

MAKING BRIGHTON & HOVE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Liberal
Democrats

A Liberal Democrat Manifesto For Brighton And Hove City Council 2023



For too long, control of our council has alternated between Greens and Labour, and the terrible state of our city's roads and pavements is visible proof that it's time for a fresh approach



Published and promoted by Simon Jardine on behalf of
Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats, 7 North Gardens, Brighton, BN1 3LB.

Get Brighton & Hove Moving

For decades Brighton and Hove has had issues with its transport system – cars not being allowed within our city centre, cycle lanes that go nowhere causing unnecessary disruptions, parking spaces declining, an increase in parking permit costs and small businesses struggling to comply with yearly changes to the business parking permit application.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Take a fresh look at how our bikes, cars and buses integrate across the city.
- Research the introduction of a tram system along the seafront to ease traffic congestion.
- Work with local businesses to ensure a fair, workable business parking permit application process.
- Ensure all new transport proposals are co-produced with local disability groups,
- Investigate installing cheap car park under Brunswick lawns and Hove Lawns and then banning parking on A259 seafront.
- Repaint road markings.
- Ensure that street signs are visible.
- Repair potholes promptly.



Make Brighton & Hove Safer

Brighton and Hove's crime rate is 41% higher than the rest of East Sussex, 32% higher than the rest of the South East and 24% higher than the rest of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Liberal Democrats understand the frustrations of residents and businesses across the City and propose to:

- Introduce regular surgeries with local police and residents.
- Ensure residents have the opportunity to present to Council Committees on areas of concern.
- Make pavements safe by removing all unlicensed A-boards.
- Re-think the provision of a local safe space for drug users.
- Work with community groups, schools and the police to give young people a sense of purpose and belonging and so tackle the root causes of crime and drug abuse.

Liberal Voices for a Liberal City

Create More Affordable Living Space

Brighton and Hove is the seventh most densely populated area in the South East. There is a problem in the private rental market whereby decent one-bedroom flats can be at least £50pcm above the government housing benefit allowance.



Liberal Democrats will:

- Carry out proper consultation on all development promising a percentage of affordable homes built on council-owned land.
- Support rough sleepers and addicts to obtain sufficient support quicker with additional funding for schemes such as No Second Night Out.
- License all short-let accommodation, including AirBnBs, and limit the number of licences within each ward of the city (except for individuals renting out rooms in their own homes) with the proviso that licences will be withdrawn in the event of anti-social behaviour by guests.
- Ensure housing decisions move forward with Councillors of all political colours to ensure a long lasting accommodation plan.
- Review all council-owned land and build affordable housing on this land only, subject to planning and local review.

Support Brighton & Hove's Small Businesses

Many small businesses have been crippled over the last few years, not only due to Covid, Brexit, the Cost-of-Living Crisis and the loss of visitors, but also to increased business rates and a lack of proper support.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Create an active small business forum.
- Freeze business rates for businesses employing fewer than 10 people.
- Work with vacant property owners to make redundant premises available for business start-ups and pop-up shops.
- Reduce business rates for NHS-only dentists operating from council-owned properties.
- Provide short-term loans and a 6-month business rates holiday to new businesses moving into premises unoccupied for more than 12 months.
- Work with the Diocese of Chichester on a scheme to make redundant churches available for business start-ups.
- Propose Brighton as an eco-tourist destination.

Liberal Voices for a Liberal City

Improve The Health of Brighton & Hove's Children

Despite years of Labour, Green and Conservative administration, a staggering 17.9% of Brighton & Hove's children still live in poverty with 10% of eligible children missing out on free school meals. Liberal Democrats believe that the key to improving the health and wellbeing of children is more support for parents returning to the workplace. Over 90 of our city's schools are in areas where traffic contributes to dangerous levels of air pollution, increasing the risk of heart disease, lung cancer and premature death.



Liberal Democrats will:

- Expand the provision of free school meals to all children on Universal Credit.
- Address holiday hunger by providing free lunches for all eligible schoolchildren.
- Introduce support schemes for parents returning to the workplace.
- Pedestrianise areas around more schools and nurseries.
- Expand the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
- Install more all-weather pitches in parks.
- Build new pavilions in parks with up to date changing facilities.
- Build more challenging equipment for older children since this has too often been replaced by equipment suitable only for toddlers.
- Provide more basketball and five-a-side football courts in parks.
- Reinstall exercise equipment in parks.
- Redistribute benches more equally between parks.
- Improve air quality by fining motorists who do not turn off engines.
- Introduce local lottery to pay for park improvements.
- Launch a frank discussion about academisation. Many primary schools are under-subscribed because of falling numbers. Are schools considering academisation to avoid closure? Would any party be brave enough to close schools? Money raised from selling sites could be used to improve other schools.

Liberal Voices for a Liberal City

Improve the Council's Waste Management Performance

The current administration's 're-wilding' policy has left our often narrow pavements unkempt, overgrown and more challenging for our elderly and disabled residents in mobility scooters or for parents pushing buggies. There's graffiti everywhere, our bins are grubby, the pavements filthy and there's rubbish strewn all over the streets. Whilst four Liberal Democrat councils top the tables for recycling rates, Brighton & Hove CC is 303rd.

LIB DEM LED COUNCILS TOP THE TABLES FOR RECYCLING



Liberal Democrats will:

- Increase recycling collections and ensure proper residual waste collections across the City.
- Treat waste as a resource and work with businesses to run voluntary recycling schemes.
- Introduce food waste collections.
- Increase litter patrols, issuing fixed penalty notices in line with national laws to fly tippers and those who drop litter.
- Create spaces where items no longer wanted can be left for others to pick up, instead of leaving them on the street anywhere.
- Re-lay uneven pavements, tackle tree roots and plant new trees.
- Remove weeds which are trip hazards especially for the elderly, children in buggies and the disabled.
- Remove the old phone boxes that are not being used,
- Refurbish all public conveniences in the city to a high standard.
- Improve street lighting in areas where it is inadequate.
- Put more resources into street cleaning, paying particular attention to fallen leaves left lying since the autumn as they are slippery when wet and even more so when they freeze.

Please keep in touch:



@LiberalBrighton



Info@LiberalBrighton.org