

Bracknell Forest Manifesto

Bracknell Constituency and District Labour Party • For Ascot, Binfield, Bracknell, Crowthorne, Sandhurst, Warfield, Winkfield and Wokingham Without.



Bracknell Forest is a great place to live. It can be even better. Our manifesto is based on the concerns raised by you. We put residents at the heart of every decision we make.

HOUSING

Labour recognises the urgent need to provide affordable housing.

Many homes have young adults unable to afford to move out. They cannot be nominated for affordable housing because they are deemed to be 'adequately housed'. The lack of affordable housing means more residents are renting privately. They need a deposit of at least a month's rent in advance and often require a guarantor earning at least three times the annual rent.

There are 1,484 people on the Council's housing waiting list¹ but Bracknell's Conservative-run Council has only built 162 affordable homes out of 1,202 completions since the last local elections. This is only 13.5% of affordable homes against a target of 25% in the existing housing policy.

Affordable home completions
(Source: Bracknell Forest Council)

2015/16: 32
2016/17: 55
2017/18: 75

● A Labour-run Council will strictly enforce the requirement that 25% percent of new developments be Affordable Housing. We will only grant planning permission to new developments where the viability assessment includes full provision for affordable homes.

- Labour will explore opportunities to encourage the building of social housing with lower rents.
- For privately rented property, we will encourage private tenants' associations, to give tenants a voice enabling them to address common concerns.
- Labour will define minimum standards for private rental properties. Landlords whose properties meet these criteria can apply to be on the Council's recommended landlord list.

¹Figures at 13/03/19.

LABOUR WILL ENSURE THAT 25% OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS ARE AFFORDABLE

A LABOUR-RUN BRACKNELL FOREST WILL

- ✓ ENSURE THAT 25% OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS ARE AFFORDABLE
- ✓ REVERSE THE £46K CUT TO SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING
- ✓ MAINTAIN ARTS AND RECREATION FUNDING AT ITS CURRENT LEVEL
- ✓ EMPLOY OUTREACH YOUTH WORKERS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE
- ✓ CONDUCT A TRANSPORT REVIEW TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- ✓ REVIEW THE LOCATION, HEIGHT AND NUMBER OF LED STREET LIGHTS
- ✓ USE LOCAL CONTRACTORS WITH EQUAL PAY SCHEMES AND GREEN CREDENTIALS
- ✓ WORK WITH YOU TO SOLVE PARKING ISSUES
- ✓ SET UP MORE AIR QUALITY MONITORING POINTS ON SCHOOL ROUTES
- ✓ REVIEW COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact@BracknellLabour.org.uk
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Vote  Labour Thursday 2 May

**WILL REVERSE
THE £46K CUT
TO SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS FUNDING**

CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES

Labour will fully support the four remaining Children's Centres - the original Sure Start centres set up by the Labour Government. These centres work with whole families, providing essential early intervention and support.

The amount per pupil spending in England's schools has fallen by 8% since 2010 (Source: IFS). Rising pupil numbers, cuts to local councils and sixth form funding have seen a real-terms reduction in school spending - leading to staff cuts, subject cuts and asking parents for financial contributions. Find your school on SchoolCuts.org.uk

- Labour will fight to obtain more money from central Government for the education of all our children.

Bracknell Forest Conservatives recently cut £46K from supporting children with Special Educational Needs. Early assessment of children is essential for their future success.

- A Labour-run Council will reverse this cut.

Labour supports helping people live in their own home for as long as possible. When firms are awarded a caring contract by the Council:

- Labour will ensure that care workers are paid at least the real living wage, sick pay, holiday pay and for travel time.
- We will improve the support given to the hundreds of carers looking after loved ones, increasing access to respite.

Many Young Carers have the responsibilities of adults - looking after their siblings and parents.

Bracknell Forest Council spending on Support for Young Carers (Source: FOI)

2015/16: £45,463

2016/17: £18,757

2017/18: £18,073

- Labour will proactively identify and support Young Carers.

