

# Teignbridge Liberal Democrats Manifesto 2019



**“Community action to keep our area connected, protected and green.”**

“The Liberal Democrats are ready and keen to regain control of Teignbridge Council on May 2nd. We have a strong team of able, experienced and diverse candidates.

In this manifesto, we demonstrate our forward-thinking and responsible, costed programme, which will produce a **CONNECTED, PROTECTED and GREEN COUNCIL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.**

Our priorities are:

- Genuinely affordable homes to buy or to rent for local people and tougher negotiations with developers;
- working closely with Police to tackle anti-social behaviour;
- getting serious about environmental protection providing clean streets, better recycling and fighting climate change;
- a business-friendly attitude, encouraging entrepreneurs;
- open and transparent decision-making, brought closer to residents; and,
- valuing and protecting our public services.

We will work with communities and Town and Parish councils to deliver for residents.

We will bring meetings to our towns and devolve activity away from the Council offices in Newton Abbot.

We will provide open and honest local government. We will act with financial responsibility.

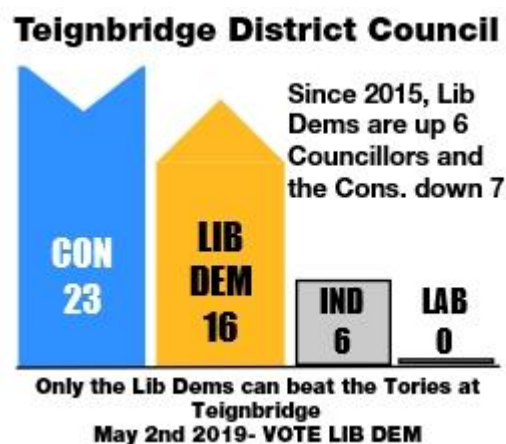
We will never forget it's *your* money the council spends.

If you share these views, vote LIB DEM on May 2nd.

**We are the *only* realistic alternative to another four years of the Conservatives.”**

**Gordon Hook  
Leader of the Lib Dems on  
Teignbridge Council**

**March 2019.**



## **Housing**

**People tell us that they want their children to have the same opportunities that they did to put down roots in the local area and live, work and play in our District.**

*Your local Lib Dems agree.*

Teignbridge Lib Dems will work hard to bring forward a balance of accommodation – whether accessible, self-build, genuinely affordable houses or flats to buy, homes for people wishing to downsize, or accommodation with secure tenancies so that those who rent and are respectful of their responsibilities as tenants aren't worried about having to move every 12 months and the upheaval that this brings to their families and finances.

The Lib Dems in Teignbridge will set-up a council owned development company to help create housing for local needs with all profits reinvested back into more local housing.

Teignbridge Lib Dems will be creative when it comes to protecting our local environment – finding every way to get developers to ensure that any development is full of environmental schemes to benefit residents and our environment.

Teignbridge Lib Dems believe in sustainable communities, not second homes or empty homes. We will discourage development clearly marketed at the second-home market, as well as doing all we can to penalise those who keep homes empty and tax those who have second homes here.

A Lib Dem-run Council will push developers to deliver their promises around affordable housing and will strengthen the council's planning enforcement to stop people 'getting away' with ignoring the proper processes.

**Locals say they want the important things like schools, shops and health services for new communities as a key part of any development and that more must be done to ensure that developers aren't allowed to get away with ignoring local people's needs whilst profiting from us.**

*Your local Lib Dems agree.*

Teignbridge Lib Dems will work to ensure that Teignbridge remains a vibrant place to live, not just another set of soulless dormitory towns for those who work in Exeter or Plymouth.

Lib Dems will hold developers to account on the things that they promise and will ensure that the government hears Teignbridge residents – targets and quotas must recognise local circumstances, and more must be done to ensure that local people get a proper say in the planning process.

Lib Dems will work with local employers, housing associations and charities, as well as with residents to understand the needs of the community and to present a united voice to regional and national government about the changes that are needed to legislation. We will be an open and inclusive Council who don't shy away from or stifle debate.

**People tell us that they feel frustrated with the way that the Council is currently run, especially when it comes to housing developments, and the priorities of the Conservatives in charge.**

*Lib Dems agree.*

Your local Lib Dem team will look to involve local people more meaningfully in future plans for the District and ensure that we do more to ensure that underrepresented groups are included.

A Lib Dem-run Council will make planning more local with area planning committees, so it is genuinely local people making the decisions that affect your area.

A Lib Dem Council will create a new charter for Town and Parish Council so we all work better together in partnership to deliver the best for our communities.

Conservative-run Teignbridge wants permission to run up debts of up to £131 million over the next 3 years, compared with being debt free when the Council was Lib Dem-led with Independent colleagues.

