

TIME FOR CHANGE

ISLINGTON CONSERVATIVES
LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2022



Islington Conservatives

Our pledges:

- 1. Scrap all of Islington's LTNs;**
- 2. Protect our environment and boost public health;**
- 3. Freeze Council Tax;**
- 4. Improve Council Housing;**
- 5. Combat crime in our neighbourhoods;**
- 6. Repair our streets and improve safety;**
- 7. Create more opportunities for our youth;**
- 8. Clean up our streets; and**
- 9. Encourage local business development.**

Scrap all of Islington's LTNs:

The Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme introduced by Labour was intended to aid the borough in reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 - This has not worked.

Instead, it has increased pollution and congestion on main roads, isolated the vulnerable and increased response times for emergency services.

We would *scrap* the scheme.

We are the only party with all candidates committed to removing the road closures across the borough. This is a campaign we have been leading for the last two years. It is our central policy, as LTNs increase traffic, delay public transport and worsen our air quality.

If we are not elected to any of the formal administrative roles in Islington Council, then we would simply remove all of the LTNs in the wards in which we are elected.

If we were only elected to selected wards, then as well as removing all LTNs within those wards, we would continue to campaign for local borough wide access through the remaining LTNs, as well as Blue Badge exemptions for all the remaining LTNs.

Our message is clear - only a vote for your Conservative candidates will remove Islington's LTNs.

Protect our environment and boost public health:



We will:

- **Help energy companies identify fuel poor or vulnerable households,** so that they can implement energy efficiency measures under the ECO 4 scheme.
- **Encourage the switch to electric cars by waiving the resident's parking charge and stepping up the roll-out of electric charging points.** This includes ensuring that they are established in all new lampposts installed across the borough.
- **Introduce a car-pooling system** that allows residents to support neighbours and reduce single person usage of vehicles.
- To reduce our carbon footprint, **we would ensure that all new council buildings meet the 'Net Zero' targets** and all older buildings are retrofitted where practical.
- **Increase green space** by introducing more trees, hedges, green walls and vegetable plots alongside our roads, walkways, and housing estates.
- **Mandate green spaces** as part of all new housing developments in the borough.
- **Introduce more solar power and LED lighting** to cut energy usage and improve illumination.
- **Provide more bike storage facilities** to encourage more cycling.
- **Press the Mayor to ban all diesel buses that are routed through Islington and invest in electric and hybrid alternatives.**

Freeze Council Tax:

- **By freezing Council Tax at the current 2021-2022 levels for the next four years, we are offering a real time saving to all residents, just when it is needed.** This can be afforded by introducing efficiencies and not wasting money on costly projects such as Angelic Energy and Bunhill Energy, that have provided no material benefit to Islingtonians and have cost residents' millions in mismanaged Labour projects.
- **We also undertake to ensure that all households in Council Tax bands A – D will receive the £150 Government rebate.**
- All our elected Councillors would reject any increase in the Councillors allowance unless council tax bills came down across the borough. Any increase in allowances should be as a reward for a well-run council passing savings onto residents, not a right of passage for bad administration.

Improve Council Housing:

- **Improve the Council's housing** through a series of measures, including faster response to residents' maintenance issues and better-quality repairs, which aim to prevent problems from re-occurring.
- This will be alongside carrying out full maintenance audits, which encourage taking proactive measures to help prevent problems from occurring.
- **Introduce an insulation policy across all Council housing to improve the quality of housing** whilst also reducing CO2 emissions, due to reduced energy requirements for heating.
- *Encourage* those in private housing to insulate their homes by giving up to 20% off their council tax.
- As half of Islington's housing is in conservation areas, we would work with the conservation officer to find appropriate green solutions (conservation-grade double-glazed windows, solar panels etc.)

- Ensure that all new Social housing in the Borough was fitted with solar panels to ensure that the properties are as energy-efficient as possible.

Combat crime in our neighbourhoods:

- To *combat* crime in our community, **we will introduce ‘Bobbies on Bikes’ who can patrol our neighbourhoods and respond quickly to street crime**, such as phone thefts, assaults, muggings etc.
- Take *advantage* of the Government’s Safer Streets Fund to improve lighting and CCTV in crime hot spots and areas where people feel unsafe.
- Make sure that residents *know* the name of their local police officer(s).
- Work between the schools and the police to help educate our young people on the perils of knife crime.



We would also install bleed kits on the main streets in Islington to ensure that lives can be saved in an emergency and ensure that residents know how to administer first aid if required.

Repair our streets and improve safety:

To make streets more accessible and reduce accidents, **we would ensure that:**

- **trip hazards such as uneven and cracked paving are *repaired*.** That maintenance companies restore pavements to their original condition after any work; and
- ***Install drop kerbs***, where appropriate, for example, those missing at Highbury Corner. Tackle street clutter (A-frame boards, badly positioned road signs/poles etc), and find solutions to pavements deformed by tree roots.

Create more opportunities for our youth

- Create job opportunities for 16 and 18yr old school leavers by **offering local businesses a discount on their business rates if they hire them and provide training/apprenticeships.**
- *Repurpose* existing spaces in our schools, community centres, leisure centres etc. to provide an engaging environment for young people to enjoy leisure activities and acquire skills.
- **Introduce ‘Your Future’ careers guidance for all students in year 7 and above**, so that they are better informed from an earlier age as to the diversity of careers and gain insight direct from potential employers.

Clean up our streets

- ***Replace the current refuse collection on estates with deep welled smarts bins***, which once they are nearly full trigger a collection.
- ***Re-introduce free collection of bulky household items*** to combat fly tipping and make our streets cleaner.

Encourage local business development

- **Provide free parking to less able-bodied residents** and limited free parking to other drivers who want to stop and shop at our local businesses.
- **Encourage new business start-ups** by providing access to business coaches, hot desks at underutilised Council owned properties and targeted incentives such as business rate waivers, loans and grants.