

# BUILDING A BETTER BOROUGH FOR ALL

The Conservative Manifesto for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council elections on 5 May 2016



## Our 5 Point Plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth

1. A Plan to Regenerate our Towns
2. New Homes and Roads in the Right Places
3. Real Working with the County Council
4. Cleaning up our streets
5. No to Coventry's Land Grab

Vote Conservative!

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***For more information about the policies contained in this manifesto, please contact us:***

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# A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER

Dear Resident

The choice at this election could not be clearer for the people of Nuneaton and Bedworth. Over the past 6 years Labour have squandered the trust that the people vested in the present holders of power at the Town Hall and have now repaid that trust with selling our Borough out to others around the Midlands without any safeguards for residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Six years later there is no Borough Plan but we see applications left, right and centre in inappropriate areas. Our Town Centres are declining. Council Tax and car parking charges have gone up. Bedworth's borders are under threat from the housing overspill from Coventry.

Conservatives in Nuneaton and Bedworth offer a clear alternative.

We will work with the County Council for the benefit of all of Nuneaton and Bedworth instead of Labour's failure to engage with Shire Hall to the detriment of residents. We will push for a fair Borough Plan before the end of 2017. We will not allow Coventry to move their borders into Bedworth. And we will prioritise the town centres in Nuneaton and Bedworth to reinvigorate them and make them destination attractions once again.

The choice is clear. Same Old Labour or a positive change with the Conservatives.

*Kris Wilson*



Cllr Kris Wilson, Leader of the Conservative Group

**CLLR KRIS WILSON**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER, NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# A PLAN TO REGENERATE OUR TOWN CENTRES



The Town Centres of Nuneaton and Bedworth are the lifeblood of our economy, but both have shown decline under Labour. We need to turn the tide before it is too late.

## A SHOT IN THE ARM TO REBUILD OUR TOWN CENTRES

- Labour have removed the Town Centre Manager from post and stalled on regeneration projects—we need to get our Town Centres moving again.
- The number of vacant shops in Nuneaton Town Centre, the number of businesses leaving and the reduction in the number of market stalls are all alarming signs that under Labour we are not realising the improvements in the economy.
- Conservatives will pursue in partnership with local businesses a Business Improvement District for Nuneaton Town Centre. This will generate additional revenue and projects to regenerate the town centre for the benefit of all.
- We will put Bedworth Market back where it belongs—in the centre of Bedworth itself.
- Conservatives will provide a shot in the arm to the economy of Nuneaton and Bedworth by introducing parking across the Borough during the week at an unbeatable rate of 3 hours for just £1.
- Conservatives will incentivise market stall holders to extend or return to our towns by slashing market rates by 10%.
- Where Labour fail to deliver, the Conservatives at the Town Hall have been working with their colleagues at Shire Hall to pursue regeneration projects and act where Labour fail to do so.

# NEW HOMES AND ROADS IN THE RIGHT PLACES



Places like Arbury (above), St Nicolas, Weddington and the Woodlands will all see massive and inappropriate development under Labour's Borough Plan proposals.

## A FAIRER BOROUGH PLAN UNDER THE CONSERVATIVES

- We will deliver a signed off and approved Borough Plan by the end of 2017 which is fair to all of the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth. At the moment there is no commitment to when the Borough Plan will be finished. As a Conservative Group we believe the residents deserve a pledge when this will be done by and we promise to have it in place by the end of 2017.
- Traditionally we have had cemeteries in both Nuneaton and Bedworth so that residents can be buried in their own home town. Under the Conservatives this will form part of the Borough Plan, and as a priority we will identify a site suitable for Nuneaton by 2017.
- The Duty to Co-operate is not a duty to give in. We will reject unfair demands by Coventry City Council to accommodate their overspill in Bedworth and pursue more evidence based and realistic housing targets for Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Conservatives will demand that Coventry Labour revisit their own Local Plan to accommodate Coventry's housing needs within its own boundaries. We will not allow unfair and unnecessary overspill into our Borough.
- Housing must be distributed more fairly around the Borough and not deposited all in one place, which threatens to break an already overstretched infrastructure in parts of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

# REAL WORKING WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL



Greater working between Shire Hall and Town Hall will be delivered by local Conservatives for the benefit of all residents in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

## JOINED UP SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS' OF THE BOROUGH

- As Conservatives it would be our intention to ensure that any Combined Authority must protect the interests of the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- In order to ensure this we would continue in our discussions with the Leader of the County Council to insist that any joint working with other authorities has strong safeguards and delivers positive outcomes for residents of our Borough.
- In stark contrast, Labour have taken Nuneaton and Bedworth into a Combined Authority without any vote over key strategic issues such as investment and planning. Conservatives believe, however, that any deal must secure voting rights that would protect the interests of the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- Conservatives will seek commitments on behalf of the Borough to deliver business opportunities, inward investment, infrastructure and educational improvements for all of Nuneaton and Bedworth, again in stark contrast to the current situation where Labour have signed the Borough up with no benefits.

# CLEANING UP OUR STREETS



Conservatives will encourage people to take greater pride in our Borough by promoting a range of schemes to make our towns cleaner and greener.

## MAKING OUR TOWNS CLEANER AND GREENER ONCE AGAIN

- Tackle unsightly graffiti by increasing the Enviro-Enforcement team, a pledge that was fully funded in our Shadow Budget.
- Tidy and clean our Town Centres and empty the bins more often.
- Clean the cigarette trays on top of bins so that they don't look unsightly in our Town Centres.
- Target irresponsible dog owners who refuse to clean up after their dog by increasing the number of Animal Wardens, a pledge that was fully funded in our Shadow Budget.
- Clean our main arterial routes into the Borough on a more regular basis to ensure that rubbish is cleared up and our entry points are more inviting to businesses.
- Encourage more community litter picks to collect discarded waste left by irresponsible residents who refuse to dispose of their litter correctly.