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

The long awaited Youth Hub in the Bracknell Town centre is now being planned, providing a base for the youth counsellors and advisers, supporting our vulnerable young people. It must also be a hub for all youth - a place to do music, art, drama, and sports - a place to meet. For this to happen, there must be good bus services from all areas.

- Labour will employ Outreach Youth Workers to contact and work with young people, helping them feel valued.
- A Labour-run Council will ensure active youth services are operating in all parts of the Borough, offering a place to meet and support from trained adults.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & LED LIGHTING

Bracknell Forest is a very safe place but many have noted the reduced visibility of Police in recent years.

- We support an increase in visible local Police.
- Labour has consistently opposed cuts to public services locally, and we will be assertive in making the case for increased central Government funding.

LED lights are good for our environment and for saving money but simply replacing the existing lanterns has not worked in all places.

- Labour will ensure that the location, height and number of street lights is reviewed so that the programme is efficient and effective.

PARKING

This is an issue throughout Bracknell Forest, wherever the home does not have its own driveway.

- Labour will plan to reinforce grass verges so parking is possible without areas becoming rutted.
- We will ensure that every new home has a parking space allocated to it.
- Labour will continue to create more parking spaces on streets and in estates.
- We will ensure parking bays are clearly marked out for optimum use of the space available.

Parking at junctions can limit access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles, also blocking sight lines.

- Labour will mark double yellow lines at problem junctions.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Our woodlands and green spaces are one of the best parts of Bracknell Forest. We will safeguard them.

- Exhaust fumes are known to be detrimental and we will set up more air quality monitoring points, especially on school routes.
- A Labour Town Council will install solar panels on all its pavilions and go carbon neutral.
- Labour will work with RE3 to set up a Freecycle bay at the Recycling Centre and review DIY waste charges to avoid fly tipping.
- We will start a 'pop up' repair shop for fixing instead of dumping items.
- When commissioning, Labour will evaluate a company's environmental policies as a major criteria.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Well organised public transport should be a first choice way of getting to social areas, work, health centres and hospitals.

It benefits the environment, parking, reduces traffic congestion, and will be essential for getting to the Town Centre Youth Hub.

- Labour will set up a Transport Review to explore all options and to improve co-ordination between bus and train timetables.
- We will work to ensure bus routes, stops and fares are clearly advertised.
- We will work with partners to provide a bus shelter at every stop.



HOLDING THE CONSERVATIVES TO ACCOUNT

Councillor Mary Temperton
Labour Leader

For the past four years, I have been the only opposition on Bracknell Forest Council – 41 to 1 – and along with Cllr Paul Bidwell, one of only two Town Councillors. We are pleased this could be about to change. We have worked hard to challenge and scrutinise. I have asked questions on your behalf at every Borough Council meeting including -

- Lack of provision of affordable and social homes;
- Lack of provision of accommodation for the homeless;
- Level of support for Young Carers;
- Provision of long promised Youth facilities;
- Supporting introduction of weekly food waste collection;
- Supporting the continuation of Youth Services in Schools;
- Why the Council members were not consulted on Heathrow Expansion;
- The long-promised shop at Jennett's Park;
- What has this Council done to prepare for Brexit?

Labour has always fully supported the rebirth of Bracknell Town Centre. I am proud of the part I played, speaking up for the open streets with their trees and shrubs and many seats. It is a real town centre, not an enclosed space, with a public performing area enabling community celebrations.

With more people living in the centre it is more 'alive', even late at night.

The proposed Joint Venture Partnership will prevent any more of the Town Centre being sold off to other investment companies or private developers. We will still own and control a bit of our Town, meaning that future builds will reflect what residents want and need.

I have tried to get all Councillors to join me in reducing their allowances by 20% – a saving of about £100K – but they did not agree.

- Labour will review Councillors' allowances and expense claims, while ensuring that no one is inhibited from standing because of their financial circumstances.

