as she knows that there is so much she can do to support residents and be their voice at the County Council.

## Three good reasons to vote for Cohl:

### ● **Hard working**

Cohl has a record of hard work all year round; she doesn't just pop up at election time! Cohl will campaign for Stratford to get a fair share of national funding to support Covid recovery. There are many businesses closing and that is impacting the character of our beautiful town. Cohl will press for funding for measures to relieve traffic problems and improve air quality to help support a sustainable town centre. We need to make our town a place where people can relax, interact, contribute and have fun. We need to create reasons for people to come back into the town and while 'our fingers now do the walking', regeneration won't be driven just by shopping. We need to make our town a place where we can work, rest and play!

### ● **Green agenda**

There is no Planet B. Liberal Democrat councillors have been at the forefront in promoting the green agenda on county, district and town councils. We will promote 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', to cut waste and increase our recycling. We will work to improve biodiversity and expand and safeguard our green spaces. We believe there is much to be gained from applying the wilding approach to small restoration projects across the town.

### ● **Caring**

We believe everyone in our community deserves to be treated fairly. Since the start of the pandemic we've seen how our communities have come together. Cohl has worked with volunteers across a huge range of tasks, from health provision to food poverty and isolation. Covid has exposed inequalities across the country and in our town. The link between food security and mental health is well recognised. We are committed to ensuring that everyone who needs help is offered help. The county council should move more resources towards supporting those with problems.

# A STRONG VOICE FOR STRATFORD

# A RECORD OF ACTION - AND MORE ON THE WAY

We believe candidates should be judged on their record - not on the number of promises they make in election leaflets! Cohl has a strong record of action in the town.

## WILDING

Cohl started the wilding project at St Peter's graveyard in Bishopton with a group of residents and the project has gone from strength to strength. The plan now is to roll out the idea of planting up patches of land with a variety of wild flowers to encourage bio-diversity and brighten up the town.



**Above right:** at St Peter's graveyard.

**Left:** this patch in Gainsborough Road has now been planted with yellow rattle, which weakens the grass to allow wild flowers to compete.

**Right:** agreement has been reached with the county council for wilding this patch by Dugdale Avenue.



**BIRMINGHAM ROAD** traffic problems remain the highest priority for Cohl. With the county council's budget for improvements increased to £6 million it was a major disappointment when work was delayed because of COVID. 'The reason for the delay is so as not to impede people trying to get to the hospital for vaccination, and I fully understand this. However, I will press for work to start as soon as possible'.

**Left:** Cohl supports another access to Tesco, to take traffic coming into town off Birmingham Road at an earlier stage.

## TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Regeneration of and support for the town centre is badly needed. Cohl is unhappy that the local Conservatives are insisting on a big increase in parking charges in Stratford's council run car parks - despite opposition from the Conservative run county council! It's the same with the Pensioners' Parking Concession: what a time for the Conservatives to hold a consultation giving a choice between abolishing it or increasing the annual cost from £10 to £150. The condition of the Windsor Street car park is a disgrace and Cohl is concerned about continuing delays to the Gateway project, of which the car park is part. 'I would make it a high priority to try to get this sorted out as soon as possible', commented Cohl.



**Below:** Not necessarily a good photo for an election leaflet, but the one on the right is Cohl! With children unable to take part in many activities because of Covid, Cohl decided to run a Halloween window art poster competition in Avenue ward. Creativity is excellent for mental well-being. Cohl said, 'The response I got was hair-raising! The entries gave me and my spooky team goosebumps when we were judging'.



**Above:** Last year the three Lib Dem county councillors for the town decided to use their 'delegated budgets' to try to solve some of the pavement problems in the centre of town. From this and other funding, a total of £200,000 was made available for replacing paving slabs.

# LET'S BE AMBITIOUS FOR STRATFORD

The pandemic has hit Stratford hard, with shops closing and visitors missing. Cohl is concerned that our councils are not being ambitious enough in the plans to support the town: its high street, its jobs and its economy.

The Future High Street Fund recently awarded Leamington £10 million, Nuneaton £13 million, but Stratford nothing. Stratford district's bid had already been rejected. When £1 billion was announced for the Towns Fund in the budget 45 areas were awarded money, but Stratford got nothing.

When the Liberal Democrats at the district council proposed that the council should have a dedicated officer preparing bids for government and other funding, the Conservatives voted it down. Yet more and more government funding comes through a bidding process.

## STRATFORD DESERVES MORE

'Stratford's economy has been hit hard and the town deserves a fair share of the recovery funding that becomes available', said Cohl. 'We have an increasing number of shops closing. Our town centre needs action, but this means much better cooperation between our councils. The Conservative leadership at the county and district councils seem determined to argue between themselves. We've seen it over the judicial review on Covid, over the Site Allocations Plan and now over parking charges in the town.

Everyone needs to come together and work for the benefit of the town. We need ambitious plans and then a determination to get government funding to support them'.

## OUR HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

The way our care services have been treated is nothing less than a national scandal. Despite government promises care homes were not protected in the early days of the pandemic.

The Liberal Democrats have made improvement and reform of care a top priority. There is now a widespread belief that there needs to be much better integration between care services and the National Health Service. The discharge of patients from hospitals to care homes early in the pandemic without all the proper checks shows what can go wrong when the two areas are so separate.

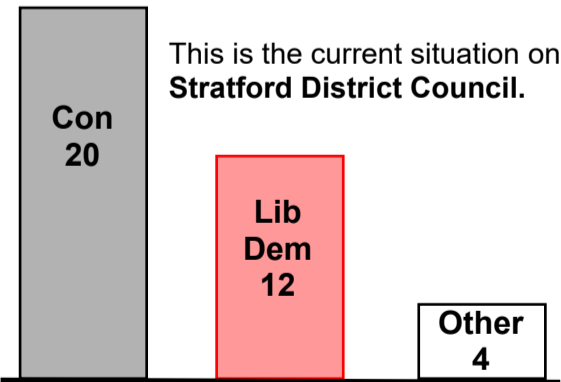
With the stress brought on by issues around the pandemic, mental health services are becoming increasingly important. At the county council, Liberal Democrat budget proposals to put aside £4 million to support local mental health provision were voted down by the Conservatives.

## GOOD LUCK, SAYS DOMINIC

Stratford North's current Lib Dem county councillor, Dominic Skinner, is having to stand down because of the impact of Covid on his work situation. Dominic, well known for his campaigning on issues important to residents, said, 'It's with a heavy heart that I had to announce that I would not be standing for re-election. However, I'm delighted that Cohl has been chosen to stand in my place. Cohl is a Town Councillor for part of the Stratford North division and I've been working with her on a number of local issues. Cohl is dedicated to the town and has proved that she's an extremely hard and enthusiastic worker. I'll be doing all I can to help her get elected to the county council'.



## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



This is the current situation on Stratford District Council.

At the **county council** there are 9 Conservative county councillors and 4 Liberal Democrats in the Stratford district.

There are no Labour councillors at either county or district level in our district.

Please call Cohl if you need an application form for a postal vote (Deadline 20th Apr).

# COHL WARREN-HOWLES WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY