

Our commitment

Liberal Democrats will:
*Put heart back into
our communities*

Liberal 
Democrats



Our Vision – Communities with Heart

- Bringing back pride in our communities
- Creating a Council that works for our communities
- Building relationships in our communities
- Communities and environment in harmony
- Creating communities that care
- Encouraging creativity and imagination



Our Core Commitments

- **Bringing life back into our Town Centres**
- **Valuing our local heritage**
- **Caring for our Countryside and Environment**
- **Caring for the Homeless in our Community**
- **Travelling and Environment in harmony**
- **Community Arts and Creativity**
- **Communicating better**
- **Projects that benefit our communities**
- **Financing for Communities**
- **Opening up the Council to the Community**
- **Creating Housing for communities**
- **Creating Safer Communities**
- **Promoting Healthier Communities**
- **Travelling Safely in Community**
- **Community and Business working together**
- **Creating a better future for all our young people and families**
- **Valuing the elderly in our communities**

Liberal Democrats Bringing life back into Farnborough Town Centre - Shopping

Liberal Democrats would:

- Encourage shops into the Kings Mead, Queens Mead and Princes Mead areas with rate relief incentives
- Bring life back into Kingsmead and Queensmead by negotiating terms to allow “pop up” shops with individuality and character to try out the retail area
- Create a fresh feel to the Queensmead area by forming a permanent covered market area along the centre line of the pedestrianised area
- Create easy access from the Meads to the new Civic Quarter
- Ensure that the New Civic Quarter includes a replacement community centre to provide a focus for community activities
- Develop safe pedestrian links from train station and buses to the town centre



Bringing life back into Farnborough Town Centre Culture, Arts and Live Music

Liberal Democrats would:

- Create a town with real character, rather than a “commuter belt”
- Create a Farnborough Arts Centre for live music and arts performances
- Encourage the use of the heritage RAE buildings e.g. wind tunnel for public concerts, pop up galleries, etc.
- Develop Community Street Art e.g. sculpture trail reflecting the heritage of our communities e.g. Army, Flight



Bringing life back into the North Camp Village Community Safer driving, walking and cycling

Liberal Democrats would:

- Create safer roads, with one way systems or no through roads plus chicanes to slow down speeding traffic
- Create safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists on St. Albans Roundabout
- Introduce more residents parking areas
- Continue to oppose Lynchford Road widening, including four lanes outside Wavell School, and promote better alternative schemes to address increased traffic from Wellesley estate
- Introduce “Copenhagen junctions” to enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross safely with priority over cars
 - Copenhagen junctions involve channelling traffic towards major roads and making smaller roads one way or no through road, reducing the traffic volumes and speeds. Pavements are continued across junctions so cars have to pause before crossing the “pavement” into the road



Bringing life back into the North Camp Village Community - Shopping

Liberal Democrats would:

- Encourage local shops by focusing retail car parking on Peabody Road and Napier Gardens Car Parks
- Introduce low cost or free parking for 1 hour and low cost for two hours to encourage browsing in shops
- Consult shopkeepers and residents on paving Camp Road with car access restricted to flats and the disabled
- Introduce an arts and community space in the village centre, including a “pop up” cinema, making use of any suitable empty shop units



Bringing life back into Aldershot town centre - Quick fixes to “lift” the town

Liberal Democrats would:

- Create an Indoor street market (in old M&S or Woolworths premises)
- Improve appearance of empty shops by putting bright pictures in windows
- Make improve empty shop fronts more attractive via Council loans to owners, repaid when shops are let
- Introduce FREE parking at off peak times
- Encourage shops into the core shopping area with rate relief incentives for up to two years
- Create permanent “Fun spots” (mini play areas) for children within the town centre
- Encourage empty space above town centre shops to be let to small start up businesses or small local charities



Bringing back life to **Aldershot** town centre - Longer term fixes Bringing back pride in our town

Liberal Democrats would:

- Concentrate shops in the core retail area and shrink the core town centre
 - encourage businesses on the fringe of the core town centre to relocate into empty retail units in the centre
- Push future development of proposed new flats outside the core shopping area
- Create a Town Centre Conservation Area
- Introduce “help points” for council services, police, social services, advice and support services into shops and banks
- Create “More heart with Street Art” by adding murals, interactive displays and creative play
- Encourage “white collar” employment in town centre
- Encourage family focused facilities in the town centre (e.g. family support, children’s centre)
- Provide plenty of low cost car parking that shoppers can access easily
- Create a simpler, safer road network to encourage shoppers to the core retail area
- Encourage the use of empty areas above shops for refurbished flats to maintain the character of the town
- Encourage craft fairs and other community events in Westgate and Tesco’s

