



London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Contact us

W: www.trlibdems.org.uk

E: campaigns@trlibdems.org.uk

F: /TRLibDems

T: @TRLibDems

Richmond Borough Liberal Democrats' 2018 Local Election MANIFESTO



For a borough we can all be proud of

Cllr Gareth Roberts

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Our pledge to you



If we take control of Richmond Borough on 3rd May 2018 we will strive to make sure that Richmond is the greenest, safest and fairest borough in London.

We'll tackle town hall secrecy and put an end to 'lip service' consultations. We will bring economic competency to the borough, and end 8 years of Conservative unfairness. We will ensure that developers pay their way and are not left to get away without paying community infrastructure levies.

We will continue to fight the Conservative Government's plan to impose unwanted and unpopular expansion at Heathrow Airport. We will do whatever we can to protect the rights of EU citizens during this time of Brexit uncertainty and work with our Liberal Democrat colleagues in Parliament to fight for a referendum on the Brexit deal. Above all we will do what the Conservatives have failed to do for the last eight years and that is to listen to, and act on, the concerns of borough residents.

We will halt the unpopular Conservative plans for Twickenham Riverside pending reports from the Environment Agency and the planning inspectorate. We will work with residents to deliver a better scheme which will be a real heart for Twickenham.

A Liberal Democrat-run council will be a council that you and we all can be proud of. You have a choice in May: A Liberal Democrat run council or another four years of the Conservatives. No other outcome is possible.

Better local schools

Working collaboratively with local primary and secondary schools and opposing Conservative Government funding cuts.

A safer and greener Borough

Putting the environment back at the heart of local decision-making. Work with local residents to deliver 20mph speed limits everywhere (barring A406, A205 and A316). Fighting Conservative plans for Heathrow expansion.

Fairer finances for all

Investing council tax in good local services while protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

An affordable Borough for all

Under the Conservatives, our children have been priced out of local housing and childcare. We're fighting against a UKIP style Brexit that will hurt jobs, local business and local people. We will be campaigning for a vote on the final Brexit deal.

Tackling town hall secrecy

Making sure residents have a real say over the decisions that impact upon them and their community.

Lib Dem Budget Amendments 2018

Liberal Democrats are already fighting for a fairer, safer and greener borough with our council budget amendments to fund services properly - all of which were rejected by the Conservatives.

We wanted:

A better childcare service for early years.

Faster roll-out of energy saving lighting and electric vehicle charging points

Reinstatement of council tax relief for the very poorest households

To bring back help for poor families with the cost of school uniforms.

Help for the temporarily homeless to store their possessions.

A small grants scheme to transform lives affected by Mental Health problems.

To fund Admiral Nurses to support those with dementia and their families.

To create a fund linked to borough Day Centres to provide targeted support to the elderly.

The cost of all this came to £12.25 per year for each resident. The Conservatives said "no".



Supporting our ageing population

Residents are living longer and more active lives and we must find a way to support our aging population as it continues growing.

- ▶ We will work to develop a dementia friendly community, following the successful, pioneering scheme at Sutton Council (a Lib Dem-run administration).
- ▶ We will work to close the gaps between the NHS service and borough social service provision for the most vulnerable in our community
- ▶ We would look to fund a modern Almshouse strategy to allow older residents to downsize and stay in the borough
- ▶ We will work with Lib Dems across the country to delivery the NHS and social care plan, seeing a penny raised on income tax to protect the NHS and the social care plan brought under the same umbrella, and ever closer integration and partnership between health and social care

Homes and Housing

Richmond borough needs housing for local people - for our children and our grandchildren.

We will work with MPs, GLA members and spokespeople to make sure there is genuinely affordable housing for the borough to ensure that our children and grandchildren can afford to live here.

- ▶ We will provide more genuinely affordable housing, with new approaches to increase supply and extend existing stock to alleviate overcrowding
- ▶ We will robustly enforce the council's own planning standards to maximise, where possible, the provision of genuinely affordable and social housing on all new developments in the borough
- ▶ We will increase inspections in the private rented sector and take tough action against rogue landlords
- ▶ We will reintroduce the council's Design Panel to raise the standard of building design in the borough
- ▶ We will ensure the council is an exemplar of the best standards we would seek other developers to follow - in design, practice, community involvement and consultation, in living standards
- ▶ We would make public health a formal consultation partner in all non-domestic and large planning applications, championing health promotion and well being and air quality initiatives

Making our borough accessible for everyone



Whether by righting past wrongs, protecting citizens, or increasing freedom, the Liberal Democrats believe that legislation defending rights and liberties protects individuals and drives opportunity for many under-represented groups.



