

Horsham

Liberal Democrats



Mini Manifesto

**Vote for a
Better**

HORSHAM



What Our Party Stands For

John Milne Parliamentary Candidate

Dear Voter

As the Lib Dem candidate for Horsham, I'm delighted to introduce the 2024 Liberal Democrat manifesto.

This government has emptied its own bank account as well as all of ours, so this is not a time for spectacular election giveaways. But the neglect of vital public services such as the NHS and Local Government has gone too far.

My father was a doctor and my wife works in the NHS. So I have watched with great sadness as the NHS struggles to do its job - not because of the staff, but through years of government neglect and mismanagement.

The challenge is enormous, but we mustn't be overwhelmed by it. With your vote we can at least stop this tired government digging the hole any deeper.

Our full manifesto will be released closer to the election with up to date figures to ensure all commitments are affordable



Vote for a **Better** HORSHAM



Our Values in a Nutshell

1. A fair, prosperous and innovative economy that promotes opportunity and well-being:

We will build a dynamic economy that prioritises people. We'll invest in education, training, and promote flexible work, embrace technology, and transition to a green economy with renewable energy and home insulation.

2. Fair access to good public services and a strong social safety net:

We will ensure fair access to quality public services and a robust social safety net. We'll deliver world-class education, care for pensioners, support for struggling families, and a revitalised NHS.

3. A flourishing environment, with fair access to nature for all:

We will foster a green and sustainable environment. We'll reshape farming practices, combat air and water pollution, and ensure everyone can enjoy the wonders of nature.

4. A strong United Kingdom and a fair international order:

We will strengthen the UK's global presence by championing democracy and human rights and fixing our broken relationship with Europe.

5. A truly fair democracy, where everyone's rights are respected and individuals and communities are empowered:

We will transform British politics to make it more relevant and responsive to people's needs. We'll redistribute power to communities and introduce proportional representation.



Soaring food, energy and housing prices have pushed households to the brink. We urgently need to take the pressure off.

- Free school meals for 1 million children currently missing out
- A proper windfall tax on the super-profits of the oil and gas industry
- Support for home insulation to end fuel poverty

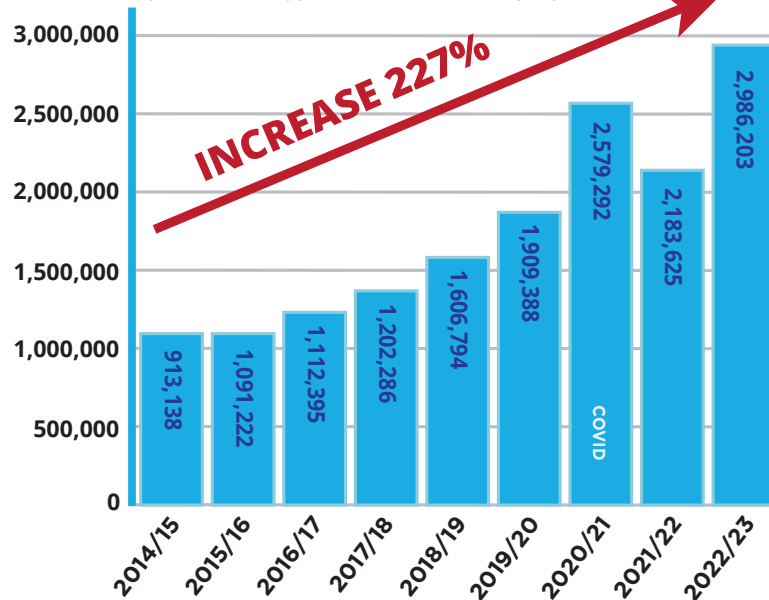
At Horsham District Council, the new Lib Dem administration has

hosted a cost-of-living summit with all our local volunteers to support people in need, including Horsham Matters, Citizens Advice Bureau, Age UK and the Salvation Army. And we introduced LIFT, a brilliant new software package that finds people who are currently missing out on their pensions and benefits.

