



# Guildford Conservatives

The Conservative Manifesto for the  
Guildford Borough Council Elections  
on 4th May 2023



# CONTENTS

**Strengthening our local economy**

**Protecting our local services**

**Improving our local transport**

**Delivering sustainable housing**

**Protecting our local environment**

**Making Guildford Borough Council work for you**

**Your Conservative Candidates**



# Strengthening our local economy

Guildford has a thriving economy, led by major global companies choosing Guildford for their headquarters, cutting edge businesses at Surrey Research Park and our leading University of Surrey, all contributing to our local economy and providing employment for local people.

Our town centre is looking tired, with shops boarded up and unswept streets and pavements. Guildford Conservatives will focus on making Guildford an attractive and competitive town for people to visit for shopping and leisure once more, so that our small independent businesses can thrive alongside the major businesses.

## Our Pledges to you:



### **Guildford will have the lowest Council Tax in Surrey from 2024**

Through sound financial management and cutting wastage, we will ensure that Guildford has the lowest Council Tax rates in Surrey by reduction or freezing of Council Tax rates.



### **We will restore popular town centre events that bring visitors to Guildford**

Popular town centre events such as the Christmas Lights Switch-on and Pancake Race will be restored. And we will consult on introducing other events to attract visitors to Guildford to benefit town centre businesses.



### **We will make town centre parking charges fair and competitive**

We will introduce a £1 per hour parking charge in town centre car parks to ensure Guildford is competitive with other towns.



### **We will introduce a Guildford Residents' Card**

We will look to introduce a Guildford Residents' Card to provide discounts for parking and shopping with independent Guildford businesses.

# Protecting our local services

Guildford is fortunate to have a wealth of sporting and community services. Unfortunately, due to poor management and lack of staff, some of these services have become unavailable for public use but are still costing taxpayers money to maintain.

By cutting wastage and running council services efficiently, Guildford Conservatives will ensure value for money for taxpayers and full access to services they previously enjoyed.

## Our Pledges to you:



### **We will restore access to council sporting and community facilities**

We will ensure a dedicated officer team for booking of borough council facilities so that they can be available for public use.



### **We will reopen public lavatories**

We will conduct a review of the public lavatories mothballed by the current coalition council. We will ensure the public have access to lavatories where they are needed.



### **We will revive proposals for a Spectrum replacement**

The current Spectrum building is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain and will need replacing. This will be an ambitious project but one that must be faced by the next administration. We will resurrect exploratory discussions that were scrapped by the current coalition council.



### **We will protect arts and culture**

We will ring-fence funding for arts and culture in Guildford to ensure the continued viability and survival of venues such as the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and Guildford Museum.

# Improving our local transport

Guildford suffers from traffic congestion, particularly at peak times. However, restricting the freedoms of residents to go about their daily business is not something a Conservative administration would ever support. We will pursue smarter ways of cutting congestion without harming town centre shops and businesses.

## Our Pledges to you:



### **We will protect Guildford from a Congestion Charge**

If elected, Guildford Conservatives will pass a motion to prohibit road pricing in Guildford.



### **We will work with Surrey County Council to bring back the Spectrum Park and Ride**

Much of the Town Centre traffic is caused by drivers searching for parking. We will work with the County Council to bring back the Park and Ride at the Spectrum and improve the service at Merrow and Artington to make the Park and Ride a more attractive option for people coming into Guildford from the southbound A3.



### **Tunnelling of the A3**

We will support Angela Richardson MP's campaign for tunnelling of the A3.

# Delivering sustainable housing

Guildford residents need the right mix of market and social housing. Recent proposals for town centre developments have focussed on providing small apartments with no affordable housing. Guildford needs family homes and homes for those on the housing register. The current Lib Dem/R4GV administration has not delivered any new social housing. Guildford Conservatives will ensure the right mix of sustainable housing for our future.

## Our Pledges to you:



### **Improving town centre development**

We will review the Town Centre Masterplan and make appropriate changes through full consultation with residents.



### **We will prioritise brownfield development**

We will prioritise the use of brownfield sites to build the housing Guildford needs, without sacrificing our green spaces.



