



Manifesto For Ealing



Clean up Ealing; Light up Ealing; Listen to Ealing

Ealing Liberal Democrats

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Our candidates

Acton Central

Huw Lloyd-James
 Fiona Grabowski
 Angela Todd-Drake

Cleveland

Simon Rowley
 Francesco Fruzza
 Pantea Etessami

Dormers Wells

David Banks
 Chris Pidoux
 David Williams

Ealing Broadway

Cath O'Brien
 Vera Hankinson
 Alastair MacLaughlan

Ealing Common

Jon Ball
 Nigel Bakhai
 Becky Harvey

East Acton

Donald Allwright
 Margaret Rose
 Tim Longman

Elthorne

Fay Edinborough
 Sue Kendrick
 Peter Hutchison

Greenford Broadway

Roger Davies
 Dorothy Brooks
 Gill Rowley

Greenford Green

Ray Alcock
 Madeline Jay
 Rosemary Palmer

Hanger Hill

Patrick Salaun
 Tony Miller
 Chris Creighton

Hobbayne

Oliver Murphy
 Alison Harvey
 Joanne McKenna

Lady Margaret

Shirley Dallaway
 Anthea Sharma
 Rusi Dalal

North Greenford

Olive Douglas
 Norah Grajnett,
 Helen McKay

Northfield

Imogen Dangerfield
 Kathy Thomas
 Peter Thornhill

Northolt Mandeville

Myer Salaman
 Dietlinde Hatherall
 John Seymour

Northolt West End

Judith Ducker
 Nancy Goodwin
 Patrick Dee

Norwood Green

Michael Pidoux
 Martin Tod
 Michaela Tod

Perivale

Brian Cummings
 John Ducker
 Anne Wilson

South Acton

Nick Winkfield
 Catherine Royce
 Michael O'Connor

Southall Broadway

Nigel Bliss
 Gary Purkiss
 Anne Lloyd-James

Southall Green

Paul Gooch
 Alan Miller
 Lyn Woodcock

Southfield

Gary Malcolm
 Andrew Mitchell
 Harvey Rose

Walpole

Stuart Bonar
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Clean up Ealing; Light up Ealing; Listen to Ealing

It's time for a change in Ealing.

All across the Borough people are telling us that the Council is letting them down in two main areas:

Local people want action on the environment.

Local people feel that the Council isn't doing enough to keep the streets properly clean and adequately lit - and they want to see concrete action to improve the Council's weak record on recycling.

They want the Council to start listening

People are also telling us that, again and again, they don't feel the Council is listening to them properly. Recent examples include the Ealing Town Centre plans, the Priory Centre plans in Acton, the day centre closure program, the ongoing CPZ consultations and 2001 proposal for LSVT of Council Housing. Either the consultation is not run properly - or they don't take enough notice of the results.

Our priorities

In light of this, our top priorities are as follows.

Clean up Ealing;

We want to see a dramatic improvement in street cleaning and graffiti removal. We want people to feel pride in their environment right across the borough.

Based on the Liberal Democrats' successful recycling programme in Sutton, we have a concrete plan to dramatically improve the borough's level of recycling.

Light up Ealing;

Everywhere we go in the Borough, we hear complaints about the lighting. We will increase investment in street lighting. This doesn't just make the borough brighter, it makes it safer too.

Listen to Ealing

Ealing Liberal Democrat Councillors have consistently fought for greater openness and improved consultation - and we will continue to do so after these elections. We believe in open local decision-making and so we will strengthen the role of area committees, giving them a bigger budget and more say over their area. We will ensure better and wider consultation - and we will listen to the results. We will stop the centralisation of services - and keep services broadly spread across the borough. We want a Council that genuinely *listens* to people right across the borough.

The last few years have seen Liberal Democrats take control of Labour-run councils like Islington and Liverpool and improve services while cutting back waste. In Ealing, more and more people are turning to the Liberal Democrats. At the General Election, we saw a sharp increase in our vote at a time when Labour and Tory votes were slumping. Ealing Liberal Democrats also have one of the fastest growing memberships of any political party anywhere in the country.

Our manifesto is laid out in detail below. Please feel free to send me any comments. And if you want to see positive change in Ealing, please vote Liberal Democrat on May 2nd.

Councillor Harvey Rose

Leader, Ealing Liberal Democrat Council Group
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Helping our environment

Introduction

In past years, many have paid lip-service to “Care for the Environment” but now is the time for action. Liberal Democrats include green issues in all our policies, including those for Ealing Council. This is an era for responsibility and more care for the environment in which we live. We are determined to dispose of waste more safely, to keep our streets and parks cleaner and to maintain our home environment.

