

# A COUNCIL FOR THE COMMUNITY



Worthing Labour  
Manifesto  
2022

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# THE TIDE IS TURNING

Worthing elected its first Labour Councillor in 2017 and now, just 5 years later, with 17 Councillors, we are preparing to lead that Council.

In those 5 years, we have learned how much a Council could contribute to the community it serves. We have listened to all the people that make up this town - old, young, different ethnicities, religions and sexual orientations.

We have worked hard in our local communities to make people's voices heard and to get them the support they need. The pandemic was hard for us all and we know many are continuing to struggle. The health and wellbeing of everyone will be at the heart of everything we do, from

supporting people's mental health to addressing issues of loneliness.

This manifesto is the result of everything we have learned in the last 5 years. Our programme of policies will truly deliver change to Worthing and improve the lives of all of us that live here.

We will start making changes from day one but we will also be developing longer term projects to shape the future of our town.

If you give us the opportunity to lead your council, we will work hard to make Worthing a town we are all proud to call home. We look forward to working together to achieve that.

## THE WORTHING LABOUR GROUP



Mike Barratt



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Rosey Whorlow

# A COUNCIL FOR THE COMMUNITY

A Labour led Council in Worthing will look and feel very different to what we have been used to.

We will be a listening, community-first council.

- ✓ Move council meetings out of the Town Hall and into community venues
- ✓ Take what we hear and turn it into an action plan that you can hold us to
- ✓ Create community groups with the power to change things in their area
- ✓ Declare a Poverty Emergency in the town and develop a plan to address this
- ✓ Ask people to advise on areas such as accessibility, young people's services and travel, based on their own experiences and expertise
- ✓ Survey people on council traditions like the Mayoral role and ask what they like and what they don't
- ✓ Carry out a "Big Listening" Campaign this summer to hear what the people of Worthing want from their new council



**VOTE FOR CHANGE ON 5TH MAY 2022**

# TURN OUR SEASIDE TOWN GREEN

Our response to the Climate Emergency will be immediate, decisive and will run through everything we do. We want Worthing to be a green coastal town and we are ready to put in the hard work needed to achieve this. Our Environment team will ensure 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 EMERGENCY

- ✓ Reach our net carbon zero target by 2030 for council operations and by 2050 for all of Worthing
- ✓ Ensure development projects always support nature and wildlife, and never damage them
- ✓ Set up insulation programmes for homes and businesses
- ✓ Develop "green corridors" throughout the town that will provide landscape that supports local wildlife
- ✓ Work with local schools and colleges to prepare future workers for jobs in a green local economy
- ✓ Work with residents and businesses to reduce our carbon footprint
- ✓ Work with our communities and environmental partners to ensure the success of Sussex Bay Marine Reserve

## WASTE

- ✓ Work to exceed national recycling targets every year
- ✓ Introduce food waste and electrical collections and increase roadside recycling
- ✓ Provide digital welcome packs for new residents about recycling programs to encourage participation in their community
- ✓ Work with local schools and communities to identify and work with 'recycling champions'
- ✓ Review dog poo bins and their locations, with the view to increase them, with demand

**VOTE FOR CHANGE ON 5TH MAY 2022**

# A TOWN TO BE PROUD OF

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

Our plans won'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 will make Worthing a seaside town to start well, live well, and age well in.

- ✓ Community groups to be given resources and support to make best use of the green and blue spaces in their areas
- ✓ Develop a community wellbeing strategy that addresses the social issues that impact peoples' health
- ✓ Improved public toilets for all our residents and tourists, including those with disabilities, and new facilities for showering and changing on the sea front
- ✓ Lobby Southern Water to provide drinking water fountains in our public spaces
- ✓ More seafront planting, replicating the 'Water Wise garden' at Marine Parade
- ✓ Hold a 'Big Clean Up' event to breathe new life into our town
- ✓ A tree replanting programme focusing on streets where trees have been removed
- ✓ Better accessibility for wheelchair and pushchair users onto the beach
- ✓ Work with West Sussex County Council to develop a car-free town centre and seafront, with a new network of pedestrian and cycle routes



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# A TOWN TO BE PROUD OF

- ✓ Protect our coastal waters and the ocean beyond, partnering with agencies such as The Environment Agency
- ✓ Achieve Bathing Water Status for Splash Point and Goring Gap
- ✓ Reduce crime and disorder through a public health approach to crime reduction and reduce reoffending through partnership working



## OUR PLAN FOR WORTHING

### WITHIN TWO YEARS

Work with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to develop the following areas of the town:

- Montague Street (West)
- Brighton Road/High Street junction to Egremont
- Chapel Road from St Pauls to Teville Gate

### WITHIN THREE YEARS

Commence planned improvements for areas just outside the town centre:

- Tarring Road – Heene Road to Downview Road/rail crossing
- Dominion Road – Southdownview Road/Angola Road junction
- Ham Road/Lyndhurst Road junction
- The Strand/The Boulevard junction



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# HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

We believe everyone is entitled to a home of their own. Our aim is to introduce a housing model that provides this in a sustainable way, protecting our limited green spaces. We will therefore repurpose existing buildings rather than start from scratch.

Our benefits system also needs to be more transparent and accessible, and we will make it so that everyone can get the help they need easily, when they need it. This also means providing easy access to the internet throughout the town.

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- ✓ Work 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
- ✓ Tackle temporary and emergency housing demand with sustainable programmes of social housing supply
- ✓ Work with partners to provide low-cost loans for private rental deposits and potentially mortgages
- ✓ Identify those at risk of homelessness ASAP and provide early intervention to help keep people in their homes
- ✓ Adopt the proven 'Housing First' model to tackle rough sleeping with targeted interventions
- ✓ Make Worthing a town and Council of sanctuary to reflect our values and ethos that refugees are welcome here

## REVENUES & BENEFITS

- ✓ Digitise the Revenues & Benefits system and make the benefits awards process more open
- ✓ Make the Universal Credit formula transparent and easier to understand
- ✓ Ensure people can link their UC payments to local authority support, to trigger adjustments that get people support ASAP
- ✓ Allocate an additional £100,000 to the hardship fund in 2022 and scrap the £5 minimum council tax charge completely in 2023

## DIGITAL ACCESS

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

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# 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 want to provide the conditions and opportunity for culture to continue to grow and thrive here, and be accessible to all. We will also support our home-grown talent and small independent venues throughout the town.

- ✓ Provide better signposting to our arts, music and heritage venues
- ✓ Review current cultural contracts to ensure value for money for local residents
- ✓ Work with local cultural venues and support them to grow
- ✓ Develop opportunities for a range of water sports and cultural experiences and activities
- ✓ Work with Heritage bodies and potential funding providers to bring the Lido back into use
- ✓ Identify potential new venues for additional leisure facilities, particularly for younger people



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# BUILDING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

For too long our council have invested its money outside Worthing. This will change under Labour. We are going to invest our money and resources in Worthing and its communities.


We will work with local businesses and employers to support them to flourish and provide the jobs and training opportunities that our young people need for the challenges of the next ten years.


- ✓ Provide help with business rates for start-ups in a town centre building
- ✓ Incentivise “green employers” to base themselves in Worthing through our green policies
- ✓ Identify future skills requirements that our town needs, to support young people with employment opportunities
- ✓ Support existing local business groups such as the Town Centre Initiative to make sure that we develop our town centre, so that we once again have the thriving space that our town deserves
- ✓ Working with local businesses, identify areas that will help them to develop and grow
- ✓ 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

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# CONTACT US


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**Vote  Labour**

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