### **We will ensure developers provide affordable housing policies**

The Local Plan includes a requirement for developers to provide 40% affordable housing for developments over 6 units. Yet, the current coalition administration has allowed developers to get away with providing significantly less. Guildford Conservatives will strengthen affordable housing policies to ensure developers provide the housing Guildford needs.



### **We will introduce a building height limit in the town centre**

Existing planning policies that protect the views into and out of the town centre conservation areas have been ignored by the current coalition administration. We will introduce strict policies to ensure our town centre heritage assets are protected.

# Protecting our local environment

Guildford is one of the best places to live in the country, and residents value our green spaces, our landscape and surroundings. We will protect our green spaces, improve our town centre areas and lobby for air quality improvements

## Our Pledges to you:



### **We will encourage air quality improvements**

Guildford Conservatives will support Air Quality Management policies in the town centre and lobby for A3 improvements.



### **We will set a clear pathway for net zero commitments**

We will set a clearer path to net zero with detailed steps to achieve the commitment. We will publish data on climate change performance in a clear and accessible manner.



### **Restore the quality of Guildford's local environment**

We will improve street cleaning and litter facilities and encourage more recycling. We will also devise a plan to increase tree planting on council land.



### **We will support the extension of the AONB**

Guildford Conservatives will support the extension of the AONB to include our villages and special landscapes so they can be protected for future generations.

# Make Guildford Borough Council work for you

Guildford Borough Council services have not returned to acceptable levels following Covid, with poor staff morale and an over-reliance on agency staff. Guildford Conservatives want to bring customer service back to acceptable levels so we have an effective council that works for Guildford residents.

## Our Pledges to you:



### **We will restore phone and email communication**

We will ensure that Guildford residents are able to contact the borough council when they need to and receive a response.



### **We will restore the Council's out of hours phone line**

We will restore the out of hours phone line to allow residents to communicate with the borough council in emergencies.



### **We will ensure the Planning Department meets national targets for determining planning applications**

Guildford is regularly at the bottom of the national league table for determining planning applications within the required timeframe. Many applicants have had to wait more than six months for their applications to be determined. We will ensure the planning department deals with planning applications within the required timeframe.



### **We will expand the GBC Citizens' Panel**

Guildford Conservatives will consult with residents through an expanded borough council Citizens' Panel. So that residents have a say on what matters to them before they are decided by the council's Executive and Full Council.



# Your local Conservative Candidates

## Bellfields & Slyfield:



Philip Hooper



Suleman Miah

## Burpham:



Adam Heilbron



Christian Holliday

## Castle:



Geoff Davis



Alex Fiuza



Richard Mills

## Merrow:



David Humphries



Christopher Jay



Katie Lam

## Onslow:



Shamsul Alam



Adrian Chandler



Adam Ekinci

## Pilgrims:



Sallie Barker



Matt Furniss

## Shalford:



Jonathan Fremaux



Nicholas Watts

## St Nicolas:



Marisa Goldsborough

## Stoke:



Samuel Tough



Brett Vorley



Stuart Zissman

## Stoughton North:



David Quelch



Stephen Rowden

## Stoughton South:



Alex Dinc



Andre Hester

## **Westborough:**



**Syed Selim**



**Paul Spooner**



**Mike Parsons**

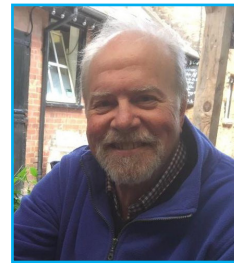
## **Worplesdon:**



**Bilal Akhtar**



**Honor Brooker**



**Philip Brooker**

## **Normandy & Pirbright:**



**David Bilbe**



**Keith Witham**

## **Clandon & Horsley:**



**Ian Bond**



**Stephen Cullens**



**Toni Hourahane**

## Effingham:



Lulu Boder

## Send & Lovelace:



Anna Griffiths



Justin Offord



Alexander Stewart-Clark

## Tillingbourne:



Bob Hughes



Lynette Nusbacher

## **Ash South:**



**Carl Flynn**



**George Wrycroft**

## **Ash Vale:**



**Nigel Manning**



**Marsha Moseley**

## **Ash Wharf:**



**Wendy Pritchard**



**John Tonks**

**For further information contact Guildford Conservative Association**

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