Ever-increasing waste is polluting the air, the soil and possibly the water supplies. In 1995/96 Ealing Council was recycling only 7% of its waste (compared to 22.9% in Sutton, where the council is run by the Liberal Democrats). In 1999/2000, Ealing recycled only 10.7% of its total waste, an increase of only 3.7% in three years. In the light of the global publicity which environmental issues have received in recent years, Ealing’s record is disgraceful.

We will bring together concerned individuals, community groups, businesses and the Council to launch a new and more responsible outlook on environmental issues. We will act now. We will learn from the success of councils like Sutton, and collaborate closely with neighbouring councils to minimise costs. Detailed policies follow:

Recycling Household and Business Waste

Currently, most waste is sent to landfill sites, which are major polluters of our environment. Ealing Council has no way of recycling the mountain of paper which businesses and schools throw away each day. Blocks of flats have been totally excluded from the green box recycling collection scheme. To reduce this burden, we will:

- Provide reusable and longer-lasting wheeled bins for collection of paper for recycling from businesses and schools. On its own, this measure will considerably reduce the amount of waste destined for landfill sites.
- Provide similar wheeled bins for collection of dry waste (paper, cans, glass, linen etc.) from estates and blocks of flats.
- Set up a weekly collection to recycle plastic, a major environmental pollutant, in Ealing (as they already do in Sutton).
- Step up the recycling of other material including steel cans, engine oil and aluminium cans to match the efforts of other Liberal Democrat-run councils.
- Provide centres for the recycling of furniture, to help those in need of basic living comforts and prevent the disposal and destruction of perfectly functional furniture.

Recycling Garden (Green) Waste

Did you know that Ealing still sends most of its green waste to landfill sites? Such waste can be composted and, therefore, recycled very easily. We will increase the collection of garden waste from homes and parks. We will hire contractors to shred the waste as necessary, organise composting stops and provide the compost to allotments in the borough, and organise composting stops, for example on allotments. This will allow ploholders and residents access to a valuable, otherwise wasted, resource.



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Allotments

People are taking an interest in allotments again. They are enjoyed, not only by ploholders, but the many passers by as well - young and old. Allotment gardening is a healthy activity providing opportunities for exercise, and access to fresh, organically grown food. It is also a valuable, and recommended, therapeutic activity for people in difficult circumstances, for example those suffering ill health.

Allotments are highly valued by Liberal Democrats as an important part of our environment. Allotment gardeners in Ealing grow a wide variety of vegetables and fruit not otherwise seen and enhance the biodiversity of the borough. We will vigorously promote the use of organic and other sustainable methods of cultivation by all gardeners in the borough.

The infrastructure and facilities of Ealing's 45 allotment sites have been shamefully neglected over the past fifteen years. They have deteriorated to such an extent that otherwise enthusiastic, new, ploholders are reluctant to take up the activity. Existing ploholders are very dissatisfied with the poor facilities, especially the fences, which provide little protection against vandalism. Liberal Democrats will bring all the sites up to standard by empowering the Ealing Allotments Partnership to urgently, and fully, implement the Borough's existing Sustainable Allotments Strategy. We will allow ploholders to further improve the facilities by fully supporting self management schemes, such as those at Pitshanger and Blondin. In other parts of the country such schemes have been able to access funds not available to Local Authorities.

Trees

We will ensure that all trees removed during street works are replaced and improve publicity for the tree sponsorship programme.

Transport

Introduction

Ealing is one of the busiest transport interchanges in London. Londoners are sick and tired of a bad transport system.

Research has forecast that traffic congestion will rise by 20% in Ealing by 2010. Government spending on public transport has declined by 14% in real terms since 1997. Ealing council spends 15% less than the London average on public transport.

Liberal Democrat policies would see a significant increase in public transport investment and we will fight for a safer, more reliable, integrated transport system.

Walking

Walking is the most environmentally friendly form of transport and is very healthy. But pedestrians are 18 times more at risk than those driving. We will:

- Improve both the badly maintained pavements and the poorly resourced lighting within Ealing. This will make walking in Ealing safer and easier to get from A to B. Compared with the London average, Ealing has three times as many street lights which do not work
- Increase the proportion of pedestrian crossings that have facilities for the disabled

Walking (continued...)

- Generally install puffin crossings instead of pelican crossings when new crossings in Ealing are needed; these are better for both vehicle drivers (as they detect when someone has pressed the button and run away) and people crossing the road (as they detect when someone is still crossing the road and if so, do not allow vehicles to proceed)
- Convert some existing pelican crossings to puffin crossings, to reduce the large number of road traffic accidents that occur in Ealing
- Signpost more footpaths so that people can see where they may walk. Ealing only signposts 8% of its footpaths from the road, while the average for London is 48%.

