



**BROMLEY BOROUGH
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**
www.bromleylibdems.org.uk

2006 Borough Council Elections

MANIFESTO

In Bromley, the Liberal Democrats are the only alternative. They now want the opportunity to build on their achievements in office from 1998-2001 and take Bromley forward to a new and brighter future.

Since the Conservatives regained control of Bromley Council in 2001, overall satisfaction has fallen from 68% in 2000 to 59% in 2005. The only major project completed was Bishop Justus School and this was started under the Lib Dem led Administration. In the 3 years before 1998 and the 5 years since 2001, each Conservative Administration has had no less than six different leaders. Political infighting has resulted in cabinet members looking over their shoulders rather than concentrating on what's best for Bromley as councillors responsible for schools, social services, crime, leisure and the local economy have been changed or replaced.



*Cllr David McBride
Leader of the Liberal Democrat
group on Bromley Council*

Liberal Democrats believe in local government. We will work with local people

to make Bromley Borough: safe, clean, green, prosperous, fair

Improving the Environment

*Cllr Grace Goodlad
Liberal Democrat
spokeperson
Environment Policy
Development and
Scrutiny Committee*



Poor street cleaning standards, graffiti, fly tipping and litter have led to deteriorating standards.

We will:

- introduce policies to reduce waste
- increase recycling, encourage re-use, and reduce the volume of waste going to landfill
- provide local sites for green waste, electrical goods and Christmas trees
- liaise with adjoining boroughs on joint use of recycling facilities
- provide a free collection service for green waste
- improve the layout of Churchfields Depot to increase turnaround, increase safety and reduce traffic queues
- remove graffiti promptly and support local clean up initiatives
- improve street cleaning, especially in roads with parked vehicles
- ensure street wardens respond

to litter, fly tipping and dog fouling

- ensure adequate numbers of litter bins, especially at bus stops, and their regular emptying
- ensure litter is cleared from railway property and stations
- help deal with vermin infestations and their causes
- continue to provide attractive streets with flowering baskets and displays
- plant new street trees and encourage local residents to protect and nurture them
- clear the backlog on street tree maintenance
- explore renewable energy sources and reduce street lighting energy bills by use of solar power and reflective signs
- ensure schools and Council buildings are well insulated and have the most economic heating systems
- monitor air quality and contaminated land
- promote trading standards services

We will:

- draw up a transport strategic plan
- support plans to bring Tramlink to Crystal Palace and press for the Docklands Light Railway to be extended into Bromley
- support bus priority measures and better ticketing systems, and put pressure on rail operating companies to extend oyster cards into Bromley
- maintain freedom passes
- increase disabled access, and particularly encourage Network Rail to improve access to stations
- improve road safety
- introduce homezones where residents want them
- support cycling and walking, especially walking buses
- introduce the most suitable form of traffic calming measures where personal injury accidents are high
- take action to enforce speed limits and parking restrictions
- continue programmes of new street lighting, and road surfacing and pavement maintenance
- rationalise and reduce road signage
- increase road and footway maintenance programmes

Improving Transport

While deaths and serious injuries from traffic accidents have continued to fall, the number of minor accidents in Bromley is increasing and is now the highest of any London Borough.

Community Safety

*Cllr Brenda Thompson
Liberal Democrat
spokesperson
Community Safety
Policy Development
and Scrutiny Committee*



Liberal Democrats recognise that working in partnership with other agencies is the key to deal with crime and anti social behaviour. We will reverse the Conservatives' downgrading of community safety by amalgamating it with leisure

We will:

- appoint a councillor responsible for crime prevention
- support the establishment of Safe Neighbourhood Units in every ward in Bromley and encourage councillors to serve on Neighbourhood Committees
- campaign for more police officers and police community resource officers on the beat, and an improved police telephone control allowing for quick responses
- work with partners on the Community Safety Partnership to identify projects for diversionary activities for young people
- identify suitable unpaid work projects for offenders sentenced to undertake community orders
- support joint initiatives with the Police to fight environmental crime, especially graffiti and fly tipping
- work with the Drug Action Team to fight drug addiction and Bromley Alcohol Information Service to help those with alcohol dependency
- support Victim Support
- combat anti social behaviour on public transport
- help combat bullying in schools and maintain the personal safety of young people, especially when travelling to and from school
- ensure children excluded from school are provided with education and the Education Welfare Service has the resources to combat truancy and lateness
- work with the Police and Probation Service to deal with domestic violence
- ensure Bromley's CCTV

schemes work efficiently and are effectively operated

- combat anti social behaviour through acceptable behaviour contracts, dispersal orders and ASBOs
- support and extend Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- review the working of the Licensing Regulations to ensure residents have every opportunity to have their say on new or revised applications

Children and Young People

*Cllr Martin Curry
Liberal Democrat
spokesperson CYP
Policy Development
and Scrutiny
Committee*



Liberal Democrats supported services for children and young people being brought together to meet the aims of Every Child Matters. We support the establishment of a Children's and Young Persons department with its own director working with key partners, particularly health trusts, with its own scrutiny committee. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of this department in delivering it's services.