A Lib Dem-run Council will look line-by-line at spending so that unlike Teignbridge Conservatives we are not pumping money into PR and gimmicky events, but tackling the real issues that communities care about.

We will take action against Council waste – white elephants like the old Post Office in the centre of Newton Abbot, where Conservatives spent taxpayers money buying it, only for it to stay empty ever since.

## **Protecting our community**

**People tell us that they're worried about the increase of anti-social behaviour, drug taking and dealing and petty crime across our area.**

*Lib Dems agree.*

Teignbridge Lib Dems will lobby locally and nationally for more of a police presence in our communities and will support local officers to be visible and open to members of the public across the district.

We will put community safety at the heart of what we do on the Council and ensure that we maximise every opportunity to secure funds and publicity to support this work. Our aim is to innovate and be leaders when it comes to reducing low-level crime and we will endeavour that those who commit criminal damage are made responsible for fixing it through diversion and community payback schemes.

Teignbridge Lib Dems believe that we can do more for children and young people in our district – providing access to youth services, clubs and groups, and supporting their mental health and ambition for the future. Our young people need to have more of a stake in our communities and the future here. Teignbridge Lib Dems will actively work with young people in plans for the area and ensure that they feel properly consulted and that they have a future here.

## **Environment**

**People tell us that they are tired of seeing litter, fly tipping and dog fouling in their communities. They say that not enough is being done to ensure that our environment is protected for the future.**

*Lib Dems agree.*

Teignbridge Lib Dems will increase the number of dog bins provided around the district and will work to ensure that litter bins enable people to recycle when they are out and about so that Teignbridge are doing their bit to ensure that our rivers and seas are plastic free.

We will look to strengthen penalties for fly tipping and littering and do more to promote the ways that the public can report incidents to us.

Recycling levels have gone down since the Conservatives have been in charge and they've missed their target to recycle 60% of waste. A Lib Dem-controlled Council will take action to improve recycling rates and will investigate how we can recycle more.

We will work to ensure that there is enough capacity in our waste and recycling teams to cope with the demand from new and planned developments. We will work with schools and colleges to promote recycling and how little changes can mean big differences for the environment.

Teignbridge Liberal Democrats believe that there aren't enough facilities for household recycling in the District and will look to extend the extremely popular rural skip service.

A Lib Dem Council will freeze the garden waste bin charge for at least 2 years.

**People tell us that more needs to be done to tackle climate change and preserve our environment for generations to come.**

*Teignbridge Lib Dems agree.*

We support our young people declaring a "Climate Emergency" and will work to ensure that as a council we lead the fight against climate change – from ensuring that our buildings are as energy efficient as possible to working with residents to look at alternative energy sources and reducing their consumption.

We will work to make Teignbridge District Council Carbon Neutral by 2030.

We will ban use of glyphosate on Council land and land under the council control to protect our bee and insect population and will also

create bee corridors on council land as well as engaging with developers to create bee havens on new developments.

A Liberal Democrat-controlled Council will plant 1000 new trees a year - working with Town and Parish Councils and community groups to ensure that public open spaces as well as council-owned parks benefit.

We will work with our local town and parish councils to do more to ensure that grass is cut, verges are clear and our towns look welcoming and encourage planting in every development to encourage wildlife habitats.

Liberal Democrats will always say no to fracking in any form in our area.

## **Building success**

**People tell us that they want their Council to support businesses to grow and thrive, not behave like a property developer at Council tax payers' expense.**

*Your local Lib Dems agree.*

A Lib Dem-run Council will put its shoulder to the wheel to create jobs, support our firms and economy and help people launch their own businesses.

We will launch a new 'Business Council for Teignbridge' promoting retail, digital, home industries, tourism and manufacturing.

A Lib Dem-run Council will create new 'business basics' courses to help people set up on their own and run easy-to-access courses to help business people thrive.

We will be the Champions of Teignbridge to get better broadband and mobile phone coverage.

A Lib Dem-run Council will launch a 'flexible' parking ticket – one that's transferable across council car parks whilst there is still valid time on it.

## **A council that works for you.**

**People tell us that they're sick of decisions being made behind closed doors, during working hours and away from the communities that are affected.**

*Your local Lib Dems agree.*

Teignbridge Lib Dems will work to bring the Council closer to the communities it represents. We will hold meetings around the District and the public will always have an opportunity to speak on the issues that are affecting them.

Your Liberal Democrat councillors will be visible in their areas – holding regular surgeries and keeping in regular contact with people living in their ward. As ward Councillors we will work hard for our ward whilst not forgetting that it is part of a wider district.

Your Liberal Democrat Council won't hide behind officers but will be open about decisions that are being taken and the reasons for doing so. We will promote a culture of transparency and will work as a team to ensure the best deal for local people. We will work to stamp out bullying and negativity and make local politics respected again.