Cycling

Labour's national cycling strategy (to double cycling rates by 2002) has been swept aside and the target date is now 2005/6. Cycling only accounts for 0.6% of total distance travelled. Liberal Democrats will:

- Deliver policies to quadruple cycling by 2010
- Make sure that there is space for cyclists to secure their cycles outside tube and train stations
- Require Ealing Council to develop more 'Safety Travel Plans' which increase the number of children who can cycle (and walk) to school whilst improving their children's health and safety
- Introduce a network of cycle lanes and off-road cycle paths so that cyclists can travel in more areas of the borough without having to move on and off the road network
- Require public transport operators (i.e. bus and trains) to develop plans for carrying cycles on any new vehicles/rolling stock.

Cars

It is recognised that motorised transport generates more fumes and pollution than walking and cycling, so we encourage more environmentally favourable transport types to enable us to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads. Air pollution alone causes 24,000 deaths each year in the UK. And congestion is estimated to cost industry £20 billion pounds a year nationally. We will:

- Set targets to reduce the proportion of traffic that is vehicular by 1% each year. This will reduce the amount of pollutants put into the atmosphere in a measured and targeted way, helping to reduce asthma and other related conditions
- Encourage a higher use of scooters or motorcycles (to replace cars) by having more parking areas dedicated for scooters and motorcycles. Such new parking areas would be more secure than current ones. We will also campaign for bus lanes to be used by scooters and motorcycles, to reduce road congestion
- Introduce a Green Travel plan (to get staff to and from work in groups and so in a more sustainable way) which the council has promised for many years now
- Support the European Car Free day and make more efforts to extend Ealing's contribution to the event, which demonstrates that society can live without using so many motor vehicles. Back other ways of encouraging people to use their cars less frequently.
- Campaign to allow local authorities to be able to borrow future revenues (from congestion charging schemes) so that money can be spent NOW on improving public transport
- Campaign to place a duty on local authorities such as Ealing to develop an integrated transport policy that takes congestion and pollution into account.
- We will ensure that the council is more forceful in using current legislation to fine companies which dig up roads unnecessarily. This will lead to more utility companies speaking to each other and thus reduce the amount of time that roads are unusable.



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Parking management

Many controlled parking zones (CPZs) have been introduced and many have been controversial, mainly because the consultation exercises have been badly conducted. We will:

- Make sure that the CPZ consultations are fair, not biased, and are run competently
- Not permit the same company to run both the consultation exercise and evaluate the responses, and operate any CPZ scheme after implementation — as this leads to perceptions of unfairness
- Feed back all the profits from CPZ schemes into transport schemes within the area from which the profits have come.

We are against the introduction of vehicle clamping. Vehicles parked and causing an obstruction should be removed, not clamped.

Road Safety

The casualty rate for child pedestrians is amongst the worst in Europe. Those cycling still remain at risk as there are approximately 15 times as many cyclist casualties compared to those driving cars. Each road death costs the NHS an estimated £1 million. We will:

- Install more 20 mph zones in residential areas
- Support the current home zone, based in West Ealing, and encourage more home zone projects to be introduced within Ealing.

Tube

Liberal Democrats have been opposed to the Government's tube privatisation plans since they were first proposed and have consistently campaigned for an alternative solution, using bonds, that would keep the Tube in public hands and allow for investment to modernise the tube network whilst improving safety. You can find out more about our campaign at <http://www.getlondonmoving.org.uk>. Locally, we will continue to:

- Campaign for Piccadilly Line trains to stop at Turnham Green tube station
- Push to upgrade disabled access at stations such as Ealing Broadway so that disabled, elderly and infirm people have better access
- Persuade London Transport to install more signs displaying when tubes are due and where they are going (particularly on the District Line)
- Support the campaign to introduce a tube station in Southall
- Campaign to ensure that more tube stations have toilet facilities

Rail

Much has been said about the reliability and level of service which train companies offer to customers. Ealing has a number of train stations that certainly deserve a better quality of station. To do this we shall:

- Work to make sure that all Ealing's train and tube stations become accredited with a 'secure station' charter mark [this was introduced in 1998, however only 1% of stations currently meet the criteria]. This means that the station will be safer because of good lighting and CCTV. It will have a low crime rate and have better staff presence in case of emergencies. This will help those more at risk such as the elderly and women
- Make sure that better and more up-to-date information is available to the public outside stations. For instance, signs at bus stops could show when the next train is leaving from a nearby station
- Campaign for rail services on existing track linking Ealing Broadway to High Wycombe, Kingston and St. Albans
- Support the CrossRail proposal, with stops at stations from Paddington, Hanwell, West Ealing and Southall.



