

# HORSHAM GREEN MANIFESTO 2023

## SPEAKING UP FOR THE RESIDENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF HORSHAM DISTRICT

### GREEN PRIORITIES FOR HORSHAM DISTRICT - WORK WITH INTEGRITY

Priorities nationwide are changing as we face multiple crises as never before, and the Green Party is responding. We are standing strong candidates throughout the Horsham District, who will work hard to encourage open consultation, collaboration, honesty and action. The Green Party are different, we will build natural capital as well as community capital – the dividend being health and well-being for all.

How will Greens do this in practice? We will build natural capital by investing in the future growth of nature recovery networks and nature connection spaces such as allotments, accessible to all. We will build community capital by connecting communities and facilitating social action that brings different generations together, combatting loneliness and isolation and tackling anti-social behaviour. Greens are dedicated to increasing Horsham residents' wealth and prosperity – not measured by 'money in the bank' but through the strength and multiplicity of our communities' real-life connections.

### OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE MAY 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE TO WORK HARD TO:

- ✓ Declare a climate and ecological emergency and ensure all Council plans reflect this
- ✓ Support local residents through the cost-of-living crisis
- ✓ Protect and enhance our unique natural environment
- ✓ Liaise with local businesses to develop sustainable circular economies
- ✓ Consult local residents to find out what their priorities are
- ✓ Bring all groups together to create healthy safe environments for future generations to thrive

### THIS WILL MEAN ACTING TO:

#### ENSURE COUNCIL DECISIONS HAVE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMBEDDED THROUGHOUT

– from supply chains to where the finance is held, with the aim of all of the Council's own emissions to be net zero by 2030, and the whole of Horsham District by 2050 at the latest, and significantly sooner if possible.

#### SUSTAIN AND GROW NATURE RECOVERY SCHEMES

– like Wilder Horsham and Weald to Waves to actively promote bio-diversity protection and enhancement across Horsham District.

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WHILE WORKING HARD FOR YOU NOW**

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#### IMPROVE RECYCLING WITHIN HORSHAM DISTRICT

– working to inform residents about reducing food waste, supporting the setting up of community fridges and rolling out food waste collection and composting.

#### NEGOTIATE WITH NEIGHBOURING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

– to roll out insulation of all social housing along the lines of the ‘Lewes Model’ in order to create warmer homes with lower energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

#### ENHANCE OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

– including waterways and land usage by following Lewes’ example of adopting ‘Rights for Rivers’, introducing natural flood defences, strengthening strategies against pesticides, provision of verges for pollinators, introducing ‘living walls’ in villages and towns blighted by poor air quality and including allotments in all new developments.

#### PETITION ON SAFER, CLEANER, MORE REGULAR, JOINED UP AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT

– putting residents first with ‘20’s plenty’ schemes and proper routed signage for HGVs and ensuring that illegal parking is tackled and working with other authorities and transport planners/providers to improve public transport in terms of routes, timetables and affordability. Prioritising active travel through installing better walking and cycling routes in residential areas so mobility scooter users and children are safe and residents are able to enjoy increased health and wellbeing benefits as well as creating more cycle highways like the Downs Link to better connect our towns and villages.

#### BUILDING HOMES TO THE HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

– with Passivhaus design, to minimise waste of every sort. Building the affordable homes needed by local people, not wanted by developers – some to rent and some to buy – but all affordable, sustainable and in the right places; ensuring community facilities, green spaces, allotments and nature are included in each development and putting adequate infrastructure in place **before** building starts.

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#### PUT IN PLACE REAL SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

– for those struggling to meet the cost-of-living crisis: provide Council Tax relief for those in need, give extra funding to groups supporting residents through the crisis, set aside a substantial sum to support the most vulnerable and where children are impacted, create a more joined up volunteer system and give more accessible advice on saving energy and other expenses within communities.

#### WORK TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES TO THRIVE WHILE BECOMING MORE SUSTAINABLE

– this means encouraging a circular economy and sustainability with an emphasis on limiting waste, sharing resources and encouraging repair and re-use of goods.

#### STRENGTHEN PARISH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILS' VOICES

– it is important we listen to these often neglected local voices and support local parish and neighbourhood councils by respecting neighbourhood plans and encouraging the councils' community work.

#### WORK TO BUILD COMMUNITY ON ALL LEVELS

– through improving community leisure facilities, devising projects to tackle isolation and loneliness and putting young people and their needs to the fore by actively hearing their voices and addressing their needs.

#### CONSULT AND ENGAGE WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

– we will tell the truth about what we can and can't do. We are prepared to listen, do things differently and challenge our broken planning system. Our numbers on HDC are growing and as more residents are engaging, we need to provide village and community hubs where people can find help or offer help.

**BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, WE ARE COMMITTED TO A GREENER, FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL HORSHAM DISTRICT RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS AND FOR OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT.**

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WHILE WORKING HARD FOR YOU NOW**