# NO TO COVENTRY TAKING BEDWORTH



Rt Hon Greg Clark, MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Govt  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Ref: local plan 01  
Date: 04 January 2016

Dear Minister

Today sees the draft publication of the Coventry Local Plan, which will guide the development of the city through to 2031. To meet the drive by Government to accommodate population growth with new housing, Coventry is expected to contribute 42,400 homes over this 15-year period, yet has room for only 17,000 on brownfield sites and existing non-greenbelt land identified for housing. Through careful negotiation, we have persuaded neighbouring authorities to take on a further 17,800. But this still leaves 7,600 which must be accommodated on other sites in Coventry.

Nobody disputes that there is a housing crisis in Britain. Supply has not kept up with demand. Social housing continues to be sold off but is not replaced and, in the private rented sector, it is estimated that a third of homes do not meet the Decent Homes Standard. Meanwhile, more and more young people are priced out of buying their own home; in the period 2001-2011, home ownership fell for the first time in 200 years. New homes must be a priority.

However, it cannot be right that the Government is forcing a city such as Coventry, which is built up to its boundary on three sides, to accommodate so many new homes, even though there are insufficient brownfield sites to do so and when it will be forced to build on some of its last remaining greenbelt land to meet the national housing target. This greenbelt land is precious and often well used by local communities, simply because it is so scarce.

By contrast our neighbouring, largely rural authorities have large areas of open space, of varying land quality, which they propose to use for housing. Any land use of this type would mean giving up a far smaller proportion of the available green space within those authorities' boundaries, as it is more abundant in the first place. Indeed, this is largely what they propose to do: by tacking on their contribution to the housing target to the edge of Coventry, they can leave even their less sensitive open spaces untouched.



Councillor Steven Thomas

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Perhaps we could collectively consider extending the Coventry city boundary by one mile to the south and east, where there is currently no further room to build inside the city's boundary. This could allow Coventry to meet its housing target without eating up scarce greenbelt land currently inside the city boundary, and would certainly align more closely with the proposed new employment sites around Ansty, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry Airport and the University of Warwick. This would also ensure that sustainable travel options, including public transport and cycling, had a chance of success. Building vast numbers of new homes miles from these sites, quite simply, would not.

It is your choice whether we must sacrifice some of the last remaining greenbelt land in our cities. You have the power to ensure that Coventry, and cities like it, can retain the scarce greenbelt land which does so much to improve quality of life in our cities. I hope you will take it.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Steven Thomas

cc Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP  
Cllr Ann Lucas, Leader – Coventry City Council  
Cllr Kevin Maton, Cabinet Member (Business & Enterprise) – Coventry City Council

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**Conservatives will reject absolutely any plans by Coventry to extend their borders and take land in Bedworth that they have forced us to build on for their overspill**

## REJECTING COVENTRY'S PLANS TO TAKE LAND IN BEDWORTH

- Coventry are currently looking at expanding their borders elsewhere into Warwickshire so that they take both the land and the Council Tax that is generated by extra housing. Should we be forced to take Coventry housing overspill, Coventry would look North to Bedworth to annex that land to Coventry City Council.
- Not only will Conservatives reject any proposals to take Coventry overspill housing under the Borough Plan but we will fight to oppose any plans by Coventry to take parts of Bedworth into Coventry's council area.
- The residents of Bedworth want to remain in Bedworth and the Conservatives will always defend that right.
- The Greater Birmingham Authority, which Labour took us in to, makes the threat of more housing in Nuneaton and Bedworth more likely under their Strategic Economic Plan.

# THE CHOICE AT THIS ELECTION



**Labour have controlled Nuneaton and Bedworth for all but 2 years since our Council was formed in 1974. The Conservatives will provide a fresh approach to the problems facing our Borough, not the same Old Labour solutions that hold us back.**

CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR
Scrapping the Borough Plan and putting in place a signed off fair plan by the end of 2017	Open ended attempts to produce a Borough Plan with no final date in sight, which is unfair to communities across Nuneaton and Bedworth.
Safeguarding Nuneaton and Bedworth's interests in Combined Authority discussions to protect our green spaces and planning policy.	Taking the Borough in to the West Midlands Combined Authority with no vote at the table or protection for Nuneaton and Bedworth's land or planning policy.
Reducing car parking in Nuneaton and Bedworth to just three hours for £1 during the week	Increasing the price of car parking in Nuneaton and Bedworth by 20%
Developing a Business Improvement District for Nuneaton Town Centre to regenerate our declining town centre and in partnership with business	Scrapping the Town Centres Manager and overseeing the decline of Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres
Cutting market rates by 10% to encourage stall holders to return or increase the number of stalls held in the Town Centres	Increasing market rates above inflation and higher than some London Borough prices for market stall holders
Reinstating and doubling the budget for the popular Play Rangers scheme.	Cut the Play Rangers budget against the wishes of residents.
Pushing for a blanket injunction for unlawful gypsy and traveller sites in Nuneaton and Bedworth	Rejecting calls to produce a solution to the blight of gypsy and traveller encampments in Nuneaton and Bedworth
Defending Bedworth from Coventry Labour attempts to take parts of Bedworth into Coventry City Council	Taking Coventry City Council overspill without consultation with local residents and refusing to object to Coventry plans to take other council's land into their area
No Council Tax increases proposed by the Conservatives in any Shadow Budget	Increasing Council Tax for two successive years by 1.75% and by 1.94% this year despite having a surplus budget—taking money from residents without needing to do so!