

**We pledge that our Council Tax will remain one of the lowest in the UK**

**Running costs to be kept low**  
**More awards for Services and Customer Care**  
**Over £1m to support local groups and partners over four years**  
**Award winning parks and open spaces**  
**Real support for our town centres and local businesses**  
**Tougher action against Anti-Social Behaviour**



**Jonathan Morgan**  
Leader of Charnwood Borough Council

**“We have an ambitious plan for the next four years to make Charnwood the UK’s leading borough”**

I am proud that Charnwood Borough Council continues to be the bedrock of our community despite the challenges we face nationally and locally.

Charnwood Conservatives have ensured that the Council remains efficient, delivering great services to all residents, whilst ensuring that our Council Tax remains one of the lowest in the UK.

By being financially robust we have been able to protect frontline services, used by the most vulnerable in our communities, whilst investing millions in our homes, open spaces and partner organisations.

We have an ambitious plan for the next four years to make Charnwood the UK’s leading borough - 100,000 trees for our children to enjoy, support for our changing high streets, tackling the anti-social behaviour that blights our neighbourhoods, and promoting our fantastic community to employers and visitors across the country and beyond.

Please support our Conservative candidates at this important election and trust us to deliver on our promises.

**Trust us to deliver on our promises.**

**Our manifesto for the 2019 Charnwood Borough Council Elections**

## Financial competence

- We are proud of the way we collaborate with other organisations to improve services, raise standards, and drive down costs for the benefit of our residents, and will continue to find more ways of working with other councils and partners for the benefit of residents.
- We will make the most of the Council's assets - increasing income from them, to put back into frontline services within the borough.
- Residents should be able to access the Councils' services in person, by phone or online – so we pledge to make all services even more accessible with additional investment to allow access to all our services online 24/7 – we will maintain our independently assessed Customer Service Excellence Award.
- We are recognised for offering great services to our residents and believe that we can offer more to businesses as well, raising additional income to put back into frontline services.

## Homes & businesses

- We recognise the demand for more housing of all types in our Borough. We also recognise the desire to maintain spaces of separation between settlements. We will continue to stand behind the Core Strategy which we adopted in November 2015 and ensure housing developments respect the areas of separation defined in the Core Strategy and recognise that having a five-year housing land supply will enable us to do so.
- We will explore all options available to us to increase the number of affordable homes across the Borough by taking an active role in housing investment and delivery.
- We are proud to be the largest Borough in the region and will use our size and strength to make Charnwood the first choice for business investment in Leicestershire by using our inCharnwood economic team to promote the borough and support investment into our Enterprise Zones and beyond.
- We will support our town centres and create a new initiative through our inCharnwood team, focused on supporting businesses in our service centres, helping them access services and funds, to enable them to adapt and prosper in the current changing economic market.
- We will support rural businesses in Charnwood by expanding the role of the inCharnwood economic team.
- We will continue to offer support to Parish Councils and community groups who wish to create Neighbourhood Plans.
- We will promote tourism within Charnwood for the benefit of visitors and residents. Enabling them to discover, enjoy and protect our marvellous assets.

## Improving the lives of our residents

- We are proud of the support we give residents and groups across the borough and will continue to operate our successful Members Grant scheme, the growing Charnwood Lottery, as well as our existing grants and strategic partner

schemes. We pledge to support the good works carried out by residents and groups across the Borough through the targeted use of over £1.1 million of Council funds over the next four years.

- The Charnwood and National forest are important to our heritage and our future, and we want to make sure there is more than just the word “wood” in “Charnwood” for our children and their children, so as part of our campaign to make the Borough the healthiest place to live in the country, we pledge that over 100,000 trees will be planted across Charnwood over the next four years, helping to improve air quality and the environment.
- We believe that residents who are proud of their community should be supported by the Council, so we will introduce changes to help:
  - We will bring together our ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) teams to enable them to work more effectively with the police and partners
  - We will introduce a licensing scheme for areas with the worst private sector rented housing (including Houses in Multiple Occupation), to tackle ASB, rogue landlords, poor conditions and deprivation
  - We will extend the Article 4 planning directive to include Houses in Multiple Occupation to areas outside of Loughborough, where evidence has shown it is needed.
  - We will increase the number of enforcement officers employed by the Council to support, and be paid for by, these initiatives, and to tackle those people that show least respect for our community and its residents.
- We will continue to support good tenants in our council-owned homes and will take action to deal with ‘problem tenants’ who can wreck a neighbourhood – we will introduce flexible tenancies to give us more control over who lives in our homes, and to allow for action to be taken for the benefit of neighbours. This will only apply to new tenancies.

## Providing the best services, facilities & open spaces

- We will invest more to maintain the ‘Charnwood Standard’ across our housing to make sure our tenants live in decent homes, and complete a review of all Council owned sheltered accommodation and carry out work to ensure that all properties are fit for purpose.
- We will continue to subsidise the Charnwood Lifeline Scheme which provides continuous monitoring of our most vulnerable residents in our Borough.
- The services we provide are highly valued by our residents, and we want to keep them excellent - our Waste Collection, Street Cleaning and maintenance of our Open Spaces will be invested in and improved, so that professionally validated resident surveys show at least 9 out of 10 responses rate them as good or better.
- We will make sure that our car parks across the Borough are well maintained, clean and safe and support the communities they serve, by working closely with local business groups or parishes.

- We are proud of the Outwoods and its extraordinary landscape, and will invest over £750,000 over the next four years maintaining and improving it for the benefit of residents. We will work with the Outwoods Management Committee and its trustees, and convert the old cottage to create a space for visitors to rest and learn about the area. We will also work with the owners of the adjacent sites, that form part of the overall Outwoods SSSI, with regards to public access, and for all sites to be maintained to the same level as that achieved by the Council at the Outwoods itself.

## Supporting our residents in Loughborough

*Charnwood takes responsibility for services in Loughborough that would normally be provided by town and parish councils elsewhere in the Borough, as such we have specific commitments to the residents of Loughborough*

- We are proud of Loughborough – it's the County's largest market town, and has developed into a vibrant, family-friendly destination over the past decade. As the national retail market changes, we know that Loughborough will need to change as well, so will support the town centre and its local retailers by working with the BID (Business Improvement District) and others on the following:
  - We will continue our programme of streetscape improvements to improve the character and quality of the core town centre
  - Make sure that the 800th anniversaries of the chartered annual fair and weekly market and 20 years of the Charnwood Museum are celebrated and promoted for the benefit of residents and businesses
  - Continue our support for the Armed Forces Covenant and invest in the internal improvement works to the Carillon Tower and its museum ahead of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - Celebrate and promote the many successful festivals and events held throughout the year, and complete the investment in the market area, including new power upgrades for the benefit of market traders, the annual fair and our brilliant Christmas lights
  - Support the national campaign to reduce single-use plastic bottles by installing a drinking water refilling point in Loughborough town centre and promote any other such points already available across the borough - we will help parish and town councils to do the same.
  - Ensure that the Town Centre Masterplan is supported and resourced, and to work with partners and businesses to deliver it.
  - Carry out additional improvements to the town hall to build on its growing success and improving economic sustainability.
- We will continue our close work with the Police to try and reduce professional begging in Loughborough town centre.
- We will introduce a Licensing scheme for areas with the worst private sector rented housing in Loughborough (including Houses in Multiple Occupation), to tackle ASB, rogue landlords and tenants