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Buses

Bus use in Great Britain has been declining for years; bus passenger journeys fell by a third — from 6.5 billion to 4.3 billion. Between 1997 and 2000 fares increased by 6% up to an average fare of 63p, whilst the average cost of motoring has increased by just 2%. Only 63% of users are satisfied with bus service reliability and only 59% of users are satisfied with bus stop information. We will:

- Step up the enforcement of bus lanes by using cameras and more traffic wardens on buses, and ensure that those using the bus lanes when they should not are fined
- Advocate that the 207 bus route terminates at Coldharbour Lane, not the Hayes bypass, thus allowing people to change for Heathrow (using the 140 bus route) or Feltham (by the 90)
- Encourage more night bus routes from outside Ealing, such as Brent
- Extend bus lanes so more are joined to each other and promote bus use

Air travel

Liberal Democrat policy on this subject relates very much to Terminal 5 (T5) policy. We do not support the T5 initiative locally due to the large negative environmental and noise effects; however because the decision has been taken we think it useful to make the following points:

- That a strategic approach be adopted for airports, so that several London airports increase by smaller amounts rather than just having a large increase at one airport
- We do not agree with the idea of a third runway at Heathrow
- We will campaign to phase out and then ban night flights
- We will campaign to phase out noisy aircraft using the regulations that exist, and reimpose the limit of 275,000 flights over Ealing per year (in 1996 it was 435,000 and growing).

West London Transit

The Mayor of London will soon decide whether to replace the 207 and 607 buses along the Uxbridge Road with either trams, trolley buses or higher quality buses.

The consultation document sent out in October 2001 was not broadly circulated enough and did not make it clear enough that, whichever vehicle type is chosen, the planners expect it to have its own dedicated lanes on the road. This will of course prevent it being delayed by road congestion (which would otherwise make it a waste of time since congestion would prevent travel time from being reduced). However, for much of its length the Uxbridge Road is not wide enough for four lanes (two for the new transport vehicles, and two for everyone else) and nothing in the plan shows where all the displaced traffic will go. So while we are in favour of the concept, we believe that installation costs and disruption should be kept to a minimum by using buses along strictly enforced bus lanes. Other buses which use parts of the Uxbridge Road can then use the same lanes and, if the project is a success, a more sophisticated vehicle system can be considered in the future.

These points must be also taken into account:

- The public should be consulted fully throughout the project so that their opinion counts
- The price of using the scheme should be cheap enough to encourage this type of public transport
- If a bus is used, it should be a non-polluting vehicle, not a conventional diesel vehicle
- When any engineering work has to be carried out it should be done in such a way that local businesses do not suffer, especially in West Ealing, Southall, Acton and Hanwell.



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Improving access to travel for the disabled

- We will make sure disabled parking places are more suitably located within a new development by ensuring that this is requested within a planning application. We will also campaign to ensure that there is adequate disabled parking facilities within the borough and that disabled parking spaces are strictly enforced.
- We will campaign for all Ealing's train and tube stations to be made accessible to the elderly, disabled and infirm (by installing lifts and ramps). This is especially required at Ealing Broadway station.
- We will increase the number of pedestrian crossings which have facilities for the blind or the disabled.

Education

Introduction

Liberal Democrats will campaign to recruit more teachers, and reduce administrative burdens, in order to allow teachers to spend more time in classrooms. We will raise teachers' pay to aid retention.

Reduced Class Sizes

We will reduce class sizes for all age groups to a maximum of 25 pupils per class, and increase funding for books, computers and equipment in all schools.

Where necessary for recruitment we will introduce 'golden hellos' and help with housing for newly qualified teachers.

League Tables

We will campaign for improvements to league tables to improve the information available to parents whilst simultaneously reducing the current administrative burden on teachers and schools

Nursery Cuts

Liberal Democrats will campaign against the proposed £1.1 million cut in the nursery budget and against any proposed closures or amalgamation of the five nursery schools — Glebe, Greenfields, Grove House, Heathfield and Maple nurseries — and the four nursery centres — Disraeli, Hanbury, Hanwell and Windmill Nursery.

More Business Involvement

We will also develop training partnerships with local businesses to give pupils the chance to learn through "on the job" experience.

Reduce bullying, harassment and discrimination

We will campaign to reduce the incidences of bullying, harassment and discrimination to council staff, those within Ealing's schools and residents of Ealing.



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Homework clubs

We will start homework clubs in local libraries to help young people with their schoolwork.

Leisure and Sport

Introduction

Liberal Democrats believe that Leisure and Sport are very important to the local economy and to the well-being of the community. Ealing has a fine tradition of supporting the arts and the borough is home to a number of tourist attractions and events like Pitshanger Manor Museum and Gallery, Questors Theatre, Ealing Summer Festival, and the rich multicultural heritage of Southall.

