



# Richmond Borough Conservatives

## Our Promises

Three reasons why the local Conservatives are the better choice for Richmond Council:

- 1. We are local residents, not Westminster politicians.**
  - We are local, and we get involved because we care about our local communities
- 2. It matters who runs Richmond Council**
  - Local services impact residents every day, especially the vulnerable in our community
- 3. The local Conservatives make things happen for our communities**
  - We take responsibility, we solve local problems, and we have a track record of running the Council well and efficiently – we are not simply a protest party, unlike the Liberal Democrats

### Our Promises On Transport & Air Quality

**We Will... Get Richmond Moving - Intelligently, Safely, For Everyone (we are not anti-car, nor are we anti-cycling)**

Transport under the LibDems is a total mess – they do one-off changes and have no overall plan, such as the their LTNs and random cycle lanes:

- **We will stop the LibDem's random one-off changes to our roads and parking**
- **We will consult on and implement our 5 year borough transport strategy to make our roads work for walkers, cyclists, car drivers, and public transport users**
- **We must stop setting one group against the other**

Our roads and pavements standards have fallen under the LibDems

- **We will embark on a major investment programme to bring all roads and pavements up to a good standard within 5 years**

We must find practical solutions to Net Zero, not empty ambitions

- **We will enable an EV charger on every street in the borough**
- **At the same time, we will review CPZs to find more parking spaces to allow for the chargers**
- **We will continue to oppose Heathrow expansion and support local campaign groups**
- **We will continue to support the Climate Emergency Plan**



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The LibDems and the Mayor allow major developments without transport improvements

- **We will work for fundamental improvements to our major transport bottlenecks impacted by new developments**
- ***Especially at Chalker's Corner, Upper Richmond Road, and restoring train services***

The LibDems consulted on 20mph, then in Twickenham ignored areas that overwhelmingly voted against

- **We will reconsult on 20mph on trunk roads in Twickenham areas that voted against the blanket limit**

The LibDems have been shockingly ineffective in moving Hammersmith Bridge forward, and do nothing but blame the Government with no pressure put on H&F

- **We will relentlessly push both Hammersmith & Fulham Council and the DfT to get Hammersmith Bridge done**
- ***We will ensure Hammersmith Bridge is put into a trust as promised by H&F to give Richmond residents some control of the bridge in the future***

Pavement cycling is a major issue of concern for many residents, and will become an issue with e-scooters

- ***We will use stencils in hotspot areas and do regular no-pavement campaigns, as we successfully did to combat dog mess***

We support cycling, but it must be done effectively. Cycle lanes that pop up on streets that aren't connected and without the input of the community simply don't work.

- ***We will agree to consult on 3 x major safe cycle routes across the borough.***

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## **Our Promises On Environment & Planning, Housing, Business**

Planning is both difficult and extremely important. Our borough is a great place to live, and we will protect the unique character of Richmond



- **We will:**
  - ***Fight for appropriate development both with the Mayor of London and with Government***
  - ***Increase investment in the planning department to make planning more efficient, more transparent, fairer***
  - ***Publish statistics on the number of applications, and decisions.***
  - ***Have a planning approach that encourages businesses to come to the borough - a more flexible system for commercial planning which takes into account the views of the kinds of businesses that residents would like to see***

Climate Change and Air Quality are very important to our residents, and they want to see the Council being proactive. The Council should be taking more practical steps to lower household emissions, not just talking about it, as LibDems do. They just show tokenism to all their issues. 2030, the end of combustion engine vehicle sales is fast approaching - we need to ensure we have the infrastructure

- **We will:**
  - ***Enable electric charging points on every street in the borough***
  - ***Provide support for projects to promote biodiversity i.e. hedgehog holes, projects to increase bird life, bee corridors***
  - ***Introduce Green roofs at bus stops***
  - ***Plant cherry trees along the A316***
  - ***Introduce community energy saving groups***
  - ***Continue to invest in parks and support the local Friends Groups***

High Streets are the hubs of our local communities, and residents want local businesses as places to work. The Council has a weak vision for high street revival and are doing nothing effective to help.

- **We will:**
  - ***Provide a better link to Ringo/online app.***
  - ***Work with the creative sector to provide a vision and plan for modern high streets bring back visitors to the high street***
  - ***Make our borough a leader in smart cities - digital/faster broadband all need to be part of this with the switch to more home working.***
  - ***We will extend our popular residents free parking to 45 mins***
  - ***We will take leases in key high street locations to enable new local businesses to start***

The pandemic exposed the poor provision of public toilet facilities in the borough. The LibDems arrogantly dismissed some basic needs of residents during the pandemic.

- ***We will invest in significant new public toilet facilities throughout the borough***



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Recycling and rubbish collection is an essential service residents identify with paying their Council Tax. It has been a poor service under the LibDems. There are too many overflowing boxes for some, and no recycling for others. The service has been unreliable over the last four years.