- ▶ Liberal Democrats oppose all discrimination and believe that government should take an active role both in punishing discrimination and in ensuring it does not happen in the first place. Our society is only strong once it includes everybody – regardless of their background.
- ▶ We will work with our party nationally to ensure that discrimination is tackled in the workplace and across our borough.
- ▶ We have a number of large companies and businesses in our borough who we will work with to increase diversity regarding gender, ethnic diversity, LGBT+ and disability.
- ▶ We will work with autism charities to aim to speed up diagnosis across the borough.
- ▶ We will work with disability charities to form a scheme to ensure everyone who wants to work has the best chance of recruitment.
- ▶ We will extend the use of name-blind recruitment processes in the public sector and encourage their use in the private sector.
- ▶ We will increase accessibility in our train stations and at our bus stops by working with Network Rail and TFL.
- ▶ We will explore all avenues to reverse Conservative library cuts in Heathfield Ward and protect existing network of libraries.
- ▶ We will tackle the under-performance of the council in supporting adults with learning disabilities getting in to employment
- ▶ We will ensure there is a seamless transition of young people with learning disabilities from children's services in to adult services and increase training and employment opportunities with council partners.

An open town hall

We'll make sure residents have a real say over the decisions that impact upon them and their community.

We will abolish the 51% rule for Controlled Parking Zones and implement 'majority voting' for sensible schemes on a reasonable turnout.

We will introduce a yearly meeting in each 'town' across the borough as a partnership between residents, ward councillors and cabinet members to raise issues and decide how to spend each town 'budget'

We will abolish the rule which forces residents to submit questions a full week before council meetings. Residents will be able to submit questions on the day of Full Council meetings and demand answers from council spokespeople.

Making sure developers pay their way

“A Liberal Democrat run council would ensure that developers paid their way and could never again get away without paying the community infrastructure levy.”

The Conservative Council has failed to collect millions of pounds from developers since 2012. The money, known as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), has been payable to the council on large developments. The current council administration has admitted that up to 300 developments have not been charged or not sufficiently charged. £6 million has been paid while only £0.8m has been spent as part of the "village" planning process.

However what has come as unpleasant surprise is the revelation that some projects now recognised as needing to pay CIL have not so far been charged. Some of that money may be lost for good.

Cllr Gareth Roberts said, "This failure to collect money from developers, on behalf of residents by the council, calls into question their financial competency, especially at a time when there is so much financial pressure on the council".

Better local schools

We believe that every child should have the right to exemplary education, regardless of background.



- ▶ Liberal Democrats will work to improve local primary, secondary schools and colleges - and oppose Conservative Government cuts.
- ▶ We will work with our primary schools to set up mutually supportive federations in order to enable schools to help save money and reduce costs.
- ▶ We will prioritise the David Lloyd site for the Turing School relocation in response to local concerns over the school's catchment area
- ▶ We will be responsive to concerns over school catchments when school sites are considered for development
- ▶ We will further resource Special Education Needs and Disability High Needs provision and empower parents to get the right support for their children
- ▶ We will support the retention of children's centres across the borough and help support them to be at the heart of the communities they serve
- ▶ We will support the existing 6th forms and work with all existing institutions who provide post-16 education to ensure a broad choice of academic subjects and vocational qualifications to local students in a plurality of settings - school and college sixth forms and tertiary and FE colleges.
- ▶ We will review and implement changes to school building contracts following the school rebuild shambles in Petersham and Teddington.
- ▶ We will review all use of schools as polling stations in order to minimise school closures
- ▶ We will support the pioneering approaches of the Achieving for Children's Emotional Health Team in meeting the emotional and mental health needs of young people at school
- ▶ We will make sure SENCOs are trained and supported so that parents get the right support for their children - we will also speed up assessment services.
- ▶ We will promote sport in schools and schools sharing sports facilities with the community.
- ▶ We will pursue a commitment to evidence-based early intervention for school aged and pre-school children, and effective prevention and health promotion initiatives.