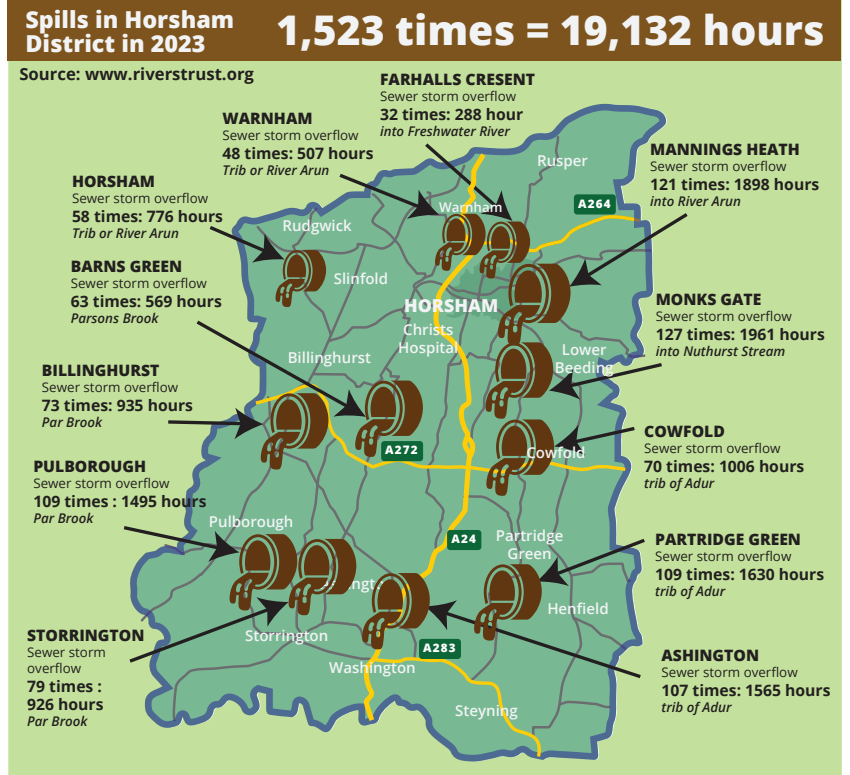


Number of people receiving emergency food packages under the Conservatives

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/>



Horsham District Sewage Map



For decades, water companies have been allowed to pile up debt while paying excessive dividends to their owners. As a result, raw sewage discharge into our rivers and seas is breaking all records. Outright renationalisation is too expensive given all the other demands on the public purse. But by converting water companies into Public Benefit Companies we'll ensure they have to operate in the

national interest. At the same time we'll replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumping.

- Turn water companies into Public Benefit Companies
- Double the size of protected nature areas
- More funding for the Environment Agency and Natural England

Climate Change



Government backsliding over environmental targets isn't helping Britain. The old economy of oil and gas is on the way out, and it pays to be in the forefront of a new green industry.

Cutting carbon emissions helps reduce global warming, but it's also a social benefit. Home heating is a major strain for a typical household. We'll also act to restore our natural environment, which helps reduce flooding and water shortage.

- Grants and incentives to retrofit homes and reduce energy needs
- Plant 60 million trees a year to restore woodland habitats

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045
- Convert 80% of UK electricity to renewables from 2030

At Horsham District Council, the Lib Dems are creating nature recovery networks across the district to help endangered species bounce back. And through the HDC Local Plan, all new houses must be built to true net zero standards, which could save £1k off the average energy bill.

**Vote for a
Better
ENVIRONMENT**

Housing

Everyone always talks about the national target for new houses, but what really matters is whether they are affordable or not. We're committed to building 150,000 homes for social rent a year, and that's the fastest way to bring down prices.

To protect this investment, councils will be given powers to limit right-to-buy. So many ex-council houses just end up back on the market, but for private rent at twice the price.

- 150k new homes for social rent a year

- Enable local authorities to buy land at existing use value
- Ban no fault evictions
- New powers to limit right to buy

Most important of all, we'll act to fix the underlying reason for housing inflation which is the cost of land. When farmland is given planning permission, its value can jump by 200x or more. This is an unearned profit which is preventing a whole generation of potential homeowners from ever getting started. We will empower councils to acquire land at existing use value by reforming the Land Compensation Act 1961.

NHS

The NHS is in an almighty mess but a surprising amount can be achieved at relatively little cost. First we'll fix the front door by cutting GP waiting times, which is causing dangerous delays in diagnosis. Secondly we'll fix the back door, our social care service, so patients can benefit from residential care costing £700 a week instead of occupying a hospital bed costing £700 a day. We will also put mental health on the same footing as physical health.

- Guaranteed access to a GPs and NHS dentists
- Local training and recruitment for our social care network
- Mental health support

**Vote for a
Better
NHS**

We must act now to save our town centres from slow decline. We'll boost high street businesses by reforming business rates.

Nationally, the time has come for a new British industrial strategy. We'll incentivise business to invest in clean technologies, create good jobs and tackle the climate emergency. Internationally, we'll unlock Britain's global potential by bringing down trade barriers and unlocking stronger relationships with our closest trading partners.

- Reform business rates
- Bring more people into the workforce with flexible working from day one
- End the hostile attitude to EU



trade and rebuild business ties

- More skills training & apprenticeships to fill shortages

We'll boost productivity and empower more people to enter the job market – such as parents, carers and people with disabilities – by expanding rights to flexible working unless there are clear business reasons not to.