Valuing our local heritage

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - Raise the profile of our local heritage sites as tourist attractions with:
 - Tourist signage
 - Refurbishment of exteriors to make them more attractive to tourists
 - Provide or encourage access points to Heritage web sites in railway stations, larger hotels, airport, etc.
 - Encourage individual heritage sites to show how they fit in with the borough's overall heritage
 - Provide better public access to RAE historic buildings
 - Encourage events bringing local history to life

Caring for our Environment

Liberal Democrats would:

Introduce Better Simpler Recycling

- Introduce separate kerb side collection of food waste as an immediate step to improve Rushmoor's appallingly low recycling rate from 26% to better than 50% (minimum government recycling target by 2020)
- Introduce a new central recycling centre to serve both Aldershot and Farnborough, replacing Ivy Road and Invincible Road centres, relocating it to a location away from residential areas

Improve environment understanding

- Broad educational and events based project to raise awareness and understanding of countryside and environmental issues locally, involving schools, children and youth groups and other local groups.
- Encourage local people to engage with local countryside and environmental projects e.g. Basingstoke Canal, Rowhill Nature Reserve, Tices Meadows, Cove Brook Greenway

Work with local groups

- Develop closer working relationships between the Council and local groups focused on improving our local environment e.g. Rushmoor Cycle Forum



Liberal Democrats would

- **Improve access to countryside**
 - Work with Army and other groups to improve access to local countryside for walkers, cyclists, etc.
- **Develop “Green Arteries”**
 - Develop schemes to plant more trees along residential roads and major roads to:
 - Create leafy avenues to improve “look and feel” of the borough
 - Reduce carbon dioxide levels on major routes



Travel and environment in harmony

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - **Create environmentally friendly travel plans** including :
 - Park and Ride to the Farnborough Exhibition Centre and Airport
 - Expand existing commuter buses to include buses to take commuters from bus and train stations to main employment areas e.g. bus route around airfield perimeter
 - **Improve cycle routes to local employment areas including Fleet**
 - **Create safe and secure cycle storage in**
 - Residential areas (where residents want it)
 - Town centres
 - **Plan in safer pedestrian routes in all developments**
 - with pedestrian priority crossing minor roads

Developing Community Arts and Creativity

Liberal Democrats would:

- Promote a **Rushmoor Music Festival** aimed at broad range of music across age groups, participative and competitive, culminating in concert(s) in Princes Hall covering a wide range of musical genres including rock, pop and classical
- Encourage and support community festivals of music, arts and dance reflecting the diversity of our community
- Promote street art from local groups and artists – including temporary art in empty shops, long term murals etc. along walk ways and in subways
- Promote local photography and other exhibitions in accessible places in the town and in local communities. Competitions to capture something of the essence of the three communities (Farnborough, North Camp, Aldershot)
- **Aldershot Celebration of Art** – support local groups putting on music, drama, and other arts all telling something about Aldershot, its character, history, and people. Series of mini concerts centrally and in local communities

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - **Introduce live video streaming of Council meetings**
 - Initially on a pilot basis, with archive of recordings
 - **Create single “umbrella” community web site for community organisations** Maintained via Rushmoor Council
 - including “umbrella” Farnborough Heritage and one Aldershot Heritage web site to:
 - Provide a single access point and a common “look and feel” to the existing web sites for local heritage attractions
 - give a cohesive sense of the wide range of heritage attractions locally
 - Including a chat facility
 - Multi-language option to include all local communities

Projects that benefit our communities

- Liberal Democrats would:
 - **Check that all Council investments directly Benefit our Community**
 - In addition to a business case, all community projects including town centre regeneration would have to be supported by a community benefit case.
 - All community projects including the community benefit case, would have to go out to consultation in communities and via social media.
 - The Community Benefit test would set out how the project would benefit the local community.



