

Housing

Facts: In the 2016 survey by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC), 67 households in Winchcombe said they needed affordable housing, and 50 said family members had moved away in five years because they could not afford accommodation in the town.

“The next generation is finding it hard to live and work in the places they grew up in,” the GRCC said. “Being proactive about bringing affordable housing into your area is a responsible and effective way to ensure your community’s survival.”

So why are so many new homes in Winchcombe exclusively for the better-off?



Lib Dem action: We will work to ensure a greater proportion of new homes in the area are for those with modest incomes.

Economy

Facts: The Conservative government has cut local government spending by almost 40%, with a further £1.3bn reduction to come in 2019/20.

Meanwhile Tewkesbury Borough Council predicts an annual deficit in five years of £3.5m.

Lib Dem action: We will continue to oppose cuts in essential services, to protect valuable assets such as libraries, and to assess spending in all areas on a needs and value-for-money basis.

Our community

Fact: The take-over of Budgens by the Co-op will mean the town has only one supermarket unless another retailer moves into the North Street site.

Lib Dem action: We have pressed the Co-op chief exec to restore free cash withdrawals at the new store ATM (now charging 95p), and to maintain and extend Post Office services.

Fact: The agreed Winchcombe/Tewkesbury leisure and tourism budget of £30k was underspent by £10k in 2018.

Lib Dem action: We would increase support to develop community venues and local festivals to benefit businesses and residents old and young.

Our environment

Facts: Tewkesbury Borough Council achieved 53% household recycling in 2016/17, an increase but still far behind the 60% or more in Cotswolds DC, Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxfordshire. Meanwhile, the cost of the incinerator off the M5, opposed by LibDems, has escalated by more than £100m, and will release more CO₂ than landfill.

Lib Dem action: We support initiatives to increase recycling and have urged large retailers to join the WEEE* scheme to recycle electrical goods.
* Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013

We back the town’s park plan but would press Bloor to speed up completion and hand-over of The Dell.



Winchcombe:
Time for a
fresh
approach?

It's your
choice on
Thursday
2 May



Police and safety

Facts: There are 250 fewer police officers in the county than there were 10 years ago. It's hardly surprising that Winchcombe residents have expressed concern about break-ins, car thefts and vandalism, especially on the new housing estates.

For as Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Surl said: "Cuts in the Constabulary budget of around £30m since 2010 have been to the detriment of neighbourhood policing."

Lib Dem action: Liberal Democrats have long argued for a reversal of damaging Tory cuts to police funding, restoration of local policing to help support residents' and businesses' needs, and a permanent presence in larger communities.

Alex Hegenbarth, Parliamentary candidate for the Tewkesbury constituency, said "There are real local concerns about the lack of neighbourhood policing and the impact this has on community safety. We need to reverse the Conservatives' short-sighted cuts."

Liberal Democrats support giving police the resources to do the job, and will work with community watch groups to alert police and public to avert potential crime.



Buses, roads, traffic

Facts on buses: The Tory county council is trying to save money by reducing the number of buses on the Winchcombe/Gretton/Cheltenham route. Marchant already gets back only 40% on concessions – less than operators in other areas.

Facts on roads: In a 2018 survey, only 21% of people in Gloucestershire were satisfied with state of our highways, lower even than the appalling 31% nationally. Contrast this with town halls due to make £1bn from parking charges.*

It's disgraceful there are so many potholes, botched repairs and badly-maintained pavements causing dangers for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Our town deserves better. Think of the state of Cleeve Hill, Broadway Rd, Becketts Lane, Evesham Rd etc.

Lib Dem action: Lib Dems call for greater not less support for public transport, including, if viable, a subsidy for a late service from Cheltenham.

And apart from proper investment in our highways, much can be done for traffic here in Winchcombe:

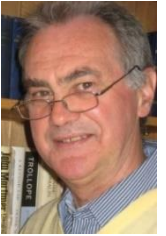
- Better signage to discourage heavy traffic from travelling through the town, and to direct visitors toward Bull and Back Lane car parks, with lower charges.
- Support for cycle safety measures, including cycle paths and the W Midlands Close Pass initiative to fine motorists overtaking dangerously.
- Improved diversion information for road works.
- Ensuring developers maintain paths and roadways during work and restore them promptly.
- A 20mph speed limit in the centre of town.

*National Highways and Transport Network public satisfaction survey 2018; Daily Mail 8 March 2019.

Three for Winchcombe

✓ Colin Davison

Former MD of Gloucestershire Echo, and editor of daily newspapers, now chairman of Winchcombe Film Society. Colin would publish regular interactive updates on council affairs, with your chance to share views and comment.



✓ Kevin Guyll

IT consultant, scout leader, former chairman of Winchcombe Business Forum and a past Winchcombe school science governor. Both his children attended Winchcombe schools. He'd really like to get those potholes fixed.



✓ Andrew Sclater

Chartered engineer. He is a keen environmentalist, and will use his project manager skills to ensure you get value for money from Tewkesbury Borough. His children attend local playgroups, one also Abbey Primary.



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Printed by SoloPress 9
Stock Rd, Southend, Essex
SS25QF. Published and
promoted by Alex
Hegenbarth on behalf of
the Liberal Democrats, all
at 2 The Holt, Bishop's
Cleeve GL52 8NQ