



# Our six Priorities For Chelmsford



**Stop the Council wasting your money**



**Sort out traffic congestion; parking, pot holes and pavements; station access**



**Clean up the town; extend recycling; keep wheelie bins; separate food waste collection**



**Stop town cramming – fewer flats; more affordable housing, especially for young people and families**



**Improve leisure and sports facilities; make better use of our rivers and waterways**



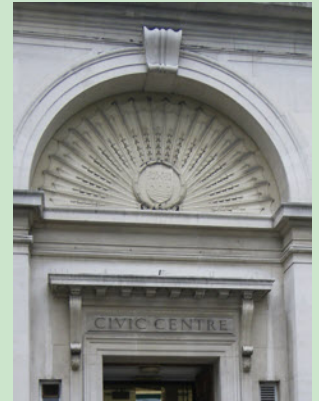
**Give power back to local people; offer more for young people to do**

**Local** Liberal Democrats working for **local** people

## FIX 1

### Stop the Council wasting your money

During a recession every household looks to their own homes and budgets to find ways of saving money. This should be no different at the Borough Council. They have spent £2m on swanky new Council offices and plan to spend £1m more, £3.5m on Riverside after massive overspends, lost £250,000 of government money by late Benefit payments, awarded Chief Officers huge wage increases so that the wage bill for eight people is over £1m.



We will:

- halt all spending at the Civic Centre while all procedures and policies are reviewed for value for money. Cut out costly delays.
- reduce the headcount at senior management level, not the front line staff;
- reduce the council's massive self-publicity budget;
- move all council buildings over to renewable, sustainable sources of energy;
- introduce electric vehicles where possible to save fuel costs when Council vehicles are due for replacement.

## FIX 2

### Sort out traffic congestion; parking, pot holes and pavements; station access

Chelmsford's roads and pavements are a disgrace. Anyone can see at a glance just how bad things are. The responsibility lies with Tory controlled Essex County Council but the Borough Council must apply maximum pressure to get things done.

To change this, we will:

- get ECC to repair and maintain the roads before they deteriorate;
- introduce a pro-active team to blitz potholes properly so they don't need to be filled in again two weeks later;
- strictly enforce the new legislation on utility repairs to ensure roads are only dug up once and repaired properly.



Traffic congestion just gets worse. Lib Dems first pressed for Park and Ride in the early 1990s and they work. We need another in the Widford area.

We will:

- investigate initiatives like a circular bus route round Chelmsford;
- activate the Liberal Democrats' plan to link the bus and rail station to relieve congestion at the main entrance;
- continue to support a new railway station at Springfield and a North East by-pass to relieve White Hart Lane.



## Clean up the town; extend recycling; keep wheelie bins; separate food waste collection

You keep telling us that rubbish and litter in our streets and grass verges makes the town look tatty. You also want better recycling collection and less bins, boxes and bags. We will bring in food waste collection. It is a disgrace that many Essex Districts and Boroughs have had this for many years but not Chelmsford. There would be a streamlined collection of recyclables and the wheelie bins would be kept.



We will:

- increase the frequency of street cleaning and prosecute 'litter bugs';
- keep the wheelie bins;
- bring in food waste collection in all areas;
- investigate cost effective ways to reduce the number of bins, boxes and bags;
- crack down on illegal dumping.



## Stop town cramming – fewer flats; more affordable housing, especially for young people and families

Chelmsford town centre is suffering from the Conservative plans to cram too many high rise flats in without proper infrastructure and community facilities. This needs to stop. There is an urgent need for more housing that's affordable in the town.



We will:

- urgently review the Tory housing development plans thereby preventing town cramming and urban sprawl into the countryside;
- urge developers to include more housing that's affordable, especially for young people, in their schemes;
- make sure there is decent open space and car parking provided;
- preserve our heritage by utilising historic buildings for community use;
- work with private landlords to encourage more security of tenure;
- urgently address empty homes, shops and office space and derelict sites.



## Improve leisure and sports facilities; make better use of our rivers and waterways

As the County town of Essex, Chelmsford is failing to meet the leisure, sports and cultural needs of its increasing population. The Liberal Democrats plans for a Conference Centre, Concert Hall, Art Gallery, Hotel and Museum for the Marconi collection, provided by private developers on the Gas Works site, were all scrapped by the Tories in 2003. The Tories wanted more shops, offices and flats. What happened? The site has been derelict for the last 8 years.



We would fix this by:

- working with developers to provide leisure and community facilities within regeneration schemes;
- making sure the rivers and valleys are open for all to enjoy for sport, recreation and water craft – link the river and canal;
- providing sports facilities in the community, not just in the big centres;
- maximising the use of the parks for all to enjoy by encouraging more Festivals and Events.



## Give power back to local people; offer more for young people to do

Many people who live in the town feel left out of decisions made by the Tories living in their ivory towers. Residents of the town area should be more involved in the decisions which affect their lives. Liberal Democrat councillors want to put this right.

We will:

- set up local forums for the town to give residents a stronger voice, in the same way as parish councils do in other areas;
- work with the local community to explore ways of devolving decision making down to the local area.



You tell us that you are worried about young people with hoodies hanging around on street corners. Young people tell us they are bored. They also tell us they share that concern but they have nowhere else to go.

We will:

- work with the County Council to devolve their responsibility for the Youth Service to the community level so the young people themselves can organise activities;
- lead a change in attitude towards young people by being positive about them, so as to reverse the hostile media image.