



## Giving Power Back To Local People



**Stop new towns**



**Provide homes for younger people**



**Scrap Tory £££ waste**



**Boost local jobs**



**Listen to local people**



**Make our district greener**



## Stop new towns

The Conservatives who presently run Uttlesford District Council cooked up a plan to dump all this area's new housing between Elsenham and Henham, with no proper research. The council's own research shows that it is unsuitable because of major problems with road access and drainage. The Conservatives hare-brained plan has inspired developers to promote a new town at Boxted Wood near Stebbing.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Changing the Council's plans to prevent new towns anywhere in Uttlesford, and to prevent overdevelopment of existing towns and villages.
- Working with residents, parish and town councils and other interested groups to ensure that this area's housing needs are met, in a way that preserves the special character of our area.



## Provide homes for younger people

The Liberal Democrat-Conservative coalition government has abolished housing targets and told Councils to sort out their areas' housing needs. Uttlesford District Council's own research shows how many houses are needed - and where they could be built. Households with an annual income of less than £30,000 cannot afford to buy a house in this area. This is driving young people out of the area, creating an ageing population.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Actively encouraging housing associations to build small-scale developments of two- and three-bedroom family homes on suitable sites across the district, using the council's finances to help make it happen. These houses would be for rental and for "part-rent, part-buy".
- Building new Council houses.
- Setting up a rental deposit scheme for young people.
- Working with the business community to bring more higher-paid jobs to Uttlesford, so that more people - especially young people - can afford homes locally.





## Scrap Tory £££ waste

Under the leadership of the Conservatives, Uttlesford District Council lost hundreds of thousands of pounds a year on Supaloo toilets in Saffron Walden and Stansted. The Conservative-led Council has been putting half of the Council Tax money that it takes from you into its own bank accounts - and leaving it there. The Liberal Democrats think you need the money more than the Council does.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Freeze Council Tax for two years at a level sufficient to maintain services, without needless padding out the Council's reserves.
- Sharing services with other local councils, where this can be shown to save money without reductions in quality.
- Taking only the money that the Council needs to provide quality local services.
- Managing the council's cash reserves at the national average level for rural district councils.



## Boost local jobs

Many residents of Uttlesford work for small- and medium-sized businesses. The Conservatives have diverted government grants for small business support into the Council's own bank account, depriving our towns and villages of investment.

The towns of Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow have some outstanding shops and vibrant markets. The vitality of these businesses depends on the Council not allowing out-of-town supermarkets to kill them off.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Changing planning policies to introduce a presumption against new supermarkets in this area, unless they can be shown to have a beneficial effect on existing shopping centres and communities.
- Providing planning advice for community shops.
- Financing professional advice to help people start up and sustain local businesses.
- Helping local businesses get the most out of the 2012 Olympics, including the setting-up of [www.visituttlesford.info](http://www.visituttlesford.info) to put Uttlesford on the map for visitors passing through Stansted Airport.







## Listen to local people

Under the leadership of the Conservatives, Uttlesford District Council is planning to move to a Cabinet system, where most decisions are made by a handful of councillors behind closed doors. The Council has consulted the public on this issue - and on where to put new homes - only to ignore the results of the consultation when the public did not agree with their plans.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Giving decision-making powers to separate committees for the Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted areas.
- Ensuring that decisions which affect only these localities are made by local councillors in partnership with the local community.
- Making the Cabinet as open and accountable.
- Considering a system of community champions, where volunteer local residents work closely with council staff to fix local problems.
- Working closely and proactively with local voluntary groups.



## Make our district greener

Uttlesford District Council was at the cutting edge of recycling after the Liberal Democrats introduced the highly successful three wheelie bin recycling services, but it is starting to fall behind neighbouring councils.

The Liberal Democrats will fix this by:

- Working towards the addition of glass and garden waste to the items collected in wheelie bins by the Council and investigating the introduction of rewards and incentives for residents to recycle more.
- Regular cleaning of the verges on roads between towns and villages.
- Installation of solar panels and heat pumps on council buildings to save energy and council tax.



**Uttlesford District Council provides local services like refuse collection, recycling, council housing and leisure centres, but influences many others. Six to Fix are the issues you raise with us most often.**

**[www.saffronwaldenlibdems.co.uk](http://www.saffronwaldenlibdems.co.uk)**