I have opposed many of their cuts, but especially cuts affecting our youth services and the local voluntary services - when we depend so much on volunteers. I have opposed the ending of grant funding to South Hill Park - a cut of over £400k. The last such grant of £75K was to be withdrawn this year, but my voice was heard (it is election year) and the £75K was restored.

I opposed the cut of £46K from Special Educational Needs and a Labour Council will restore this.

**WILL REVIEW
COUNCILLORS'
ALLOWANCES
AND EXPENSE
CLAIMS**

LEISURE SERVICES

Labour supports the full use of our amenities. Entrance fees to Coral Reef rose following its tax-payer funded refurbishment. Outsourcing the Sports Centre initially led to increased customer complaints.

- Labour will make sure there is a voice for users through a joint board with the centre's management.
- Labour pressure forced the current Council to halt its £75k cut to South Hill Park this year.
- A Labour-run Town Council will maintain arts and recreation grant funding at its current level.
- Keeping cycle paths free from broken glass will be a Labour priority.

BUSINESS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

A successful community needs a vibrant business and retail sector.

- Labour will ensure that the Council uses local businesses and contractors whenever possible.
- We will offer more support for small traders and for businesses offering apprenticeships.
- Contractors who abuse zero hour contracts will not be used by our Council.
- Council Contractors will be expected to have an equal pay policy and green credentials.
- Labour will support our Local Shopping Centres to provide a variety of independent stores, charity shops and brand stores.

ROUGH SLEEPING AND FOODBANKS

Homelessness has risen. 87 people were given food and a bed from December to March by Pilgrim Hearts Night Shelter - set up and run by 7 local churches.

Separately, the Council only provides shelter if the temperature falls below zero for two nights running or in extreme weather.

- Labour will consult on a year-round solution.

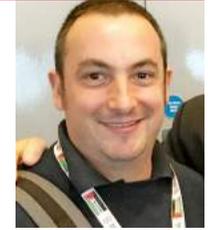
Bracknell and Crowthorne foodbanks have provided 11,924 food parcels since the last local elections.

- Labour has consistently opposed policies which have led to foodbanks.
- A Labour-run Council will offer help that exceeds statutory requirements.

FEEDBACK

Labour will listen to you and encourage you to input into Council decisions.

- We will improve your access to Councillors by using social media for regular feedback.
- Labour will 'open up' the Council by live-streaming and audio recording key public meetings.
- Our Councillors will hold regular surgeries and canvassing in their wards.
- Labour will review Councillors' allowances while ensuring that no one is inhibited from standing because of their financial circumstances.
- We celebrate the diversity of Bracknell Forest and will encourage active community involvement of all groups.

Ascot**Katherine Giles****Steve Young****Binfield with Warfield****Lorraine Copley****Eric Pilmoor****Andrew Walker****Bullbrook****Lara Johnson****David McMullen****Central Sandhurst****Leo Anniballi****Garrett Cooke****College Town****Clive Urquhart****Matt White****Crown Wood including Forest Park****Christopher Foxon****Guy Gillbe****Danielle Turner****Crowthorne****Kate Cameron-Daum****Jonathon Monger****Great Hollands North****Kathryn Neil****Cllr Mary Temperton****Great Hollands South****Naheed Ejaz****Kathleen Nugent****Wildridings & Central****Michael Karim****Hanworth including Birch Hill****Nicola Goddard****Shawn Hearn****Jenny Penfold****Tom Neill****Harmans Water including The Parks****Diane Thomas****John Wright****Pete Frewer****Little Sandhurst & Wellington****Nikola Mansfield****Megan Wright****Old Bracknell****Dr Roy Bailey****Susan Cahill****Owlsmoor****Diane Allum-Wilson****Clive Temperton****Winkfield & Cranbourne****Bob Miller****Priestwood and Garth****Cllr Paul Bidwell****Tricia Brown****Steve Fearon****Graham Firth****Libby Miller****Anne Shillcock****Alan Round****Warfield Harvest Ride**

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**Your candidates for a Labour-run Bracknell Forest
Meet them at www.BracknellLabour.org.uk**