However, over recent years, both Labour- and Conservative- controlled councils have sold off a number of local recreational facilities in the borough. At the same time, many of the parks and playing fields have been neglected and are not fit for playing sport. Liberal Democrats will promote greater investment in sports and leisure facilities in the borough, and a wider choice of leisure and sporting activities for residents of all ages.

Access to the Arts

Liberal Democrats believe everyone should have the opportunity to explore their creativity through access to the arts and this should begin in schools. Arts education has been allowed to dwindle by successive councils and we would encourage schools, and particularly primary schools, to recruit more specialist arts teachers and give all children entitlement to an arts education. We would also like to see increased funding for music tuition so that all children in the borough have the chance to learn a musical instrument. Arts can be of great value to all children, but particularly those with learning and behavioural difficulties. In the past few years, though, teachers have had less time to teach arts and recent studies have estimated that 41% of primary school teachers have been insufficiently trained to teach music and 25% to teach the arts.

Libraries

Alongside a greater appreciation of local arts, we would increase funding for libraries, in particular to establish an improved Ealing Central Library. Ealing's libraries are currently in a woeful state. An official report discovered that the books are too old, that on average it takes the council 13 years to replace them, and that there are only 20 computers when a borough this size should have 210. The Council also has fewer libraries per head of population than any other borough. We would also like more libraries to open on Sundays. Liberal Democrats believe libraries are a key service and the council is not doing enough to provide them.

Local Events

Liberal Democrats would also continue to support the many existing local events like the Ealing Countryside weekend, the Canal and Heritage Fair, and the very popular Ealing Summer Festival which are held in the borough and we will create more events like this to celebrate the local culture. Above all, though, we will encourage greater involvement from residents, and more forums for residents to develop and express their talents and abilities.



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School Sports Facilities

Liberal Democrat Policy is to ensure that schools and local communities have good sports facilities. In the 1980s and 1990s many school sports fields were sold off to make money or to release space for new buildings. This has contributed to the decline in health amongst children, and British children are now amongst the unhealthiest in the western world — this urgently needs to be reversed. The dressing rooms at some sports facilities are left unlocked and unsupervised, and some have no working showers (or showers with missing heads) — this hardly encourages people to use them.

Our plan is to increase the sports facilities in schools and the amount of time devoted to sport in our schools. Promoting sport in schools and encouraging children to take up sport outside school is the best way to encourage healthy lifestyles from a young age. Schools do not have the resources to turn this around on their own, and so we will encourage Ealing Borough Council, local schools and sports clubs to share facilities.

At the same time we will give residents and children greater choice in what sporting activities they can participate in and include provisions to support all sports. Liberal Democrats will encourage sports sessions, courses, holiday activities and events catering for all residents and children in the borough, whatever their age or their interest. The range of activities on offer should allow something for everyone, whether you want a leisurely pursuit or a more vigorous, action packed activity.

Adult Health Facilities

Going to the gym is now the second most popular leisure activity in the area and Liberal Democrats will create and subsidise more health and fitness facilities like the new Dormers Wells Leisure Centre across the borough, as well as developing existing council-run sites. In particular, Ealing Borough Council is redeveloping Hanwell Community Centre and every effort should be made to rehouse all the clubs and activities that currently take place there during the refurbishment with the minimum of disruption. We will also encourage residents to use the Ealing Leisure Pass to reduce the cost of going to their local leisure centres, outdoor facilities and swimming pools and we will increase reductions for under 18s, full-time students, pensioners and those on income support.

Youth Clubs and Activities

Liberal Democrats want to introduce new ways and means for younger people to develop their talents and abilities. In particular, we want to see the growth and development of youth clubs and more activities catering for young people in the area. There are currently only seven youth clubs recognised by the council in the whole borough (Acrefield YC, Dormers Wells YC, Bollo Brook YC, Featherstone Dovetail YC, Park View YC, Ken Acock Youth and Community Centre, and the W13 Social Club). Liberal Democrats want to see more clubs set up across the whole of the borough and these clubs to be open more frequently. We will also introduce new environmental groups and develop existing groups like the Wildlife Watch to give young people an active involvement in caring for the local environment.

Liberal Democrats will continue to promote and subsidise existing local children's events run by Ealing Borough Council. This includes the transformation of Ealing Town Hall into the magical Dragon Castle in Spring half-term, the many activities of Space Camp in the summer holidays, and the Greenford Children's Festival in the autumn half-term. However, we will go further and set up more events across the borough, particularly during the holiday periods. Through greater investment in local libraries, we will also develop existing children's library and arts events, and provide more access to computer facilities in local libraries to develop their IT skills.



Housing

Introduction

Ealing's stock of housing dates mostly from the first half of the 1900s. Many of the tower blocks are of poor design and in urgent need of repair. What is less obvious is the number of houses outside estates, which are not regularly inspected and where standards have continued to fall well behind the private sector.