Schools now get their funding is now directly from central Government. The Local Education Authority is still a provider and has an important support role.

We will:

- work with neighbouring Local Education Authorities to support children moving into and out of Bromley
- ensure families moving into Bromley have school places available
- work with the Schools Council on changes to existing schools and proposals for closures or new schools
- support schools making applications for specialist status
- help ensure schools provide healthy food
- ensure all schools have the resources they need, and help both gifted and talented children, and those with special needs realise their potential
- support the creation of extended schools
- support all initiatives aimed at

raising attainment and those schools in serious weakness or special measures

- build on the success of Bromley Children's Project and investigate options for further children's centres
- increase resources to reduce lateness, non attendance and truancy
- help schools reduce bad behaviour through effective policies and police support
- develop the pupil referral unit and support children excluded from school
- address the issues highlighted in the poor Ofsted inspection report and provide facilities for young people across the borough
- support Bromley Youth Council and encourage representation from all secondary schools
- support children with special needs within Bromley
- with Mytime, increase sporting opportunities for children
- support schools in implementing the Disability Discrimination Act
- ensure Bromley Youth Music Trust is adequately funded
- continue to appoint school governors on merit

Planning and the Local Economy

*Cllr John Carvin
Liberal Democrat
member Local
Economy Policy
Development and Scrutiny Committee*



Liberal Democrats opened up the planning process and gave citizens the right to speak for and against planning applications. We are concerned at the damage to Bromley Town Centre by the closures of Alders, and the Army and Navy store. The levels of unemployment in the Crays, Penge and Anerley are also far too high.

We will:

- ensure high quality development
- investigate options for bringing back departmental stores to Bromley Town Centre, the redevelopment of Bromley South, including the station and Westmoreland Road multi storey car park, and extending cultural facilities
- support and extend town

centre management and initiatives to improve local shopping centres, reduce empty shops, provide better security, and maintain hanging flower baskets

- work with the business community, the Adult Learning Partnership, Learning and Skills Council, and 14-19 Collaborative Partnership to meet Bromley's skills' needs
- support vocational training at local colleges and Bromley Field Studies Centre
- support community learning opportunities at Cotmandene, the Hawthorn Centre and Mottingham
- support existing farmers' markets and encourage new ones
- use the Council's purchasing power to support local businesses and get value for money
- maintain the success of the Anerley Business Centre and help the creation of new businesses
- support the relocation of existing businesses into Bromley
- support the work of the Crystal Palace Community Development Trust and the London Development Agency in rejuvenating Crystal Palace
- investigate extensions to the park and ride scheme
- protect the borough's heritage and historic buildings
- compulsorily purchase Walden's Farm
- ensure no further expansion at Biggin Hill Airport

Social Care and Health

*Cllr Geoff Gostt
Liberal Democrat
spokesperson Social
Care, Health &
Housing Policy
Development and
Scrutiny Committee*



Liberal Democrats believe good care and health provision is best provided in partnership with our partners in the Health Trusts and voluntary sectors.

We will:

- ensure the full take up of resources to improve local services and support the provision of further LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) schemes
- support people, especially

older people, to enable them to stay living in their homes for as long as possible

- ensure there is care and provision for adults with learning disabilities in Bromley
- ensure single rooms with en suite facilities are provided in residential homes
- provide adequate numbers of intermediate care beds for those needing support following hospital treatment
- ensure adequate provision of day centres for older people and those with serious illnesses (eg alzheimers)
- ensure adequate provision is made for vulnerable people, especially those suffering from mental ill health
- improve the complaints process by making councillors the final appeal tier
- support patient forums
- ensure clear Service Level Agreements with voluntary organisations for provision of local services
- make full use of government money for health service scrutiny

Housing

*Cllr Jenny Powell
Liberal Democrat
member Social Care,
Health & Housing
Policy Development
and Scrutiny
Committee*



Liberal Democrats believe that good standard, affordable, warm and well insulated homes are essential for all citizens. We are concerned that at May 2005, over 1200 households were in temporary accommodation and 3800 on the housing register while the number of social housing units to let had fallen from 943 in 2000/1 to 820 in 2004/5. We also note that buy to let schemes are reducing the number of cheaper properties for first time buyers and that some 900 homes were empty.

