

Richmond Borough Liberal Democrats



2022 Council Election Manifesto



**Making Richmond FAIR, GREEN and SAFE.
A thriving, lively place to live that's welcoming,
forward-looking and community-minded.
A borough that we can all be proud of.**

Councillor Gareth Roberts

Leader of Richmond Council



I'm incredibly proud to have had the privilege of being the leader of Richmond Council over the past four years.

A record of achievement

When we were elected to the council in 2018, we set out to make the borough fairer, greener and safer – a borough for everyone. We have delivered on our commitments and stood up consistently for Twickenham and Richmond residents. You can read more about our track record over the past four years here:

TRLibDems.org.uk/action

Leadership through the pandemic

The past two years have been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. We prioritised providing support to the residents and businesses who needed it the most. We worked with the NHS, our care sector partners and voluntary organisations to keep people safe and ensured that residents were always well-informed by reporting to them regularly.

Looking forward

We now have a clear plan to help the borough bounce back from the pandemic and to continue our work to **make Richmond Fair, Green and Safe.**

If re-elected to run Richmond Council on 5th May 2022, we will work tirelessly to make sure that this is **a borough we can all be proud of.**

Life in a Liberal Democrat-run Richmond will be enjoyable, fun and secure for everyone, a place where all can thrive, both now and into the future.

Our Five Key Policies

Cash boosts for our high streets and parks as we bounce back from the pandemic.

Plant a record number of trees, insulate more buildings and continue work to improve air quality.

Crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour and improve safety for women and girls.

Invest more money in youth services.

More affordable homes across the borough for key workers and families in need.

Our Manifesto Commitments to You

WE'LL HELP THE BOROUGH BOUNCE BACK FROM THE PANDEMIC

The Lib Dems stepped up to help the most vulnerable and support local businesses whilst keeping key services running during the pandemic. Now we'll help the borough recover with investment, economic support and a new local plan.



- Introduce a £2m investment fund for our high streets and green spaces
- Support our high streets and local traders with advice, business networks, apprenticeship schemes, tourism promotion and a Shop Local campaign
- Create an affordable shared workspace provision in Twickenham
- Make Twickenham Riverside an exciting new heart for the town
- Develop proposals for a new library and cultural centre in Richmond
- Create planning policies to support '20-minute neighbourhoods' – everything you need within a 20 minute walk

WE'LL MAKE RICHMOND FAIRER, MORE ACCESSIBLE AND MORE INCLUSIVE

The Lib Dems will work to support those most affected by the cost of living crisis which has been exacerbated by Conservative government policies like cuts to Universal Credit and tax hikes.

- Push forward plans for 1,000 more affordable homes
- Buy properties for social rent in a £12m programme
- Continue to help the worst off with Council Tax bill reductions, assistance with rent deposits and winter fuel grants
- Continue to fund Citizens Advice to help people claim what they can
- Improve digital inclusion

WE'LL LEAD THE WAY IN TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Lib Dems have put the environment at the heart of local decision making, investing an extra £2m per year to tackle the climate emergency.



Council operations to be carbon neutral by 2030 – reduce waste, increase recycling, and continue to improve energy efficiency

- Promote recycling and the circular economy, including increasing recycling provision for flats
- Promote green grant schemes such as insulation, solar panels, and affordable zero-carbon homes
- Invest £4m to insulate council buildings and reduce energy usage on heating and lighting
- Continue to collect bins weekly unless residents tell us otherwise

Enhance our natural environment and protect against flooding

- Plant a record number of trees and introduce a Friends of Street Trees scheme
- Invest to improve biodiversity and protect our green spaces
- Address surface water flooding and keep drains clear
- Develop natural flood management schemes

Support active travel and improve air quality

- New cycle route improvements in Strawberry Vale, Twickenham High St, and the A316
- Extend the school streets programme
- More bike hangars and cargo bike rental services
- Support pedestrians through more crossings, more benches and clearly signposted local walking routes
- Action plan for any monitoring sites where air quality standards are poor
- Continue to invest in EV charging points and remain a leading council on electric vehicles