- **We will:**
  - ***Get control of the service again and get it to work better - fewer missed pick ups***
  - ***Make recycling available for all flats, including food recycling***
  - ***Offer a different bin option to the recycling boxes for larger households***

Street cleaning, graffiti, fly tipping impact the feel and local pride in our communities. Street cleaning has been poor, and there has been a perceived increase on graffiti and fly tipping.

- **We will:**
  - ***Have a zero tolerance policy on fly tipping/graffiti***
  - ***Increase investment in street cleaning and ensure consistency of standards across the borough***

## **Our Promises On Finance & Resources**

Council Tax is a large expense for local families, especially middle and lower income families. The Liberal Democrats have raised Council Tax on those families every single year.

- **We will again freeze Council Tax for the next four years (we did it before)**
  - *including by stopping the £millions wasted on Twickenham Riverside*

Policing is a key issue for residents. New recruits from Government funding are coming through (BCU (the Borough Command Unit) has 2 sergeants & 11 officers)

- **We will:**
  - ***Put more focus on domestic violence***
  - ***Provide a moveable CCTV camera for every village in the borough***



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Jobs and Skills are crucial, especially after the impact of the pandemic. The Conservative Government put huge amounts of money into the economy, much through local Councils, to save jobs, and Rishi Sunak has done a great job.

- **We will:**
  - **Work hand in hand with the Government to continue to provide support for the economic recovery from Covid**
  - **Work with voluntary sector on increasing training and skills**

There is a widespread feeling that the Council is not resident focused - Customer Service is not a priority of this administration. The LibDems have always been known for consulting but not listening. They just do what they want.

- **We will:**
  - **Be a different sort of council that puts customer service at the centre of what we do. The deputy leader(s) of the Council will have a focus on putting our residents first, and customer experience across the Council. We will analyse all complaints.**
  - **Create a position/department of Head of Resident/Council experience across every area of the council.**

The LibDem Council has already wasted £millions on their pet Twickenham Riverside project, and are now threatening a compulsory purchase from a resident's trust. Most people in the borough don't know much about Twickenham Riverside. But they will care about their money being wasted.

- **We will stop the LibDems wasting further £millions on Twickenham Riverside, the cost of which they have refused to show residents**
- *We will restore collaborative working with local residents to finally find a Twickenham Riverside solution*

## **Our Promises On Adults & Health**

- Social Care is an enormous part of the Council's budget, but one that few residents see and understand. Whatever anyone says about the handling of Covid, the Conservative Government put health and the NHS first. But the network of health providers is still very confusing and difficult to navigate. Our vulnerable adult services are under pressure.

- **We will**
  - **We will increase investment in mental health (we proposed to spend £100k more during the last administration, and the LibDems refused)**
  - **Improve the adult social care pathway through a project to follow, analyse and review the pathway for adult social care**



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*support, and address inefficiencies and simplify so everyone can access the care they need.*

- ***Create a Borough Care Map to provide clarity for residents on services available and how to contact them***
  
- Mental Health is high profile and growing in importance. It is especially crucial after the pandemic. We need to give mental health more equal priority alongside physical health.
  - ***We will***
    - ***Introduce a 4 year plan for preventing and supporting mental health in the borough.***
    - ***Appoint deputy director of health who is a mental health specialist***
    - ***Work with schools to address mental health in young people.***
    - ***Put together a task force of schools and medical professionals to guide us to ensure that children's mental health is supported both through preventative measures and support for those who need it.***
    - ***Provide mental health training support for schools, nurseries and youth centres.***

## Our Promises On Children's & Education

**We did a huge amount improving quality, choice, and provision during our administration.**

Pushing Ambition and Excellence In Our Schools - The LibDems have no ambition for our schools - they just want to manage what is there, and they accept mediocrity. Leadership is a critical factor in the success of a school. Our schools are going to need help managing fluctuating school numbers in the coming years.

- ***We will:***
  - ***Invest in a leadership support programme for head teachers – introduce world class support and training because we have the best school and teachers and our heads deserve the support to enable them to continue the great work they're doing***
  - ***Like our sixth form project, we will now co-ordinate a huge effort to raise the level of our sports in schools - for all students. We will enable more resource, bring sponsorship, and establish proper borough leagues in a range of sports***
  - ***We will then do the same for music and arts***



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Our SEND schools need continued support in funding. They are crucial to our borough as a place where everyone can thrive. Funding has been an ongoing challenge, and we need to keep up the pressure.

- **We will:**
  - ***continue to work with the Government to increase funding for Richmond.***

## Our Promises On Arts, Libraries, Digital & Tech

We put great focus on our libraries when we were in administration. We can further extend our services through a Richmond App, and keep the focus on Richmond as a leading borough for culture in London.

- **We will**
  - ***Create the Richmond App – bringing together all local businesses, an app to promote local shops***
  - ***Transform our libraries into village hubs. Consult on what people would like to see locally, from bookable office space, cafés, drop ins for health visitors and councillors.***
  - ***Continue to make Richmond Borough to be a destination for arts and culture. Support and work with existing venues to be innovative with ideas such as live music and Richmond Culture Week.***