

MAKING WORTHING FAIRER AND GREENER TOGETHER



Worthing Labour
Manifesto
2023

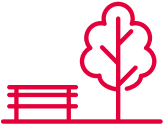
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SEA CHANGE

Twelve months ago, we asked you to put your trust in us to make our Worthing the greenest, fairest Coastal Town in the UK. In the 2022 elections, you did just that, electing a further 10 Labour Councillors bringing our total to 23 and giving Worthing a Labour Council for the first time ever.

It has been a year of hard work, at times exhilarating and often exhausting! The Cost of Living Crisis has affected us all. Rents, mortgages, energy bills, food bills – everything has become more expensive.

Far too many people have had to rely on local food banks in spite of working long hours and many being key workers we clapped for during the pandemic.

Much of our time and resources as a Council this year has therefore been to ensure that our housing services and our amazing community run food banks and other key organisations have had the resources and support they need to help people to stay in their homes, keep

them warm and to feed their families.

We have also focused on changing the conversation between the Council and the Communities we serve. Through our Big Listen and continuing local ward work, we have continued to build those essential bridges to make sure that all our Council work is done in partnership with local residents.

This updated manifesto gives a summary of some of the key achievements from the past year and how we plan to build on these achievements going forward.

Greening our town, making it a safe and welcoming place for all and providing decent, sustainable housing for all our residents stay at the top of our agenda – they are your priorities and that makes them the priorities of the Council.

We look forward to listening to you, working with you and for you in the coming year.

The Worthing Labour Group



THE WORTHING LABOUR GROUP



Becca Cooper
Leader
MARINE



Carl Walker
Deputy Leader
SELDEN



Mike Barratt
NORTHBROOK



Ibsha Choudhury
CASTLE



Henna Chowdhury
GAISFORD



Rita Garner
TARRING



Cathy Glynn-Davies
BROADWATER



Dan Hermitage
SELDEN



Margaret Howard
BROADWATER



Richard Mulholland
HEENE



Dale Overton
GAISFORD



Jon Roser
SELDEN



Dawn Smith
BROADWATER



Emma Taylor
HEENE



Sam Theodoridi
CASTLE



John Turley
GAISFORD



Vicki Wells
MARINE



Andy Whight
MARINE



Rosey Whorlow
CENTRAL



VOTE LABOUR ON 4TH MAY 2023

A COUNCIL FOR THE COMMUNITY

We are a listening, community-first council.

We have:

- ✓ Undertaken our first “Big Listen” – out and about with our red deckchairs listening to you, our Communities, about what matters most
- ✓ Declared a Cost of Living Emergency and put together an action plan with our key partners across the town to provide support to our most vulnerable residents
- ✓ Held Council Meetings in the Community as a first step to make Council decision making more accessible to you
- ✓ Worked with our local bus company to offer a free Christmas bus service into the Town Centre

We will:

- ✓ Open up our Community Fund (the Community Infrastructure Levy – CIL) to make it accessible to as wide a variety of local groups and projects as possible
- ✓ Prioritise our work with young people this year, making sure that their needs are highlighted and addressed in our work
- ✓ Continue to work on reducing inequalities in our town through our Cost of Living plan, alongside our Community wellbeing and mental health work



VOTE FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN

TURN OUR SEASIDE TOWN GREEN

Our response to the Climate Emergency is immediate, decisive and runs through everything we do. We want Worthing to be a green coastal town and we are putting in the hard work needed to achieve this. Our Environment team is ensuring that we are doing all we can with our approach to waste collection, keeping our streets clean, and providing and protecting great public amenities and green spaces.