Campaign and advocate for action on the climate emergency

- Oppose the Heathrow expansion and public transport cuts
- Help young people have a voice and take action such as through renewing the £10k Youth Council Fund
- Increase communications and explain how local residents can assist in addressing the climate emergency
- Introduce a 'Greener and Cleaner Richmond' week and continue to support community groups to take action

WE'LL CONFRONT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We'll continue to work closely with our community police and invest in council community safety action plans, whilst also pushing for more resources from the Mayor of London



- Action plan to improve safety of women and girls including continuing our White Ribbon work, offering free advice lines and support, setting up a communication campaign and ensuring we maintain and review safe street lighting
- Work with the police to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots
- Tackle graffiti and work with partners such as the Network Rail to ensure its speedy removal
- Increase investment in CCTV to address fly-tipping and call out offenders
- Campaign for increased Safer Neighbourhood Team resources and local bases

WE'LL HELP YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GREAT START IN LIFE

The pandemic has been difficult for many young people, including those who are more vulnerable, experience mental or emotional health challenges or who have special educational needs and disabilities. We'll work with schools, colleges, children's services and health partners to secure the best possible start in life for all of our children and young people.



- Programme to invest more in youth services through: more youth workers for outreach and preventative work with those most at risk, additional facilities such as tech hubs at youth centres and extra support for the emotional health service
- Community conversations and initiatives to support young people's wellbeing and safety
- Continued investment in playgrounds
- Enhance and promote the Youth Leisure Card to widen youth access to leisure activities
- Provide more than 70 additional school places for those with special educational needs and disabilities

WE'LL LOOK AFTER THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP

The Lib Dems can be trusted to support those who are more vulnerable, we are investing in the social services on which many people rely.



- Give more support to those who are caring for others
- Further develop our partnership working to improve mental health support
- Continue to help those living with dementia and their families
- Increase local social prescribing activities
- Work with hospitals, GPs, social services and voluntary groups to better integrate healthcare
- Continue to tackle homelessness, building on the 'Everyone In' pandemic programme
- Welcome and provide support to those fleeing war and persecution, including from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine

WE'LL MAKE IT EASY TO GET ACTIVE, RUN EVENTS AND HAVE FUN

We are so lucky to have many strong community groups that help people get involved with a wide range of activities and events that bring people together. Let's celebrate that!

- Continue to work closely with the borough's 200-plus sports clubs to give people the opportunity to be active, with particular support for youth participation
- Support for Platinum Jubilee street parties and other celebration events
- Help local businesses with events and street markets
- Reduce red tape for community-led events
- Summer outdoor cinema in the parks

WE'LL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE BOROUGH

We are committed to continue investing in our public streets, spaces and buildings.

- Continued pavement and road improvement programme
- Develop plans to improve and enhance the Thames Towpaths
- Look at ways to refurbish / improve Pools on the Park
- Improve Whitton Community Centre
- Complete the Ellera Hall Development
- Continue to safeguard our built heritage and conservation areas



WE'LL MAKE IT EASIER TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE COUNCIL AND HAVE YOUR SAY

We will continue to set high standards for how council services are delivered and will make it easier for you to contact us about issues and concerns and to have your say.

- Improved customer service reporting and feedback and introduce a new Richmond App
- Themed community conversations to respond to major local issues or concerns
- Tenant's Champion support to social housing residents, such as community ambassador projects and a social housing resident participation charter
- Allow residents to contribute to council meetings remotely

WE'LL RUN THE COUNCIL EFFICIENTLY AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR MONEY

We delivered a £15m savings programme in our first four years of running the council. We'll continue to seek efficiencies in council operations that can be delivered without cutting services.

- Reduce amount of council office space and sell or rent out spare buildings
- Save money in back-office activities and buy in services more effectively
- Embrace digital technology and analytics to improve service provision, whilst maintaining access to council services for all

Thank you for reading this manifesto.

If you'd like to help us make Richmond fair, green and safe, and a borough to be proud of – then please get involved!

You can find out more about the Twickenham and Richmond Lib Dems, including how to join the party, help in your local area or make a donation, here:

www.trlibdems.org.uk

You can contact us at:

Email:
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Facebook: [/TRLibDems](https://www.facebook.com/TRLibDems)