

# The Liberal Democrat Manifesto for Hertfordshire

## These are Our Priorities

### 1. Looking after the Old and Vulnerable

A Liberal Democrat County Council will reverse

- the cuts already made to those suffering homelessness
- the proposed cuts in day centres for older and vulnerable people
- the funding cuts for the voluntary sector

Over the years voluntary sector organisations have provided high quality services which help the vulnerable and at a lower cost than the council could ever achieve. Without their help, costs will rise and council taxpayers' money will be wasted.

### 2. Making Hertfordshire Healthy

The NHS is currently cutting the money it pays the County Council to look after vulnerable people. We will press for closer working between the County Council and the NHS to make sure bad practice is driven out and patients have the best possible care from Hertfordshire health bodies.

We will protect the County Council's public health budget and ensure that prevention and healthy lifestyles are seen as the key way of minimising the incidence of diseases like diabetes and stroke.

### 3. Providing More School Places

The Conservatives have been too slow to spot areas where there is a shortage of school places, and too slow to find new sites or increase the sizes of existing schools.

Liberal Democrats will

- improve planning to prevent problems
- allocate places better to cut travel distances
- forge stronger links with schools in our county
- resist attempts by the current Government to reintroduce selection

All selection does is ensure that most children from the age of 11 are permanently disadvantaged in life.

### 4. A Better Deal on Highways and Pavements

The Conservative's highway maintenance is failing.

A Liberal Democrat County Council would:

- be tougher with failing highways contractors
- clean out roadside gulleys **at least** annually

- maintain full winter gritting to keep schools and town centres safe
- give 20 mph zones a much higher priority

A large number of people are keen to ensure that there are 20 mph zones in town centres but the County Council is pitifully slow in responding.

### 5. Sort Out Public Transport

A Liberal Democrat County Council will:

- be pro-active and innovative in developing integrated public transport links
- review supported bus services so timetables and routes match current travel patterns
- press for improved rail franchise agreements and a better deal for commuters
- press government for greater control over local public transport and bus services
- seek to make public transport the norm and save our cities from jams and pollution

### 6. Make the Money Go Further

A Liberal Democrat County Council will:

- axe excessive expenditure on publicity and prestige publications
- improve the procurement and management of outsourcing contracts to get better value for money
- work more closely with district council, police, NHS and other agencies to reduce duplication of services and buildings
- devolve appropriate functions to district, parish and town councils



Nick says, "Lib Dem membership has soared since June. We won another seat in Parliament in December and our net gain of over 33 council by election seats almost mirrors a Conservative net loss of the same size. People are now heartily sick of self-centred right wing politics and are joining the Liberal Democrats.

Why don't you come aboard? Whatever your background, if you value freedom and tolerance, you'd be very welcome!

Join online on [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk) or contact Nick Hollinghurst on [nickholl1945@btinternet.com](mailto:nickholl1945@btinternet.com)

# TRING DEMOCRAT

(including Aldbury, Wigginton, Long Marston, Wilstone and Puttenham)

Website: [BerkhamstedAndTringLibDems.org.uk](http://BerkhamstedAndTringLibDems.org.uk)



March 2017

## Lib Dems Lead in Tring!

Lib Dem 50%

The last County Council election put the Lib Dems well ahead

Con 24%

UKIP 18%

Lab 8%



Nick Hollinghurst, working for you, working for Tring  
*"Your Voice at County Hall"*

Nick Hollinghurst is an experienced County Councillor and part of the 16-strong Liberal Democrat Team at County Hall. The Liberal Democrats are the Official Opposition on Hertfordshire County Council.



The Liberal Democrat County Team

*Getting things done - for you, for the Town, for the Villages.*



Nick Hollinghurst shortly after the Miswell Lane Zebra Crossing was finished.

Now a second crossing - this time a Pelican Crossing for Icknield Way - is under construction.

Getting down to it! A 'Quick Fix' in 2014 to some Christmas Holiday floods near Dundale Woods.

Now this irritating and potentially dangerous problem has been fixed.



You can't see it, but in the corner beside the Icknield Way and Little Tring Road a large, deep and high capacity soakaway has been constructed. On the corner opposite, the ditches have been cleared and also the drains underneath the road have been unblocked.

## Helping Keep us Safe and Healthy



Supporting new footpaths...

Clearing footways for pedestrians and clearing sightlines for motorists...



Keeping our residential areas safer for children and friendly for families...

## Helping People Get About, Keeping You on the Move

Whether you're an older person wanting to go to the Day Centre, visit a friend or go shopping...



...or a commuter...

...you might value our efforts to keep the wheels turning!



**THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE RUN THE COUNTY COUNCIL SINCE 1999**  
**Now They Run the Government Too. They are the Problem - not the Solution!**



## Towns are for People Let's Make them Good Places to Live in.

Nick and his wife, Rosemarie, came to live near the station over 30 years ago and they are still delighted with the friendly atmosphere of Tring and the nearby villages, steeped in history and surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Nick says, "I used to work as an Export Sales Manager. It was easy to get from Tring to Heathrow in an hour then, with less traffic on the roads. Alternatively, with an early start, you could get to Dover for an early boat and breakfast on the crossing. Tring is a convenient base for someone who trades in Europe - and with fast trains to London it was also easy to reach head office."