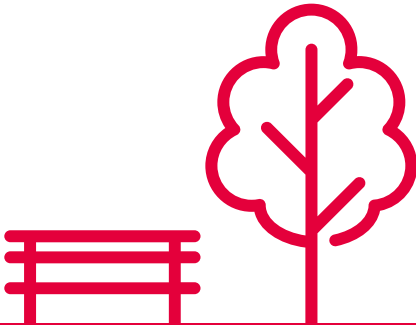
OUR CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

We have:

- ✔ Put in place "Trees for Streets," an easy to use crowdfunding scheme that will provide much needed urban tree planting for our town
- ✔ Stopped using harmful pesticides in parks and open spaces
- ✔ Worked with our Environmental partners to ensure the success of Sussex Bay Marine Reserve – the marine wildlife coming back to our shores is incredible!
- ✔ Allocated wildlife verges and park space. Places where vegetation can grow that will support biodiversity

We will:

- ✔ Reach our net carbon zero target by 2030 for council operations and by 2050 for all of Worthing
- ✔ Improve energy efficiency in Council owned buildings and seek funding to insulate our emergency and temporary accommodation
- ✔ Undertake a Big Green Clean Up where all residents have the opportunity to help our town to be clean and green!
- ✔ Plant wildflower and ecological corridors in key areas of the town
- ✔ Maintain and enhance seafront and foreshore planting
- ✔ Bring together Climate Emergency and Public Health work, tackling air pollution and mental wellbeing through urban greening and sustainable transport networks



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TURN OUR SEASIDE TOWN GREEN

WASTE

We have:

- ✔ Introduced kerbside recycling of electronic waste - currently collecting 1 tonne per week!
- ✔ Undertaken Poo Patrols! Councillors, officers and community members have been clearing up huge amounts of dog poo in our parks and open spaces. Please do pick up after your dog!

We will:

- ✔ Continue to work to exceed national recycling targets, including increasing the number of public recycling bins
- ✔ Introduce food waste collection and more community composting
- ✔ Work with local schools and communities to identify and work with recycling champions



VOTE FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN

A TOWN TO BE PROUD OF

Regenerating Worthing continues with us reaffirming that we care about the town. We are focusing on improving our seafront, parks and open spaces. Major sites, including Teville Gate, Union Place and Montague Square are being developed to reflect the creativity and heritage of Worthing, as well as providing the housing and amenities that our town requires. We are creating the 'Greenest town on the South Coast' by combining regeneration, with climate action.

Our plans don't just focus on the town centre, but also on our out-of-town neighbourhoods, so that everyone across the town will see improvements. A focus on community wellbeing and safety are making Worthing a seaside town to start well, live well, and age well in.

We have:

- ✔ Worked with key community stakeholders to put together a green, community focused design for Montague Place, which will breathe life back into the heart of our town
- ✔ Held two "Big Clean Up" events, with Councillors, Officers and Community Members cleaning up the Town Centre and Beach House Gardens
- ✔ Worked with local Community groups to provide better accessibility for wheelchair users onto the beach

We will:

- ✔ Publish the green, Community focused design for Montague Place and look to allocate funding and to build it out by the end of 2024
- ✔ Focus on improving edge of town areas, with a first focus on Montague Street West, Brighton Road and Chapel Road
- ✔ Work to improve out of town areas, starting with Ham Road and Tarring Road
- ✔ Resubmit our Bathing Water status application for East Beach and submit an additional application for Goring Gap



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We have:

- ✔ Put new playgrounds into Palatine and Brooklands Parks that are accessible and inclusive for all.
- ✔ Undertaken a public toilet review and with funds available, commissioned a new Changing Places facility to be built this Summer
- ✔ Worked with the Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and disorder through a public health approach to reducing offending

We will:

- ✔ Work hard to get spades in the ground at Teville Gate and Union Place asap! Negotiating with developers for the fairest, greenest deal possible for our town
- ✔ Continue to work with West Sussex County Council towards a car-free town centre and seafront, with comprehensive bus, pedestrian and cycle networks across our Borough
- ✔ Fund a design plan for the George V to Sea Lane Cycle path and look to allocate funding for the build as soon as possible



VOTE FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN

HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

We believe everyone is entitled to a home of their own. We are building a housing model that will provide this in a sustainable way, protecting our limited green spaces. We are repurposing existing buildings whenever possible, rather than starting from scratch.

