



A manifesto for Runnymede

A new direction from your future Lib Dem Councillors

Dear Friend,

Thank you for asking for a copy of the Liberal Democrat's Manifesto for Runnymede.

As in previous years, all the Lib Dem candidates standing for election to Runnymede Borough Council this year live in the Borough and therefore have strong reasons for wanting to see the Borough prosper.

However, we don't want to see the area turn into a sprawl of sleepy dormitory towns or retirement homes. The community needs economic and social vitality, including

- ▶ viable independent shops sourcing produce locally, as well as the High Street brands;
- ▶ transport networks that work for all, including cyclists, users of public transport and private car owners;
- ▶ adequate support systems for those in need, whether old, sick or disadvantaged;
- ▶ leisure and recreation facilities open and accessible to all ages.

If elected, your Lib Dem Councillors will work to build those goals, both by their own efforts and by tapping into the support network of other Lib Dems on the County Council, at Westminster and in the European Parliament.

Yet we don't have the arrogance to believe we can or should do this on our own. Your Lib Dem Councillors are committed to consulting you, the tax payers who fund the activities of the local Council, throughout and to reporting back regularly on progress, not just when we want you to vote for us!

Your Lib Dem Councillors will also guarantee to work for all members of the community, not just those who voted for us, belong to our political party or subscribe to our residents' association, as we understand that we have an obligation actively to serve everyone.

The Liberal Democrats offer the only chance to break out of the old one-party state in place across much of the Borough, to provide real representation for all residents in the Borough and ensure everyone can get the most from their Council.

So, why not consider supporting the only real change on offer in Runnymede this year: vote Liberal Democrat on May 6th.

Thank you for your support,

Alan Whiteley

Alan Whiteley
Chair, Runnymede & Weybridge Liberal Democrats

What will your Liberal Democrat Councillors do for you?

Communication

Your Lib Dem councillors will work with Council officers to refresh the Council's web site with much more up-to-date information about the Borough. This resource is already paid for and in place, but is woefully underutilised and extremely hard to navigate. With a significant revision, we will look to make the Council web site the first point of contact for anyone wanting to know about Council services and facilities.

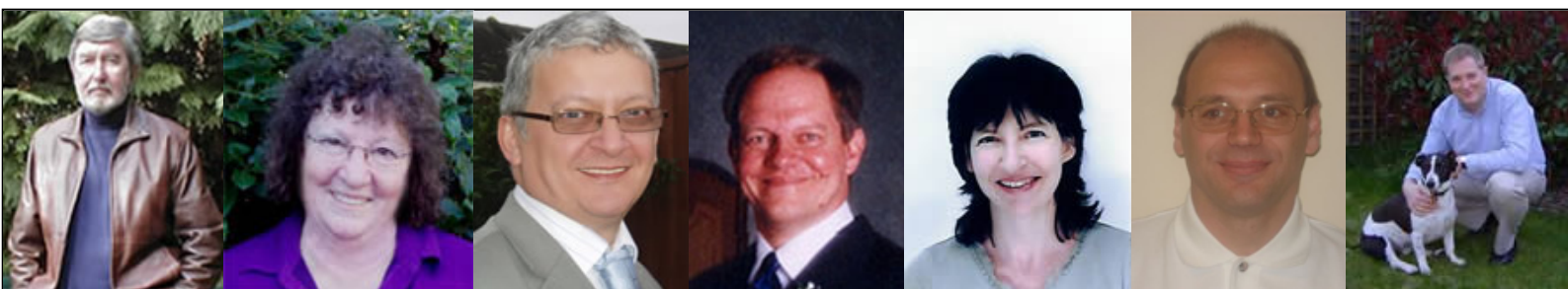
Your Lib Dem councillors will also work within their wards to provide regular updates on the workings of the Council, the decisions being made and the actions being undertaken in your name, so residents can get a better idea about what is being done with their Council Tax and what choices are being made in their name.

Consultation

Too often, people's opinions about what happens in their communities are ignored. The Lib Dems believe that local people and families are best placed to know how to fix local problems, yet councillors of all hues take little advantage of this wealth of knowledge and experience. Your Lib Dem councillors will involve you and your neighbours in identifying solutions to problems and prioritising the action of the council to implement the fixes.

Integrity

With politicians a by-word for sleaze and corruption to so many people these days, the Lib Dems believe that trust has to be restored at all tiers of government, and your local Lib Dem Councillors will start at the grass roots here in Runnymede. We will fight for the full disclosure of all Councillors' expense claims and publish attendance records, so voters can make an informed judgement as to whether they are getting value and commitment from their elected representatives.



What about the issues that affect Runnymede today?

Rubbish!