Financing for Communities

Liberal Democrats would:

Re-evaluate Council Reserves and Investments

- The Council's reserves and investment portfolio would be examined in public once a year. Each investment would have to show how it would Benefit our Community
 - *How does this investment doing to directly benefit our local community?*
 - *How does this investment support the Council's key priorities?*
- Produce open and transparent funding plans demonstrating the sources of funds available for projects in our communities
- Set up and promote open meetings where these could be reviewed by residents and community groups and challenged against the Council's agreed priorities
- Challenge where Council Reserves are not being used for the purpose originally intended e.g. promoting social housing

Liberal Democrats would:

- Promote **Community Forums** on local topics. Promote local community meetings on topics around the future of Aldershot, Farnborough and North Camp. Support community forums with a range of locally focused social media groups
- Publish an annual report on the **number of people who have been involved in community engagement** and the Council's actions in promoting community engagement.
- **Encourage more people to be engaged in voluntary community groups**
 - Monitor the number of Rushmoor residents engaged with the aim that within five years 30% of the Rushmoor electorate are engaged in voluntary activities within the local community. Aim to encourage a minimum of additional 1% of the electorate to become newly engaged with voluntary community activities each year
- **Facilitate Community Service Forums** where volunteers and professionals those actively engaged in community services can exchange ideas and cooperate across groups and topics



Opening up the Council to the Community

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - **Open Cabinet decisions to greater scrutiny**
 - Lib Dems would make the decisions of the Council Cabinet far more open to scrutiny, both by other councillors and by local people
 - Encourage local groups to make more use of their **right to petition and speak at Council meetings**
 - Organise “Town Hall” events for local communities annually to give feedback and review progress on local issues



Creating Homes for communities

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - Invest Council Reserves to create more Social Housing
 - Introduce planning guidelines to create communities people want to live in and raise families
 - Promote lower cost family housing with shared ownership, etc.



Caring for the Homeless in our Community

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - Fund detached outreach workers to:
 - Work with local voluntary groups and charities to identify people in need and understand their problems, and
 - support them in connecting with the appropriate support services, including counselling
 - Promote closer working between community groups supporting the homeless and vulnerable street people
 - Explore options where other community groups could safely provide help to the homeless and vulnerable street people
 - Publish annually its assessment of the state of homelessness in the borough and the actions which the Council has been taking to address the problem



Creating Safer Communities

Liberal Democrats would:

- Create community safety audits to review instances of crimes and vandalism, based on both police reports and local feedback.
 - Publish annually the community safety audit for each ward / community
 - Engage community groups with reviewing the safety of their local areas with police, Council, etc.



Promoting Healthier Communities

- **Liberal Democrats would:**

- Establish a group of local residents to monitor the health of the local community in conjunction with NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Social Care Services.
- Promote intra-organisational strategies to address the health issues identified
- Facilitate the setting up of Health Advice Centres in each Town Centre
- Provide a Health Centre Resource on Civic Centre Site in Farnborough to provide easy access for blood testing, mammogram facility, minor injuries unit, mental health, counselling and advice and possibly encourage two GP practices to work from there.
- Support GPs to come together to collectively provide services such as out-of-normal-opening-hours appointments



Travelling Safely in Community

Liberal Democrats would:

- Create, in consultation with Hampshire County Council, a **comprehensive community transport plan** to bring together an assessment of travel issues by car, public transport, cycling and pedestrians
- Create a funded plan to make it easier to move safely and conveniently both within the Borough and to local employment areas



Community and Business working together

Liberal Democrats would:

- Develop plans for encouraging a range of employment opportunities across the Borough. Priorities would be to:
 - Encourage job creation into town centres to minimise travel and to encourage retail footfall
 - create opportunities for small businesses to start up and grow, across a wide range of sectors, including:
 - setting up small industrial units on redundant land
 - facilitating small office space for start-up businesses, preferably close to the town centres
- Develop environmentally friendly travel plans for businesses



Creating a better future for all our young people and families

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - Support the provision of local youth centres and “drop in” facilities for young people
 - Encourage the provision and wider participation of young people in “green” projects
 - Work with schools, colleges, church groups, local charities and other agencies to develop joint facilities led by both professionals and trained volunteers to:
 - promote inclusion
 - identify mental health issues
 - provide support to young people and families in crisis



Valuing the elderly in our communities

- **Liberal Democrats would:**
 - Recognise and value the wealth of experience and knowledge amongst our older people
 - Provide more places where elderly folk can meet to chat, get support, treatment and advice, to include both more formal and informal day centres
 - Encourage links to local schools and youth groups where young and old can meet, chat and exchange ideas and learn new skills
 - Encourage a “Adopt a Grandma / Grandpa” for families who have no local grandparents

Find out more

- To find out more about Rushmoor Liberal Democrats or
- To have a discussion with us about anything in this manifesto
- Please email rushmoorlibdems@gmail.com or
- Visit our web site: www.rushmoorlibdems.org.uk

Making a real difference for our local communities

Liberal 
Democrats