Liberal Democrats see the council's housing responsibilities as the provision of affordable housing for key workers such as teachers and nurses, and social housing for those who are not wealthy enough to arrange their own housing within the private sector. We will also campaign to persuade the government that councils should be allowed to borrow against future revenues for the purpose of effecting housing repairs.

Quicker Repairs

We will initiate a detailed assessment of the needs of all council estates, to ensure that long-standing repairs are dealt with as soon as funds become available.

We will set up a repairs hotline. If repairs are not completed within 6 weeks, then residents will have the right to get repairs done privately and send the council the bill.

We will introduce new mobile caretakers to work across all council accommodation.

Better Cleaning and Lighting

We will invest in improving the standards of cleaning and litter removal on council estates. We will invest to ensure that the street lights are kept working.

Better Consultation

Liberal Democrats will embark on a much wider consultation with tenants to ascertain their needs and aspirations, allow them to vote on issues which concern them — and then treat the votes as binding in adopting the policies for which they vote.

Affordable Housing

We will encourage the redevelopment of brown field sites for key workers such as nurses, teachers and social workers who otherwise would not be able to afford to live in Ealing.

Sustainable Housing

Sustainable housing offers many benefits to the environment. We will ensure that the council informs Ealing residents how they can, at low or no cost, reduce the amount of energy consumed in their homes. We will also develop and enforce the borough's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) so that developers create more sustainable housing.

More units for Large Families

We will increase the number of units available for large families in Ealing.



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Concierges/Estate Wardens

We will bring in more concierges and estate wardens to live on larger estates, who can help to focus the needs of council tenants and help give the community greater control over behaviour on the estates.

Housing Benefit Management

We will improve the in-house management of the Vertex contract. If we don't see dramatic improvement in the service within 6 months of election we will sack Vertex.

Higher Standards

We will encourage better standards of design and sustainability when considering applications for new housing and the conversion of older housing, and impose similar standards on housing associations.

Health and Social Services

Introduction

Health is a fundamental freedom. No one can fulfil his or her potential without the best possible health. At the time of the General Election, we were the only party honest enough to propose carefully costed tax increases to fund investment in the NHS. We also strongly believe in investing in promoting healthy living (such as the recent Liberal Democrat sponsored bill to outlaw tobacco advertising) as we believe health policy is about preventing illness, not just treating it. As such the integration of other policy areas is vital, for example better housing, health education and tackling environmental pollution. The NHS continues to suffer from under-investment and local government must work with doctors and managers to get the most from the little investment, and assist where additional local focus is needed.

Promoting Good Health

We will:

- Encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health. Improve health education and promote healthy living. Encourage people to take better care of themselves.
- Make prevention a priority. At the local level we will support the Lib Dem goals to abolish charges for eye and dental check-ups, and improve preventative health provision for women
- Put health promotion at the heart of council policy, making sure all departments assess the impact of their policies on health.
- Provide more community care places, improve preventive and rehabilitation services, give further support and respite to carers, and provide more social workers to support elderly people, those with leaning difficulties and others.
- Increase investment in the community alarm network to protect the most vulnerable residents in the community.



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Healthy Environment

We will:

- Implement a local homes insulation programme to provide warmer homes for the less well off and allow GPs to prescribe insulation.
- With our colleagues in the environment department we will co-ordinate actions to improving Ealing's environment, reducing local pollution which is responsible for respiratory problems like asthma, and creating a cleaner Ealing.
- Create one Ealing-wide strategy for the installation of telephone transmitters, making sure the thinking behind the strategy is communicated to all the residents, and that the companies have investigated all the technical options to minimise effects on people.

Bringing Health Services Closer to Local People

We will:

- Seek to increase local democracy and openness on Trust and Primary Care Trust boards and petition for the transfer of local responsibility for public health from health authorities to local councils.
- Get local people to play a part in setting health policies in their area. Break down the barriers that artificially divide health and social care and encourage the services to work more closely together.

Carers and the Elderly

We will:

- Campaign for free care for the elderly, as the present system is blatantly unfair. It is indefensible that dementia sufferers are forced to pay for personal care such as washing and bathing, which cancer patients in hospital get free.
- Ensure carers are fully involved in the process of needs assessments. Aim to give carers additional support especially with the provision of respite care.
- Review the plans to reduce Ealing's Residential homes, and listen to the views of the residents and their families as well as taking financial implications into account.
- Support the charities that are calling for a children's hospice for west London, and pressure the government to start funding children's hospices.

Co-operation between the NHS and social services

We will improve the co-ordination between the NHS and Social Services. In particular, we will seek to dramatically improve local services for people leaving NHS hospitals just outside the borough that provide services to Ealing residents such as the Central Middlesex, Charing Cross and Hammersmith Hospital.