Residents in Runnymede will see a major change to the collection of rubbish and recycled goods early next year, as the Council re-contracts its recycling services and moves to fortnightly refuse collections. Lib Dems support less frequent rubbish collections, but only once the infrastructure is in place to permit and encourage much more recycling, meaning many more types of goods being collected at the kerbside and more accessible information about what can and cannot be recycled.

The Local Environment

Your Lib Dem Councillors will fight to improve the environment of the Borough with the restoration of waste land to productive use and the protection of established open spaces for leisure and recreation purposes, open to all. The Lib Dems will continue the fight to prevent or forestall the extraction of gravel from the northern end of the Borough and will work with national politicians of all parties to ensure the rejection of expansion plans at Heathrow Airport and the construction of a third runway.

Airtrack

The introduction of the Airtrack rail service from the South West into Heathrow Terminal 5 will have a significant impact across the Borough as car users see more downtime at the Borough's many level crossings and much more congestion that this will bring to the surrounding roads, while providing little opportunity to local residents wanting to get to the airport themselves.

Lib Dems welcome any use of public transport that takes traffic off the roads, but this must not be to the detriment of others and must certainly not lead to any degradation of the existing rail service. We look to Network Rail to come up with an innovative solution to allow both Airtrack to have access to the railway network but also not to inconvenience existing rail passengers, local residents, shoppers and other road users.

Transport Networks

The rush hour gridlock on so many of the Borough's thoroughfares is sufficient evidence that there are too many cars on our roads. Your Lib Dem Councillors will help local businesses and public bodies develop transport plans that actively encourage staff to consider alternative means of getting to work, including a greater use of public transport and the use of bicycles, starting with Runnymede Council itself.

The plan of cycle routes in the Borough published on the Council's web site, an artefact better suited to a museum, must also be brought up to date.

Empty Properties

The Council owns many retail and commercial properties - shops and offices - that currently lie empty or are underused. As the economy starts to come out of recession, your Lib Dem councillors will work to get these properties back into productive use, with policies to encourage responsible enterprise, such as offering preferential rates offered to new start-ups and established businesses that are willing to build sustainable, green commitments into their business plans.

Town Centre Regeneration

Many of the urban centres of Runnymede have taken on a sad aspect after years of neglect and the gradual closure of small businesses and their replacement with charity shops, fast food establishments or more usually just empty units. The Lib Dems want to encourage regeneration of the hearts of our towns and villages, but also to bring a diversity of use to the High Street with the encouragement of small, local businesses instead of the wholesale consolidation of shops into mega-stores owned by multinationals, who return little of their profits into the local economy.

Sustainable Housing

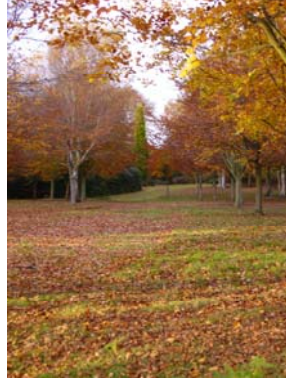
The Lib Dems will encourage the redevelopment of brown-field sites around the Borough as preferred locations for new housing developments, rather than allowing such developments to take over green field sites. Recognising the difficulty that many young families and key workers have in getting their leg on the first rung of the property ladder, your Lib Dem Councillors will fight to require developers provide affordable housing at levels towards the top end of their legal obligations, rather than allowing them to get away with the minimum they have to under the law.

Potholes & Flooding

Your Lib Dem Councillors in Runnymede will work with the Lib Dem Councillors at County Hall to get the glut of potholes and localised flooding on our roads and side streets fixed once and for all. We will also work with our colleagues on neighbouring Borough Councils and with national politicians to improve flood defences around the local rivers and waterways, and where flood management works are undertaken, we will fight to ensure these result in less risk to residents on low-lying land, rather than increasing such risks.

Expansion of Royal Holloway

The Lib Dems support organic growth of Royal Holloway, but insist that such growth should not be at a cost to the local communities in Englefield Green and Egham, nor to the detriment and degradation of green belt around the current campus site. Your Lib Dem Councillors will also encourage greater dialogue between "town" and "gown" to resolve points of tension between the two communities, particularly around noise nuisance in Spring Rise and parking in Englefield Green village.



Whatever the season, whatever the weather, your future Lib Dem Councillors guarantee to work diligently for all members of the community. Can you say the same about your current Councillor?

Vote Liberal Democrat on 6th May 2010

Help the Lib Dems win in Runnymede

Please help us win by filling in and returning this form:



Name(s)

Address

.....

Email Telephone

- I will be voting for the Lib Dems
- I will display a poster in my window at election time
- I would like to join the Lib Dems

Please return to Runnymede & Weybridge Liberal Democrats, Freepost RRBJ-RTEB-ASXH,
6 Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7DR

or email us at info@runnymedeandweybridgelibdems.org.uk

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use information you provide to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

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