

THE CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO FOR CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

5 MAY 2011

**CONSERVATIVES MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN CHARNWOOD**



Vote Conservative

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER



Over the past four years we pledged to provide good services at a fair price.

I believe Chamwood Conservatives have delivered on that promise. In these difficult financial times we would like to continue with this work, believing the Borough is still facing tremendous opportunities and challenges in future years. We have demonstrated with sound financial management that our plans for the future will make Chamwood a place where people will continue to be proud to live.

Communities are at the heart of everything we do. By listening to people we have achieved excellent results in the things that matter to you. This includes a first class refuse and recycling service that is costing the council less. Working with our partner agencies, crime has reduced over the last four years by 19% and extra leisure facilities in the south of the Borough.

Conservatives will push forward with our priorities, especially working with other councils and providers to drive down costs, whilst having minimal effect on front line services.

We must have a leading role in bringing new investment and business development to the Borough. This will ensure we attract the extra jobs for our young people.

Four years ago it was time for a change from an administration that was not delivering; now it is time to build on Conservative achievements over the last four years.

Mike Preston

MIKE PRESTON
LEADER OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE



We have 'worked smarter' to drive down costs and improve front line services.

By maximising value for money, minimising waste and seeking out alternative methods of delivering services we have reduced total Borough expenditure from £20.8 million per annum to £17.5 million per annum in four years without reducing front line services.

Charnwood's Council tax rises have been maintained at a minimum at all times. In 2011/2012 there will be **zero** increase in the Charnwood Borough element of Council Tax.

At the same time we have invested for the future of the Borough

- New Fitness Centre facilities at South Charnwood Leisure Centre enabling people to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Built new Council Houses in the Borough for the first time in over 20 years.
- Delivered the Loughborough Eastern Gateway project for the town.
- Renovated the old Magistrates Court in central Loughborough for use by local businesses and the voluntary sector which has attracted people to the town centre, revitalised the area and increased prosperity. The Project will produce an income for many years to come for Charnwood Borough.

- Attracted Britain's 2012 Olympic team and Japan's Olympic team to use the town as a base for 2012 Olympic games, thus providing additional business to the town.

Conservatives will continue to maximise value, minimise costs and continually seek better facilities for Charnwood and its people. At the same time we shall plan now, for the future of Charnwood, as it evolves over many years ahead. We constantly seek affordable ways of improving Charnwood through innovative, imaginative, sensible and rational strategy and policy, at all times maintaining a sound financial position for future growth and prosperity.

Conservatives build for the future through well thought out, dynamic and affordable policies, without incurring massive budget deficits for present and future generations.

With your support, we shall continue to build for a continually improving Charnwood on a sound financial basis.

PEOPLE



What we said we would do in the 2007 manifesto:

- Put our tenants at the very heart of all our Council Housing policies.
- Enforce conditions of tenancy fairly and uniformly. We will take quick and decisive action on anti-social behaviour. We will reduce rent arrears through early intervention in cases of non-payment.
- Car parking: bring in a fair system of charging so that people are not caught out by being five minutes over time.

What we achieved:

- Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing received an improved 1 star rating. Tenants are listened to and customer satisfaction has improved.
- Anti Social Behaviour Team have won regional awards for their success. A coherent plan with the police and other agencies to stamp out anti-social behaviour in Charnwood.
- Pay on exit at the Beehive Lane car park has created more opportunity to stay and shop in Loughborough.

Therefore you can rely on us to deliver on our ideas for the future:

- The pay on exit car park at the Beehive has been a huge success. We want to deliver more business to shops and the market. We will create another pay on exit car park in Loughborough to help shoppers spend more time in the town.
- We will assist communities, groups and individuals to access grants, so promoting the Big Society throughout Charnwood.
- We will build on existing relationships with parish councils, resident associations and community groups. We will listen to their needs and help them to deliver on these in their towns and villages.
- We will support neighbourhood watch schemes throughout the borough and promote No Cold Call Zones where they are wanted.
- Further reduce anti-social behaviour by working with communities across Charnwood.

PROSPERITY



What we said we would do in the 2007 manifesto:

- Support the Town Centre Masterplan to make the Loughborough shopping experience better.
- Promote markets, farmers markets, specialist markets and business start ups.
- Work with others to develop the bus services people need and support free concessionary fares schemes.