We are also working to make our benefits system more transparent and accessible. This goes alongside the digital access work we are undertaking to ensure there is easy access to the internet throughout the town.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

We have:

- ✔ Organised Worthing's first ever Housing Conference, bringing together key stakeholders who want to build green, good quality housing for all our citizens
- ✔ Adopted the proven "Housing First" model to tackle rough sleeping with targeted interventions

We are:

- ✔ Working with national housing experts to help develop the best model for Worthing - this could include the Council providing housing directly, working with housing associations and other innovative models
- ✔ Identifying those at risk of homelessness ASAP and providing early intervention to help keep people in their homes
- ✔ Tackling temporary and emergency housing demand with sustainable programmes of social housing supply

We will:

- ✔ Make Worthing a town and Council of sanctuary to reflect our values and ethos that refugees are welcome here



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HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

REVENUES & BENEFITS

We have:

- ✓ Adopted an Ethical Debt Policy
- ✓ Scrapped the £5 minimum Council Tax charge for working age residents
- ✓ Launched a No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) with our Credit Union partner, Boom
- ✓ Started the work to link UC payments to local authority support, to trigger adjustments that get people support ASAP

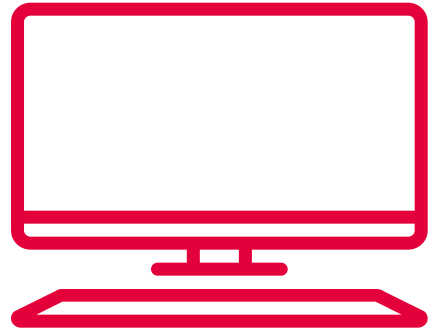
We will:

- ✓ Digitise the Revenues & Benefits system and make the benefits awards process more open
- ✓ Update our website to improve user experience

DIGITAL ACCESS

We are:

- ✓ Making sure free public space community broadband is available across the town
- ✓ Improving IT access in our libraries, council offices, community and children's centres
- ✓ Providing digital literacy support across our community hubs



VOTE FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN

THE NEW PLACE TO BE

Worthing is becoming an exciting town for art, music and culture, thanks to the innovative, creative people and groups investing their time and talent in our town.

As a Labour council, we are providing the conditions and opportunity for culture to continue to grow and thrive here, and be accessible to all. We are also supporting our home-grown talent and small independent venues throughout the town.

We have:

- ✔ Undertaken the most popular Worthing Council consultation ever! Thousands of you told us that you wanted us to regenerate the Lido. So we will do our best to get this done as soon as possible!

We are:

- ✔ Putting on the Worthing Festival in June this year with our excellent local creative partners
- ✔ Providing better signposting to our arts, music and heritage venues
- ✔ Reviewing current cultural contracts to ensure value for money for local residents
- ✔ Working with local cultural venues and supporting them to grow

We will:

- ✔ Develop opportunities for a range of water sports and cultural experiences and activities
- ✔ Identify potential new venues for additional leisure facilities, particularly for younger people
- ✔ Support Createch businesses to flourish in Worthing

WORTHING
Festival

10th - 18th JUNE 2023



VOTE LABOUR ON 4TH MAY 2023

BUILDING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

We are focusing our financial investments and other resources on our local economy, supporting local businesses and our Communities to flourish

We have:

- ✔ Built relationships with local businesses, the Town Centre Initiative and our local fisherman to support and enable our local economy to thrive
- ✔ Put Community Wealth Building as a core principle of our Council Economy planning

We will:

- ✔ Work to attract sustainable businesses with green credentials into the area, providing good quality jobs for our local residents

- ✔ Work with educational establishments to ensure that we are skilling our young people for essential green jobs

- ✔ Invest in Local Climate Bonds to raise money for local sustainable projects

- ✔ Introduce a Good Business Charter to promote good business behaviours. This includes:

- Paying the real living wage
- Fairer hours and contracts
- Improved employee wellbeing and employee representation
- Environmental responsibility
- Ethical sourcing



VOTE FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN

CONTACT US

Beccy Cooper, Leader

✉ beccycooper4labour@gmail.com

☎ 07914 038689

📘 @BeccyCooper4Lab

Carl Walker, Deputy Leader

✉ carlwalker1000@gmail.com

☎ 07809 479114

📘 @CllrCarl

Dale Overton, Press Officer

✉ daleov@virginmedia.com

☎ 07778 056914

🐦 @Dale_Overton

Vote Labour

**FOR A FAIRER, GREENER COASTAL TOWN
ON THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2023**