

**Liberal Democrats 2021 Election  
Manifesto  
Warwickshire County Council**

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## Warwickshire County Council Liberal Democrats 2021 Election Manifesto

### Covid-19 has changed everything A New Future for Warwickshire

- **Fairer** – opportunities for all.
- **Caring** - for the population.
- **Greener** – no planet B.

#### Listening - Caring - Effective Councillors

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#### Introduction

4 years ago, the Conservatives took control of Warwickshire County Council with a large majority. Since then we have seen over £60 million pounds taken out of services and increases in inequalities along with extra demands especially on children's services. Four years ago, no one had heard of Covid, since early 2020 Warwickshire, like the rest of the UK, has been fighting the Covid pandemic and continues to do so. We would like to place on record our gratitude to all the key workers, NHS and care staff, along with all WCC staff at every level, who have been involved in this fight. We also need to record our thanks to all the community groups and volunteers who have helped to support individuals and communities in this fight.

It is now acknowledged that the Conservative government acted very late in supporting care staff, especially those working in care homes, with disastrous effects. It is also becoming clear that the government wasted money on poor procurement of PPE, as recorded in the report published by the National Audit Office [<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/supplying-the-nhs-and-adult-social-care-sector>]. If local government had acted in this way, the government would have been highly critical – and with good reason. Education has suffered with the lack of clear decision making by Government leaving schools and students floundering.

We note that the Chancellor has only given Local government a one-year settlement and also by his actions is forcing local authorities to increase Council tax and pass the burden directly onto residents.

As Warwickshire County Council emerges from the pandemic, we know that Covid has changed everything and that we need a new future for Warwickshire. The Liberal Democrats have a set of clear priorities that will be the touchstone for all our decision making.

These are:

- **Fairer** – giving opportunities for all
- **Caring** – for all our residents
- **Greener** – there is no planet B

As we emerge from this pandemic, the Liberal Democrats ambition is to build a strong green economy with sustainable and resilient communities and reduce health inequalities that exists across Warwickshire. To achieve this will require a new approach to, our policy proposals are as follows:

## Fairer

- ❖ **Reduce health Inequalities**, we will implement a new performance framework that will drive resources towards a more focused approach, we will introduce new indicators around mental health, Alzheimer's and autism
- ❖ **Stronger Places** by listening and working with residents and getting closer to our communities is what Liberal Democrats do. We will Invest in our neighbourhoods, Towns, Parish councils, along with the voluntary and community sector. We will strengthen Councillors grants and ensure they are focused on local community action and are spent. All Working together for a stronger more vibrant Warwickshire.
- ❖ **Working together** with our Arts, Cultural & Heritage organisations to capitalize on what we have and introducing a new County wide fund called "Arts & Heritage for Health" aimed at giving people of all ages opportunities to support and celebrate our rich diverse culture in Warwickshire.
- ❖ **Foodbanks & Welfare** we will accelerate the work needed in establishing a new local food strategy, we will work with food banks and take on the challenge of food poverty, we will establish a Portfolio Holder with responsibility for tackling welfare and food poverty by working with partners. We will invest in food suppliers, local farmers and food producers.
- ❖ **Fairer we will** strengthen and create a network of community shops that will be one stop shops with IT access and help points linked to our new work on welfare and local food suppliers their purpose will be to support those that are in need.
- ❖ **Rural** we will follow the recommendation in our policy paper "A Rural Future: Time To Act which sets out a clear plan to Increase the availability of affordable housing in rural communities. Invest in infrastructure in rural areas: developing community hubs that co-locate services around medical centres, post offices and pubs; invest in rural transport. We will increase superfast broadband using new technology to increase coverage (Liberal Democrat Policy Paper, A Rural Future: Time to Act)

## Caring

We need to start a carers revolution Liberal Democrats are campaigning on this nationally and we see local government as a key player in helping to deliver the revolution that is need, <https://www.libdems.org.uk/carers-bill> Liberal Democrats will we will ensure carers and social care staff have the support and resources needed. We have to many strategies and need to look to ensure outcomes are making a real difference.

- ❖ **Toxic trio**, domestic abuse, alcohol & drug abuse and mental health have all increased under Covid we will establish a **dedicated task force to join up resources and the strategies**.
- ❖ **Mental health**, increase the work with partners within the communities to tackle establishing champions and using peer to peer support in tackling **depression and anxiety**
- ❖ **Loneliness** we will unlock the wealth of knowledge and community activity that came about due to Covid we will support and develop the network that already **exists putting local people in charge with the funds** to deliver solutions locally, we will break down the barriers that prevents this work.
- ❖ **Create Compassionate** communities. We will adopt a new way of approaching communities it is called the "compassionate community" and establish autistic and dementia friendly communities as presented by the National Autistic Society <https://socialworkwithadults.blog.gov.uk/tag/national-autistic-society/>
- ❖ **A new Child & Family offer** inequality has increased. We will bring forward a new **Child Poverty Strategy** with increased sustained funding for the longer term matched with a stronger Youth and family offer bringing youth work back from the destruction that has taken place.
- ❖ **Warwickshire performs poorly** with children having accidents and attending hospital, we will drive through a new campaign to help and support families and family hubs along with Warwickshire Fire & Rescue

## Greener

[There is no planet B](#)

[Our Lib Dem Manifesto pledges 2019 makes it clear that we need to accelerate the actions needed, https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/lib-dem-manifesto-2019/](https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/lib-dem-manifesto-2019/)

- ❖ **Climate Change** make Warwickshire County Council zero carbon by 2030 with a plan agreed with our partners and communities.
- ❖ **Diversify** by working with the Growth Hub and the LEP (Local Enterprise Hub) we will establish a new diversification fund to create new jobs and skills for the future. Work closely with our colleges and Universities making Warwickshire the research centre for a green economy. We will support social entrepreneurs and local industry. We will move Warwickshire towards a circular economy,
- ❖ **We will improve** our biodiversity, plant extra trees and reinvigorate our forestry services and give extra support to the education sector by upgrading Eco Schools in Warwickshire making us a leader.
- ❖ Electric cars & charging points working with the private sector we will look to establish a strong network of charging points across the County looking towards innovation to help us in terraced streets. We will sponsor a car share club
- ❖ **Air quality** move away from vehicles as we have seen from Covid we can make a difference with improved walking and cycling schemes our ambition is to get to a figure of £10 per head spend for cycling and walking.
- ❖ **Invest in a new generation** of light railway schemes we are seeing light rail returning with hydrogen and biofuel schemes and electric buses a seamless ticketing offer integrating our future transport needs.

<https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/biogas/scandinavia-boasts-world-s-first-biogaspowered-train>

- ❖ **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** increase our **recycling, composting** and upgrading our household waste sites to take pint and a wider range of materials for recycling. We will look to support industries that are helping to reduce waste.

Contact us for more information, join our campaign for a Fairer, Caring, Greener Warwickshire

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