What we achieved:

- Eastern Gateway funding has finally been realised and the works to improve this gateway to the Borough have begun.
- Loughborough in Bloom has achieved great success, thanks to the Loughborough Echo and many community groups who have all helped to produce a wonderful display in the town.
- The free concessionary fares scheme has been a huge success and has aided the mobility of the elderly throughout the Borough.

Therefore you can rely on us to deliver on our ideas for the future:

- Capitalise on the resources available on the Astra Zeneca site. Use this to attract new business to the area and create new jobs for Charnwood.
- Capitalise on the Olympics in Charnwood. Work with our colleagues at Loughborough University to welcome our guests to the Borough during the Olympics. Use this as an opportunity to showcase what Charnwood has to offer the world.
- Review of business rates system – encourage government to give the council a greater proportion of NNDR (Business Rates).
- Create a version of the Loughborough Town Centre Partnership for the other towns in the Borough to promote growth and tourism.

PLACE



What we said we would do in the 2007 manifesto:

- Protect the unique identity of our towns and villages. We will not let development make them merge into each other. We will keep vital green space.
- Use every means available to us to regulate student housing.
- Provide 24 hour CCTV cover in the Control Centre. Look to expand the use of CCTV throughout the Borough where there is a demand.

What we achieved:

- Developed green spaces, such as the Outwoods, Queens Park and Southfields Park. We have made these destination areas to visit and to play. We have maintained green space between settlements.
- 24 hour CCTV achieved in Loughborough and also in Sileby, Syston, Birstall, Anstey councils and in the Priority Neighbourhoods it has been achieved by working with local communities.
- Article 4 Directive: Charnwood was one of the first to put this measure in to place, to help control student housing in the area.

- Investment in an updated and expanded leisure centre in South Charnwood.
- Increase affordable housing in the Borough by over 600 homes. We have also built new council homes, the first for 20 years.

Therefore you can rely on us to deliver on our ideas for the future:

- We will work to promote low cost housing development across the Borough so that young people can afford to move into their own home in their own neighbourhood.
- Use licensing and work with police to ensure balance between residents and effects of local entertainment (pubs, fast food, clubs etc) eg cigarette/fast food litter near premises. We will work to control 24 hour drinking in Charnwood.
- We will work with the Public Health Board to promote a healthy lifestyle and physical activity amongst our population.
- Support the campaign for a bus station in Loughborough.
- Continue to reduce crime including domestic burglary by focusing on prolific offender management.

ENVIRONMENT



What we said we would do in the 2007 manifesto:

- Clamp down on the ugly mess of fly tipping.
- Collect bulky waste from home free of charge.
- Re-negotiate the refuse contract to get a better deal for all residents.

What we achieved:

- Fly tipping. We have cracked down hard on fly tipping and have had 62 successful fines through the courts to make sure that fly tipping does not pay.
- We negotiated a new contract for rubbish and street cleaning. We saved £1.2m per annum and customer satisfaction has also increased.
- We said we would collect free bulky waste from homes and we do. This has aided the decrease in fly tipping and has enabled Charmwood to recycle furniture to residents in need.
- We introduced the successful brown bin system to reduce waste going to landfill and increase the amount of recycling, so reducing our costs.

Therefore you can rely on us to deliver on our ideas for the future:

- We will protect more open spaces by providing dog bins, with an effective prosecution policy where necessary.
- We will work with partners and the police to stamp out pavement parking.
- We will support the Great Central Railway plans to develop the line and their grounds to promote tourism in the Borough and the extension of commercial freight.
- We will promote more environmentally friendly housing for all new homes built in the Borough.

BETTER COUNCIL



What we achieved since 2007:

- We have shared services with North West Leicestershire District Council for property and Communications, so saving the residents of Charnwood money.
- We have outsourced the Revenues and Benefits Section of the Council to Capita, so saving money and improving efficiency.
- We have worked closely with Council officers to improve standards throughout council services and to find efficiency savings where possible.
- We have reduced the numbers of senior management staff while maintaining activity in those areas.

Therefore you can rely on us to deliver on our ideas for the future:

- We will work with our colleagues in other councils to get more for less. We will integrate services to generate savings.
- We will promote the use of modern technology to keep our residents informed of what the council can do for them and how they can help. We will communicate to as wide an audience as possible through different forms of communication.
- We will use different methods and resources to bring Charnwood Borough Council to all parts of the Borough.

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