"However, back then it was not particularly easy to cross borders, especially if you were travelling on business. In Eastern Europe it could take three weeks to get a visa before you could even set off." Nick became quite familiar with mines, barbed wire and soldiers pointing guns at him. And he clearly remembers the Berlin Wall coming down. He said, "It's sad that people want us to return to a divided

Europe with hard borders. I am amazed that they think that trade with China, India and the USA will be either easy or will make up for the loss of the fully free trade we enjoy with Europe at the moment. And switching trade away from Europe to a closer involvement with Asia will inevitably change the culture of the UK significantly."

Since being elected to the County Council Nick has found local authorities rather slower than the private sector. Nevertheless he feels he has found ways to get things done and to make a difference for the better.

He says, "The important thing is to be clear about what you want to achieve and work through the procedures steadily and patiently. And what you want to achieve must be something that improves people's quality of life in some way.

Although I, quite rightly, take a lot of trouble to respond to highways concerns I also want to improve life in other ways - adult care, early years development, social care and environmental protection. These are areas where we can work for positive goals - mitigating disadvantage, reducing inequalities of opportunities and generally helping people to make the most of their lives."

**Nick Hollinghurst is the Liberal Democrat candidate in the Herts County Council Elections on May 4th**

### SOUTHERN COMMUTERS HIT AGAIN

More misery for Southern commuters as a result of the dispute between the Unions and Government.

Southern normally offers an excellent direct service from Tring to Croydon and Clapham Junction - allowing passengers to reach destinations across the south of England without the need to go through London. They also run trains to Milton Keynes, an increasingly popular commuter route.

Most people have given up on Southern. Because London Midland also runs trains on this route they don't think it matters if they cancel trains. But it causes considerable inconvenience to travellers.

It's time the Government took responsibility and sorted out the mess.

### YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION

**Yes, really!** Southern have said they will refund one month's cost for season tickets between Milton Keynes and Clapham Junction or any other two stations they serve.

See <https://tinyurl.com/hdm64xp>

*But be quick - this might be withdrawn without much notice*

### TRING STILL PLAGUED WITH POTHOLES

Local Lib Dems have been shocked by figures from the County Council, showing spending on maintenance and improvements of roads and pavements has been **cut every year over the past four years.**

Spending dropped from £39.2 million in 2013-14 to £30.1 million this year.

Nick Hollinghurst, said, "The Conservatives are always telling us that spending on roads is going up. However, figures provided by council officers show that in fact this spending has fallen every year for four years.

"The council is promising an increase next year. They did exactly the same this time last year but instead we saw *another fall.*"



"No wonder local residents are complaining more and more about potholed roads and trip hazards on pavements".

## Onwards and Upwards as the Liberal Democrats go from Strength to Strength

Under their new leader, **Tim Farron** MP the Liberal Democrats have recovered from the hard knocks of the General Election. Membership has steadily increased from that point and is more than 85,000. Locally and nationally the Liberal Democrats have been winning by elections, from a seat on Berkhamsted Town Council last February to the Parliamentary seat of **Richmond Park** before Christmas. Along the way we won a council by election in **Gade Valley** and **regained control of Three Rivers District Council.**

Andrew Horton, Chair of Tring & Berkhamsted Lib Dems said, "There's no doubt the tide has turned. Labour are in pieces. The Conservatives will go down in history as the people who lost us the City of London and broke the Union. Young people are angry about the loss of their rights and their future. Old people face eroded pensions. Couples starting out can scarcely afford a home.

There's never been a time when Liberal Democrats have been more needed."



County Councillor Nick Hollinghurst with Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Cllr Ron Tindall, the Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Adult Care at Herts County Council and Nick Hollinghurst, who is standing for re-election in the County Council elections on 4th May as the Liberal Democrat candidate for Tring, often discuss care and the NHS.

### Serious Funding Gap for Adult Care

Cllr Tindall told local party members in Dacorum that Hertfordshire was facing a serious and ongoing deficit in the funds it needs to look after the county's old people. He said, "Right across the UK, councils are in difficulties. On the one hand the population is getting older, with all the health problems that go with that, councils are faced with rising costs and now need to pay the living wage. On the other hand, councils' ability to raise more council tax is being restricted **at the same time as central government support is being withdrawn.**"

### An Unfair Tax

Cllr Tindall continued, "Relaxing the restrictions on council tax increases to plug the gap might seem acceptable - but it isn't. **Council tax is a very unfair tax.** In parts of London multi-millionaires are actually paying less than nurses or care workers in a neighbouring borough."

"Poor people pay a much higher proportion of their income in council tax than the rich. In places like Hertfordshire it means that the needs of the extremely poor are being paid for by other poor people."

### A Glimmer of Hope?

Nick Hollinghurst pointed out that Norman Lamb MP, the Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Health and a former Care Minister, had launched a cross-party campaign to overhaul the way the NHS and council social care departments work together. He said, "Norman Lamb is well respected and is having significant success in attracting support. This is the kind of initiative that could reduce bed blocking in hospitals. Cracking that problem would be a huge benefit to old people and their families and it would pay for itself many times over."



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