

MARCH, 2023



**BEST FOR BROADLAND**

Putting People First

MANIFESTO, DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023  
BROADLAND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

# 1 *Taking back control*

In the past four years Broadland has collaborated with South Norfolk District Council, the two Councils share services, the same staff and will soon move into a single building. There is a concern that the two Councils are drifting towards merger for political reasons. A Liberal Democrat run council will take back control of services for Broadland.



- We will ensure Broadland's money is only spent on services for Broadland residents.
- No Broadland subsidy for South Norfolk services.
- We will not allow the two Councils to merge.

We will review the collaboration with South Norfolk. Any administrative arrangements must fully support the desired policy outcomes for Broadland and its residents. Where necessary, aspects of joint working would be re-arranged. If this is not achievable, we reserve the right to withdraw from the arrangement.

After all the expense of the office move there will be no new vanity projects. A Liberal Democrat run Broadland will **put people first**.

# 2 *Homes people need*

We believe Broadland is a great place to live and work but unless action is taken many of our younger and older residents will end up excluded. A Liberal Democrat Council run council will use the planning system to make sure the homes that people need are available by:



- Increased building of affordable homes in Broadland.
- Increasing the availability of social housing in Broadland and if necessary, build Council homes for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Promoting rural exception sites for small scale building in villages to serve the needs of people with connections to the village.
- Promoting building of more schemes to serve older residents and people with disabilities.
- Bringing more empty homes back into use.

## 3 *Cleaner Greener Broadland*

**We will establish Broadland as a regional leader amongst Councils in the fight against climate change. A Liberal Democrat run council will protect and preserve our green spaces, the countryside and what is best about the interesting mix that is urban and rural Broadland.**

- We will declare a climate emergency and work collaboratively towards being carbon neutral by 2030.
- Improve recycling rates and encourage less use of plastics.
- Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies on all homes.
- Put in place a strategy to retrofit the least energy efficient homes in Broadland.
- Support community energy projects.
- Work with the county council and local operators to support local bus services and support community transport schemes.
- Begin provision of public electric charging points in Broadland.
- Increase tree planting. Improve tree inspection, protection, and maintenance.



## 4 *Healthy Safer Communities*

**A Council that puts people first must prioritise health and well-being. Too much development in recent years has neglected provision of health services. A Liberal Democrat run Broadland will:**



- Work to ensure access to GP and primary healthcare services for all residents.
- Put health provision at the heart of planning decisions.
- Investigate the provision of community hubs where health services can be delivered.
- Improve collaboration with mental health services
- Support and expand the work of the Broadland help hub
- Provide more support to older residents to stay living in their homes if they wish to do so.
- Protect and develop the existing handyman plus scheme.

## 5 *Backing Local Businesses*

**The Liberal Democrats will back local businesses. We will listen, support, and assist businesses to grow. A Liberal Democrat run council will:**

- Support Norfolk County Council in securing infrastructure improvements, particularly A47 at Burlingham and dualling of the Acle straight.
- Preserve free parking in our market towns.
- Work to improve broadband provision to every corner of our district.
- Lobby for local retention of business rates.
- Work to increase the number of apprenticeships in Broadland.
- Increase help on offer to small businesses and start-ups.



## 6 *Putting People First*

**The Liberal Democrats have backed a Broadland Council tax freeze for the past three years. A Liberal Democrat controlled Broadland will deliver value for money and keep Council tax low while driving improvements in service delivery by:**



- Keeping Council tax low.
- Driving improvements in customer service.
- Ensuring residents can still receive services face to face if they wish.
- Developing community hubs and better ways of delivering services.
- Improving ways of working with Parish/Town Councils and community groups.
- Being an open council that welcomes challenge and feedback.