

Manifesto 2022

Woking Borough Liberal Democrats



**In 2021 Liberal Democrats set out
a vision for the borough.
Look what we have achieved in
opposition ... and how much
more we can achieve as a Liberal
Democrat Council**

**Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, Leader
Woking Liberal Democrats**

Manifesto 2022



Commit to
Financial responsibility
and Openness



Vibrant
A Economy



Provide
Affordable Homes



Green and Safe
Borough



Develop
A local vision for our
area



Leisure and Wellbeing
For all

Commit to Financial Responsibility and Openness



What we've already done

- ▶ A full independent review of Council finances by a leading accountancy company
- ▶ Council audit committee met with auditors to understand financial challenges
- ▶ Protocols for when Council matters can be discussed behind closed doors updated
- ▶ Meetings of key internal working groups of Council now on website

What we will do

- ▶ Act on concerns highlighted by independent financial review
- ▶ Review the affordability of council borrowing
- ▶ Consult local people on the Council's budget
- ▶ Set up a flood forum to look at options to fund much needed flood relief
- ▶ Regularly review secret papers and make public as soon as possible
- ▶ Actively listen to local people and hear what they say

Provide Affordable Homes



What we've already done

- ▶ Pushed for developers to deliver affordable homes
- ▶ Put bringing empty homes back into use at top of council's agenda
- ▶ Set up Council panel to review homes provision being made as part of Victoria Arch development

What we will do

- ▶ Provide homes not units
- ▶ Push developers to deliver affordable homes on site
- ▶ Where on site affordable homes are not possible ensure sufficient funds for off site provision
- ▶ Use brownfield sites and national funding sources for the Council to deliver affordable homes
- ▶ Move forward with housing developments on Council owned land
- ▶ Ensure town centre brownfield sites being developed as part of government funding deal for Victoria Arch have highest possible number of affordable homes

Develop

A local vision for our area



What we've already done

- ▶ Got Council agreement to a Woking town centre Master Plan
- ▶ Had updated infrastructure plan for all of Woking provided
- ▶ Revived infrastructure working group so we can plan for the future needs of the borough

What we will do

- ▶ Create a master plan for Woking to control development and put a cap on tall buildings
- ▶ Review plans for Victoria Arch replacement
- ▶ Work with local people on the future of our town and village centres, encourage neighbourhood plans, and preserve village character
- ▶ Develop a vision of town and village centres that are fit for the future

Vibrant A Economy



What we've already done

- ▶ Worked cross party to support the local economy through Covid
- ▶ Supported local culture, the Lightbox, theatre, cinema and Phoenix Cultural Centre
- ▶ Supported cycling and walking routes to the town centre
- ▶ Proposed the Food and Drink Festival

What we will do

- ▶ Promote Woking as open for business, shopping and leisure
- ▶ Support local community shopping and flexible workspaces
- ▶ Offer flexible parking tickets to match new working patterns and provide safe and secure cycle parking in town and village centres
- ▶ Support and encourage local, independent and sustainable businesses
- ▶ Make our town centres hubs for retail, business, leisure, culture and entertainment

A Green and Safe Borough



What we've already done

- ▶ Declared climate emergency and working toward carbon neutral
- ▶ Acted on fly tipping and do litter picking to keep our area clean
- ▶ Worked cross-party to deliver environmental improvement
- ▶ Secured support for upgrading lake side lighting at Goldsworth Park
- ▶ Council agreement to work to Green Flag status for local parks

What we will do

- ▶ Make Woking Council carbon neutral
- ▶ Easier waste disposal, CCTV for fly tippers, bins and 'take litter home'
- ▶ Electric car and bike charging points in centres and residential areas
- ▶ Solar panels on public buildings
- ▶ Wildflower and tree planting
- ▶ Greening homes and help reduce energy bills
- ▶ Assess the environmental impact of all council decisions

Leisure and Wellbeing

For all



What we've already done

- ▶ Supported playground with equipment for all children and new cycle track at Goldsworth Park
- ▶ Put wellbeing at the heart of all that the Council does
- ▶ Ensured new leisure centre at Sheerwater was in place before the rest of the development
- ▶ Helped local communities to spend community funds on local amenities such as picnic benches

What we will do

- ▶ More playgrounds with equipment for all abilities and needs
- ▶ Outdoor facilities for older children such as skate parks and pitches
- ▶ Refurbish playgrounds
- ▶ Seek Green Flag status for Woking Park
- ▶ Promote less used open spaces for walking and cycling and self guided walks at local points of interest
- ▶ Support partners offering activities for young people