A greener borough



Liberal Democrats will put the environment back at the heart of local decision-making.

When we ran the borough, we were the greenest local authority in London.

We will work with local residents to deliver 20mph speed limits on all roads barring the A406, A205 and A316.

We will fight Conservative plans to expand Heathrow.

- ▶ We will work with residents to deliver 20mph speed limits.
- ▶ We will work with residents, MPs and councils to oppose the 3rd runway at Heathrow
- ▶ We will work to reduce the council's carbon footprint in the borough
- ▶ Reduce, reuse and recycle will be a priority for the borough - we will have a targeted effort to improve recycling rates and make it easier for residents living in flats to recycle
- ▶ Weekly doorstep collections of waste and recycling will continue unless you tell us you want a change
- ▶ Empower residents to help make this borough cleaner, greener and safer through improved food and green waste collections
- ▶ We will energetically fight fly-tipping
- ▶ An air quality plan with ambitious targets and a commitment to reduce air pollution around our schools and park
- ▶ We will plant more trees and replace damaged and dying trees
- ▶ Protect our parks and green spaces - we will support the creation of and any existing friends groups and we will work with residents to improve and protect bio diversity and access to our green spaces
- ▶ We will give powers to traffic wardens to fine drivers who refuse to cut idling engines
- ▶ We will consult on a range of measures to improve air quality in the borough including the introduction of a diesel surcharge on CPZ permits.
- ▶ We will ensure that council owned offices and buildings are energy efficient and will tackle lights being left on at night
- ▶ **We will aim to become a plastic free borough by 2022**

Fairer Finances

We will invest council tax in good local services while protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

- ▶ We will remove the punishing 15% Council tax charge for the most vulnerable
- ▶ We will reduce the 'homeless tax' charge
- ▶ We will restore the grant for low income families to help buy school uniforms
- ▶ We will help to reduce 'period poverty' in our schools by providing sanitary products free of charge in our secondary and secondary schools.
- ▶ We will ensure money from development schemes is spent on the communities that are impacted by those schemes.
- ▶ We will maintain the existing libraries in the borough and look to rectify the service issues in Hampton Wick and Heathfield
- ▶ We support the Children's Society campaign to introduce tax exemptions for care leavers until the age of 25.
- ▶ We will introduce a town budget funded by CIL money to be spent in your local area on your priorities.
- ▶ We will increase provision of more shared office space
- ▶ We will protect and improve our main town centre and secondary shopping centres by working with the BIDs, landlords and businesses
- ▶ We will support the Mayor of London's emphasis on car free developments
- ▶ We will work with businesses, community organisations and the chamber of commerce to make sure our residents and businesses have a healthy commercial and retail environment

Affordable for all

Under the Conservatives, our children have been priced out of local housing and childcare. Furthermore the UKIP-style Brexit being pursued by Theresa May's Conservatives will hurt jobs, local business and local people.

- ▶ We will be robust in pursuing the council's own standards on affordable and social housing, where possible, to maximise genuinely affordable housing in the borough.
- ▶ We will work with local, social landlords to ensure they maximize the development portfolio opportunities within the borough
- ▶ We will protect and improve main town centre and secondary shopping centres by working with the Business Improvement Districts, landlords and other businesses
- ▶ We will support Mayor of London's emphasis on car free housing developments

A safer borough

When Liberal Democrats ran the borough, Richmond Upon Thames was the safest borough in London.

- ▶ We will work with residents and community policing teams to set clear strategies to deal with hot spot crime areas
- ▶ We will work with the police and community to help tackle scams, online fraud, Licensing & alcohol issues
- ▶ We will help support local schools, parents and children by funding a social media anti bullying strategy to help tackle suicide in younger people
- ▶ We will promote more mental health support signage around train stations, busy roads and bridges and support more local groups
- ▶ We will tackle moped crime by including a specific page on the council website to report moped crime which will be fed to the police and followed up by the council
- ▶ We will lighten dark walkway areas and alleyways with environment friendly low level lighting by 2022 - we will also include an area on the website to report areas that feel intimidating
- ▶ We will strengthen expand and build on our community policing model by actively increasing the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and the Police Volunteer base, aiding community policing making neighbourhoods safer and harmonious places.