We'll fix the skills and recruitment gap by investing in training and offering more apprenticeships for young people. At the same time we'll sort out this government's chaotic system of short term work visas, so farmers can get the labour they need, when they need it.

We'll support science, research and innovation in universities, small businesses and startups. We'll tackle the productivity crisis by providing incentives for businesses to invest in training, take up digital technologies, and become more energy efficient.

Vote for Better

BUSINESS



Since leaving the EU there's been a policy vacuum in agriculture. We'll maintain payments to family farming businesses while accelerating the rollout of the better Environmental Land Management schemes. We'll increase the farming budget by £1 billion a year to support a transition to nature-friendly farming.

In its haste to show progress the government has agreed bad trade deals with Australia and New Zealand which undermine UK food production standards. We must not let our farmers be undercut by lower quality products and we'll renegotiate where necessary.

We will stand up for Britain's farmers and enable them to trade

more easily with our European neighbours by negotiating comprehensive veterinary and plant health agreements. Far from cutting red tape, a clumsy Brexit has made things very much worse!

We'll help farmers restore woodland and peatland, create new natural flood protections and manage land to encourage species recovery and carbon storage, on marginal land which does not significantly contribute to food security.

- Maintain EU subsidies until new system is in place
- Prevent undercutting of standards by foreign imports
- Support for environmental adjustments

Europe

The Conservative deal with Europe was a botched job. It increased red tape, brought none of the promised economic benefits, and even failed to control immigration. First we'll restore goodwill and take confidence-building measures such as joining Erasmus Plus. Then we'll ease trade barriers with a veterinary agreement. Finally, we'll place our relationship on solid grounds by seeking to join the Single Mar-

ket – which was one of the options originally proposed at Brexit. Longer term we'll rejoin the EU if a clear majority of people support it.

- End the Conservative's hostile relationship
- Sign a veterinary deal and cut red tape
- Join the Single Market and/or the EU with clear majority support

Education

Education has always been a key Lib Dem priority. We aim to boost schools funding, invest in new buildings and repair facilities. We'll introduce a workforce strategy to address the crisis in retention, and ensure every secondary school pupil is taught by an expert in their field.

We'll extend free school meals to every child in primary school and secondary school pupils whose families receive Universal Credit. This helps with the cost of living, but will also boost academic performance.

Ofsted inspections need reforming to give parents a clear picture of a

school's strengths, while helping teachers understand how they can continue to raise standards. Qualifications at 16 and 18 must be made fit for the 21st Century, and the curriculum should include access to sports, music, drama, debating and coding.

- Free school meals
- Fill staffing gaps
- Reform Ofsted inspections

**Vote for
Better**
EDUCATION

Mental Health

Mental Health Care is a vital part of our educational offering. We'll provide qualified health practitioners in every school to combat the crisis in children's mental health.

There's also a gap in age-appropriate mental health support beyond the age of 18. We'll introduce community hubs for young people to provide early prevention and support.

Finally it's important to end Out of Area Placements which cause

enormous family distress, by increasing capacity and coordination between mental health services.

- Mental health support in schools and community centres
- End Out of Area Placements



Local Roads

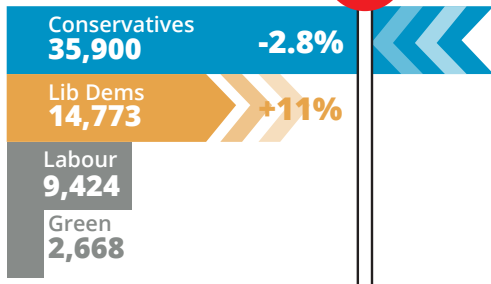
What's gone wrong with essential local services? Why do our roads literally crumble away every winter? The reason is this government's relentless pressure on council funding. An astonishing 20% of councils, including scores of Conservative-run administrations, now say they're in imminent danger of bankruptcy. Potholes are very visible but they're just the canary in the coalmine. The Lib Dems support the Local Government Association's call for an extra £4 billion over 2 years, which is relatively cheap for something with such a huge daily impact. This govern-

ment isn't cutting costs - it's cutting corners.



IT'S A TWO-HORSE RACE IN HORSHAM BETWEEN THE LIB DEMS & THE CONSERVATIVES

2019 Election



We need your vote more than anything if we are to win Horsham in the next general election. We hope you will consider us at the ballot box.

If you would like to know more:

Email : info@horshamlibdems.org.uk

Call : 07827 132850

Website : <https://www.horshamlibdems.org.uk>

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<https://libdems.my.salesforce-sites.com/DonationPage/donation/2302-donate>

Vote for a Better

HORSHAM

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