Defending Day Care

We oppose Labour's plans for centralisation of day care. Consultation and information-sharing to date has been inadequate - and too little account has been taken of the communities that have grown up at the council's current day care centres. In particular, we do not believe a case has been for the closure of the Carlton Road and Michael Flanders centres.



Planning and Economic Development

Introduction

Ealing is predominantly a residential borough, housing people who work in central London and around Heathrow. There are, however, important employment areas in the Ealing, Southall, Acton, Greenford and Northolt town centres and in the areas of mixed business activity in Park Royal, Acton Vale, Southall, Perivale, Greenford and Northolt. The borough is also characterised by extensive areas of green space and a prolific number of trees.

Planning / Development policy must, therefore, focus on enhancing the green space and residential environment, conserving buildings and areas of distinctive character and quality, and adapting the business areas to at least retain existing levels of local employment.

Residential Areas

We believe that standards of residential development must take full account of the need for sustainability and of the desire to retain a high proportion of families with children in the borough. This means encouraging the improvement of existing houses to give them a longer life and reduced environmental impact and generally resisting the sub-division of houses with less than eight rooms.

Within walking distance of tube and train stations, we favour increased housing densities, for example via high quality blocks of flats. Further away, if any windfall sites suitable for housing become available, we prefer moderate densities with off-street parking provision.

Open Spaces

We will vigorously protect all the remaining open space in the borough. We will actively seek to considerably improve the quality of major open spaces in the Brent River Park and Horsenden Hill and the network of town and district parks, local leisure gardens, nature reserves and children's play spaces. A special priority will be to bring the Warren Farm Sports Grounds back into use and to provide adventure playgrounds for teenagers.

We will support initiatives such as those in Southfield Park to use our green spaces to increase biodiversity and support natural flora and fauna.

Ealing and West Ealing Town Centre redevelopment

We support the development of Ealing Town Centre and West Ealing, however we feel that redevelopment should include areas such as Hanwell, Southall and Greenford. These areas (and perhaps West Ealing as well) will lose out because of the increased trade within the Broadway area, some pulled from Hanwell and Southall.

Any development must focus on more pedestrianisation, to give people greater freedom and safety — to shop and enjoy neighbouring open spaces. We must also make sure that cycling issues are adequately taken up within the Ealing Partnership.

Car parking must be restricted to a limited degree, to promote travel into Ealing by more sustainable methods. An adequate number of residential properties should be prioritised for nurses, doctors, policemen/women etc.



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The development will need to make sure that there are adequate plans for traffic to be able to go North-South and conversely East-West (for those wanting to avoid the retail areas). As no firm plans for road building exist it would make sense to make sure that residents are fully informed about the plans as ideas arise.

Other Town Centres

We will further pursue efforts to improve the quality of the network of town centres in the borough, concentrating development where public transport is best available. In particular we will support the work of the town centre partnerships which have been established, and vigorously resist out-of-town shopping developments.

We will continue the enhancement of Southall town centre, the resuscitation of Acton, Greenford and Hanwell and give special priority to the substantial upgrading of Northolt town centre.

All town centre initiatives will be related to supporting major improvements to public transport (especially interchange facilities) and to the availability of off-street car parking. Raising the physical quality of the centres will be central to all this, and we will introduce a modern design guide, a vigorous review and upgrading of lighting and street furniture, the pedestrianisation of suitable streets and a much stronger anti-graffiti policy. Each centre will also have fully staffed public lavatories open all day. Throughout the borough we will exercise strong control over advertising - rejecting obtrusive hoardings along main roads and free standing advertisement pillars that impede pedestrians, particularly the disabled.

Business Areas

Ealing has an inheritance of twentieth century industrial areas, often unattractive to modern businesses. We will vigorously pursue policies to improve their general environment, access by public transport, off-street parking provision and quality of architecture. Our aim will be to attract activities expected to grow in the twenty-first century - especially the media, IT and biotechnology sectors related to the national nexus of research and innovation in inner London.

Crime and Policing

Introduction

Fear of crime blights the lives of many people, particularly the most vulnerable. The state should offer all its citizens equal and adequate protection. Our approach is rooted in the belief that the best way to beat crime in the medium and long term is to have effective policies to tackle its causes.

Overall, crime has fallen in Ealing by a minuscule 0.4% in the past two years, although we have one of the lowest crime rates in West London. However, of those crimes on the increase in the area, domestic violence increased by 16% and residential burglaries increased by 3% in Ealing. We will concentrate on cutting these areas of crime down.

More Police

We will stop the closure of local police stations and push for more police officers "on the beat" and for more resources to reduce the administrative burden on police officers, and free up their time to fight crime.