Supporting domestic violence and abuse victims

In 2016/17 the Conservative council missed a key performance target for reducing the level of domestic abuse risk.

- ▶ We will work with the national domestic violence helpline and other domestic violence charities to ensure that anyone suffering domestic abuse in our borough has the safest, easiest and quickest route to escape.
- ▶ We will offer schemes and work with charities to educate our young people and give them an opportunity to talk freely and openly in schools regarding domestic abuse.
- ▶ We will work with the police and other partners to tackle domestic abuse before it develops in to domestic violence

A beautiful borough



We are very lucky to live in this beautiful borough and it should be the job of a council to promote the area across London and wider - which will in turn support local business and communities.

- ▶ Pavement repair must be based on need, not the unfair 'Village Planning' lottery scheme
- ▶ Leaf collections increased during key times of the year to ensure the borough looks tidy and that our pavements are safe and not slippery
- ▶ Encourage and help community and art based schemes to promote our borough
- ▶ Use the Community Access Fund to fund community initiatives which will encourage community cohesion
- ▶ Work with our town centres to promote community events, not tie them up in red tape
- ▶ We will address the growing issue of potholes and look to fix them as soon as possible and consider road resurfacing over repeated mending of potholes

EU citizens and Brexit

EU citizens are vital to our public services and to our local economy. They are our friends, our family and our neighbours.

Lib Dems have a strong track record of standing up for the rights of EU citizens and of campaigning against Brexit. Sarah Olney voted against the triggering of Article 50 during her time as MP. Vince Cable MP has been leading the fight for a vote on the final Brexit deal.



- ▶ A Liberal Democrat run council will put pressure on the government to ensure EU citizens' rights
- ▶ A Liberal Democrat controlled council will campaign with like-minded activists, MPs and councils to fight for a vote on the Brexit deal -to give residents a say on the final Brexit negotiations
- ▶ A number of Lib Dem candidates for this council election are EU nationals. Should they be elected we will ensure that they are the voice of EU citizens on the council and work with them to invest in strategies to both mitigate the effects of Brexit on our borough and protect the rights of EU citizens.
- ▶ We are unashamedly pro European and pro EU



Lib Dems have been campaigning for final say on any Brexit deal and to help protect EU citizens whatever the outcome



Police cuts - Supported residents to tackle moped crime in north St Margaret's. Oppose police cuts and London wide reorganisation.



Kew Village Scheme - Lib Dems have been pressing for a Kew wide consultation so that residents can support a scheme that works for the whole community and not just the council. Lib Dems also want to make Kew Station disabled access and **accessible** for everyone.



Lib Dems are fighting for better and more reliable train services.



Cllr Liz Jaeger secured a 20mph speed limit outside St Edmunds and Nelson Schools.



481 bus service frequency doubled.



Secured first steps to step-free access at **St Margaret's station**.



After continuing pressure put on local council to renew pavements in the area organized community action for Pavement Funding application



Lib Dems have been reporting and clearing flytipping



Liberal Democrats including Cllr Liz Jaeger successfully campaigned to save the trees on Whitton High Street.



Lib Dems secured step free access to Whitton station. Alan Juriansz, Cllrs Helen Lee-Parsons and Piers Allen opposing cuts to peak services at Whitton.



Howson Terrace - Penny has championed the residents waiting to be rehoused as soon as she heard that these flats for the elderly were to be demolished.



Lib Dems oppose Conservative plans to expand Heathrow - we oppose a third runway, an end to night flights or ending runway alternation



The Lib Dems campaigned and helped to deliver a more frequent 481 service



Dukes Head Passage - Gareth Roberts was victorious in his campaign to gain a sensible solution to allow cyclists to use this again.



Linden Hall - The Lib Dems have overseen improvements and campaigned for a permanent lease from the Council so that it can stay open.



Securing road safety improvements, for example this zebra crossing on **Kingston Road**.



Supporting cyclists and pedestrians - Penny's achievements in resurfacing the tow path and Cut Throat Alley mean a dry route to school and work for walkers and cyclists.