We will:

- negotiate shares of intermediate housing (for key workers, shared ownership and those earning less than £40,000 a year) in schemes for 15-24 units
- negotiate affordable housing in new developments with more than 25 units, ensuring at least 70% social rented accommodation with the balance

intermediate housing
- identify suitable sites for development by registered social landlords

- seek to establish foyer type schemes to provide housing and training for unemployed young people
- work to introduce a choice based lettings scheme by 2008
- use the new Empty Dwelling Management Orders to take over and let properties left empty for two years or more
- ensure an efficient and locally based Housing Benefit service

Leisure

*Cllr Bob Shekyls
Liberal Democrat
spokesperson Leisure
Policy Development
and Scrutiny
Committee*



Bromley Conservatives have given leisure low priority and residents say there is not enough for young people to do. In an act of municipal vandalism, they demolished the skateboard area at Harvington and have done nothing to replace it. They refused to fund the promised joint use swimming pool at Charles Darwin School. They failed to fund dual use facilities at the new Bishop Justus School.

We will:

- work with young people to provide sport and recreational facilities
- extend dual use facilities at secondary schools
- draw up a programme to implement the recommendations of the library review
- continue to invest in new technology in libraries while maintaining their prime role of providing books
- working with the LDA to rejuvenate the Crystal Palace NSC and complete the transfer of the park to the LDA
- continue to invest in sports courts and adventurous play equipment support and increase holiday playschemes
- work with schools, sports clubs, voluntary organisations and private companies to increase sporting and leisure opportunities in Bromley
- ensure high standards of grounds maintenance and security in parks
- maintain and create nature reserves

Staff

*Cllr Reg Adams
Liberal Democrat
Deputy Group
Leader*



The delivery of good services depends on a well trained and well motivated workforce.

We will:

- provide resources for the training and development of staff and councillors
- identify good practice in high achieving authorities and apply it in Bromley
- ensure the Council and schools are complying with their obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act and the Disability Discrimination Act
- maintain high standards of probity

Finance

Liberal Democrats recognise that the unfair Council Tax is creating difficulties for many lower income residents. As a major spender, Bromley Council has failed to use its spending power to ensure cost effective procurement.

We will:

- ensure good quality services giving value for money
- campaign for the replacement of Council Tax by a fairer system and a government grant system that does not penalise Bromley
- consult with residents on options for spending the extra £5.7m earned by meeting government public service agreement targets
- seek all ways of increasing funding, including applications to the European Social Fund, Big Lottery and Government funding schemes
- make effective use of the Council's capital assets
- plan succession strategies well in advance of contract termination dates
- investigate with key partners ways of delivering services more economically and effectively
- fight for the best deal with the Mayor of London, particularly more grants to voluntary

organisations in Bromley and allocations from Transport for London

- campaign to ensure Londoners' liability for any overspends on bringing the Olympic Games to London is capped

Nurturing Democracy

*Cllr Chris Gaster
Liberal Democrat
Member of the
Executive*



Liberal Democrats believe turnout in local elections will increase if citizens are involved in what happens in their local communities.

We will:

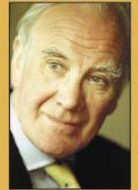
- allow local people to have a say on issues that affect them by creating area committees

- encourage citizens to take part in civic life (eg school governing bodies, health trusts, and voluntary work)-
- maintain an up to date registry of voluntary organisations with contact addresses to aid recruitment of volunteers and publicity of their services-
- encourage more friends groups for libraries and parks
- review the make-up of cabinet portfolios
- improve communications with citizens
- provide community notice boards
- carry out a review of the scrutiny function to ensure it assists with policy development

*Published & promoted by Bromley Borough
Liberal Democrats, 7 Station Road, BR6 0RZ*

Visit or website: www.bromley.libdems.org.uk

Menzies Campbell says: "Join the Liberal Democrats today" I want to become a member



Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode
Tel (including STD code)
Email
Date of birth
Are you a full/part time student? YES / NO
If 'YES', at which College/University?

My annual subscription will be:

£50 £42 £20 £10 OR £

LOCAL PARTY USE
Branch code:

LP No.:

There is no fixed membership subscription. The recommended subscription is £42, the minimum is £6. Please be as generous as you can.

By cheque

I enclose a cheque / P.O. made payable to the Liberal Democrats

or by Credit Card

Please debit my Credit Card / Switch (Maestro) card:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Start date: <input type="text"/>	Expiry date: <input type="text"/>	Issue no.: <input type="text"/>	Card security code* <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature	<input type="text"/>			
	Date <input type="text"/>			

*The card security code is the last 3 digits of the number found on the signature strip on the back of the card

Please return this form to :

Menzies Campbell MP, FREEPOST, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3BR