We will reinforce the police by encouraging more part-time community police officers, establishing a new Community Safety Force and retain retired police officers in a back-up rôle.



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More Crime Deterrents

We will spend more money on crime prevention such as CCTV cameras and better street-lighting in town centres and crime "hotspots" to restore public confidence, reduce the threat of crime and improve public safety.

Cut Nuisance Crime

Nuisance crimes like graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles are on the increase in Ealing and make people feel unsafe. We will push for improved enforcement and put increased resources into graffiti removal and the removal of fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We will introduce Anti-social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), run with the police, which have been successfully used in Liberal Democrat run Islington to reduce anti-social behaviour on estates.

Hate Crimes.

Police figures show that people from ethnic minorities suffer a much higher incidence of violent assault, and recent surveys show very high levels of violence and harassment against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. There is not enough support for ethnic minorities and gay, lesbian and bisexual communities; existing hate crimes legislation is not implemented adequately. Homophobic offences rose in Ealing by 46% in the past year.

Liberal Democrats believe all citizens should enjoy equal treatment and equal protection under the law, and that all citizens should be free from fear of violence and intimidation. Action must be taken to build confidence in the police and other judicial institutions among all communities, to enable the police to do their job more effectively and to make it easier for members of minority communities who are victims of crime to report such incidents. In particular, we will campaign for the establishment of police hate crime investigation units to co-ordinate information and action against all victims of bigotry. Police forces must be more representative of, and effective within, the communities they serve through more active recruitment from all the diverse communities.

Drugs.

Liberal Democrats are campaigning for realistic and responsible reform of the drugs laws. In particular, we will encourage police use of roadside sobriety tests on suspected drug-affected drivers combined with a publicity campaign on the effects of drugs on driving ability, and increased resources for drugs treatment programmes.

We support a test of the policing policy in Lambeth which has increased focus on arresting hard drug dealers instead of cannabis users.

Organisation and Finance

Introduction

Ealing Council must become more open so that everyone who lives or works in the area can see why things happen and can get involved. Many things need changing.



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Fairer Elections

We will campaign to change the method by which our local councillors are elected. This will mean that people whose views are currently unrepresented will have their own councillors. It is neither democratic nor fair that Labour should have 75% of Ealing's councillors with only 50% of the votes. A representative number of councillors should come from each party. So people's votes will count for much more and councillors will be forced to listen more to local residents.

More Power for Area Committees

The recently-established area committees (for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Perivale, Northolt and Southall) will have a wider remit, to include licensing and some planning applications. Area committees will have larger budgets and thus be able to make more decisions for the people they represent.

Listen to Residents

We will ask local residents for their views in an annual form which will be delivered with the council's newspaper and via the council's website. A FREEPOST address may be used to encourage people to respond and this will allow us to understand people's priorities and how they may change from year to year.

Better Information

We will create a series of one-stop shops around the borough, where local residents can ask and get answers and information about issues, under one roof. This would include a citizens advice bureau, legal issues, job seeking, electoral registration, utilities (gas, electricity etc), housing, benefits, transport information, sporting facilities.

Improve Council Web Site

We will make sure that the council web site is more user-friendly and contains more information about meetings and Ealing in general in a more accessible format than currently.

Earlier Scrutiny of Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet scrutiny will take place before decisions are finalised instead of after the cabinet have made decisions.

Scrutiny committees will be more wide-ranging and allow a wider range of people (including residents and even people from out of the borough) to give evidence to help councillors make decisions correctly.

Consult Residents on Elected Mayor Proposal

While we are opposed to having an elected executive mayor since we do not believe that one person can adequately reflect the different geographical communities of Ealing, we believe that residents should decide whether Ealing should have an elected executive mayor in a referendum. The results of the council's consultation were very close, so this is best for democracy.



Consultation

Introduction

Recent public consultations have sometimes worked well, sometimes much less well. Liberal Democrats are committed to consulting the public on decisions which will affect them, within the practical limitations of time and cost.

Independence

We will not longer use the same companies to run consultations if they have a strong interest in the result as happened with several CPZ consultations.

Advance notice of consultations

We will ensure that all public consultations by the London Borough of Ealing are adequately publicised in advance, so that people will have a genuine opportunity to take part.

Whether it is a binding consultation

We will make it clear in each case whether it is a non-binding consultation, or an invitation to participate directly in the decision.

Times of public meetings

We will arrange public meetings at times when affected people, including residents who work outside the area, are able to attend.

Implementation

We will ensure that, whatever consultation methods are used, decisions are implemented fully and effectively.

Publish results

We will make available to interested citizens a full account of the outcome of each consultation - via the web and in local public libraries - and a reasoned justification of the method selected.