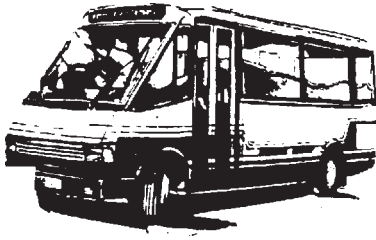


The Liberal Democrat Manifesto for a better Norfolk



Transport

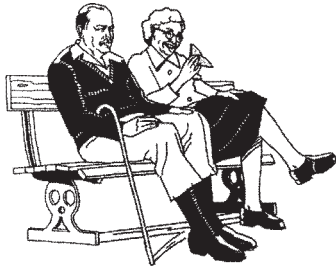
Liberal Democrats recognise that business and jobs in Norfolk are reliant on good transport networks while rural villages need the County to encourage and support public transport. A Lib Dem County Council will:

- Maintain pressure on government to provide a dual carriageway trunk road network, particularly the A11 and A47, linking Norfolk to the motorway system.
- Continue to support the provision of a Northern Distributor Route (NDR) for Norwich while recognising local environmental and community concerns.
- Continue to improve the public transport network, by subsidy if necessary, to ensure that all communities have access to public transport for work, shopping and leisure etc. This will mean more dial-a-ride schemes, more community transport schemes and insisting on the provision of low-floor vehicles.

Fighting Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Liberal Democrats believe in preventative deterrents as well as effective punishments. To keep Norfolk a safe and welcoming place we will:

- Ensure that, before every council decision is taken, full thought is given to how that decision will reduce opportunities to commit crime.
- Use our planning powers and responsibilities to "plan out" crime.
- Support district councils to speed up the removal of abandoned cars.



Fair Support For All

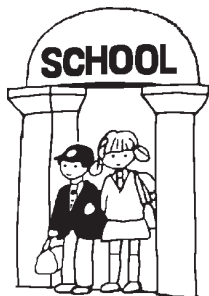
Liberal Democrats believe that providing services for those in need is a vital part of the County Council's duties. The Lib Dems will:

- Support small rural schools which are the heart of many local communities.
- Invest in the services that support the needs of Norfolk's older citizens such as home help, day care, respite care, housing with twenty-four hour care, as well as residential and nursing home care.
- Expand services such as meals on wheels and the prompt delivery of equipment to keep people mobile.
- Support both family and paid carers and lobby central government to recognise the vital role they play in caring for some vulnerable people.

Cost-Effective Quality Services

The Lib Dems want to make sure decisions are made locally and in consultation with the communities involved. We will:

- Introduce public question time at full County Council meetings.
- Seek advice from those who use Council services when plans are drawn up.
- Involve communities in strategic planning and transportation issues.
- Aim to increase public participation in all Council decisions by holding more meetings locally and we want committee meetings to be webcast.
- Reinststate Local Area Committees and delegate real responsibilities and budgets to their control and we will use these Area Committees to provide much more detailed and specific information about local issues e.g. planning and road maintenance.



Raising Aspirations

Lib Dems believe in opportunities for, and want to provide the chance for, people to aspire to their full potential. We will:

- Offer free nursery places all children from their third birthday.
- Provide a coordinator for gifted and talented children thus raising standards for all while maintaining support for children with special educational needs.
- Oppose Labour plans to charge 11,000 children in Norfolk for school transport.
- Strive to become the first 'Fair Trade County' in Great Britain by using fair trade products in all our schools, care homes, offices and other activities.
- Reduce the number of road traffic accidents outside schools by installing variable speed limits and delegating the control of the speed limits to the schools themselves.

Safeguarding our Environment

Protecting the environment is at the heart of Lib Dem policy. Lib Dems will:

- Promote and utilise alternative forms of energy in all County Council-owned property (including schools) and encourage developers to use alternative energy sources.
- Ensure that each school that wants a Safer Routes to School scheme has one.
- Maintain support for integrated transport packages, which will improve accessibility to town/city centres by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Use brownfield sites wherever possible and protect long-term plans for regulating development and building.



Liberal Democrats – the REAL alternative