

Bromsgrove Labour Party

A Green-New-Deal for Bromsgrove



Foreword



We currently face a climate crisis which is already doing untold damage to wildlife, air-quality, and quality of life etc... The effects of which are being felt within our district.

The number of residents suffering with respiratory problems is rising; our roads are highly congested, our green spaces are in decline and yet, the District Council refuses to commit to making the radical changes necessary to alleviate this problem.

Bromsgrove Labour Councillors, in an attempt to commit the council to taking the steps necessary to combat this issue, have pushed for a carbon neutral Bromsgrove within the next 11 years, in line with the IPCC report on climate change released in October 2018, which highlighted the risks associated with a rise in global temperatures exceeding 1.5 degrees and asserted that, in order to prevent this, relevant actors must strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

The Bromsgrove Labour Group is calling for the District Council to take steps to achieve carbon neutrality within its day-to-day operations by 2025, and to commit to achieving a carbon neutral district by 2030.

We, as a Council, have a duty to tackle climate change head on, our response to this crisis, must match the scale of the crisis.

The Labour Group

THREE LABOUR PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES



FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

The Labour Party acknowledges that the UK is among those countries particularly responsible for climate change on a historic, per capita emissions basis, and that the UK has the wealth and resources to lead efforts to tackle climate change, starting at a local level. The Bromsgrove Labour Party are committed to doing our fair share to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 °C, and we will base our efforts on what the scientific advice from the IPCC determines is necessary. Because Labour accepts that the climate is already changing, we commit to investing in social and infrastructural measures necessary to adapt to climate change that cannot be avoided, in a way that prioritises the most vulnerable in our society.

1. Limiting the effects of and adapting to climate change

Bromsgrove needs an administration that is progressively minded and unafraid to take the radical action required to ensure that we play our part in tackling the climate crisis.

In this regard, we call upon Bromsgrove District Council in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and others to:

- Install solar panels on all public buildings.
- Install water fountains in all public places.
- Single use plastics banned altogether.
- Use of only recyclable paper.
- Ensure that 60 per cent of Bromsgrove District Council's energy comes from low-carbon or renewable sources within two years.
- Take up and delivery of an insulation scheme, working street to street – addressing one of the main reasons for the district's poor record on insulation to date.

2. Achieving high air quality

Air pollution in the district has reached scandalous levels; worryingly, several areas of high concern are where our children walk to school and families gather at weekends. To add insult to injury, The Conservative administration has rolled back air pollution monitoring across the district.

We call upon Bromsgrove District Council, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council to implement the following:

- A carbon management plan.
- A new fleet of electric vehicles.
- Encourage operators to implement integrated green bus routes, offering a versatile service.
- Charging points in all council-owned car parks for public use.
- At least two air pollution monitoring stations in every ward.
- Establish low emission zones throughout the district.
- Lobby Worcestershire County Council to build a Western Relief Road (partly funded by developers who build in and profit from the district).
- Work with Worcestershire County Council to take

action to create more cycle routes and pathways.

- Install secure and weatherproof cycle racks near all high streets/centres to encourage travel by bicycle.

3. Reversing the decline of biodiversity and protecting natural habitats

According to the 2016 State of Nature report by leading conservation organisations, the UK is now “among the most nature-depleted countries in the world,” having lost significantly more natural habitats over the long term than the global average. In Bromsgrove, despite being a rural district, our green spaces are in decline.

We call upon Bromsgrove District Council, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and others to:

- Work with farmers and landowners to conserve, enhance and create safe habitats for birds, bees and other wildlife and encourage the growth of wildflowers.
- Initiate a large tree planting programme whereby 6 trees are planted for every one that is felled.
- Identify areas containing valuable resources (e.g. habitats, ecosystems and species) and then protect them.
- Adopt pollinator-friendly measures, including habitat protection, restoration and creation.

- Expand the community garden scheme, wildflower planting and install green walls across the district.
- Expand our allotment facilities to encourage grow-your-own initiatives.
- Subsidise the purchase of compost bins to enable families to recycle organic waste.
- Employ dog wardens to monitor and clamp down on dog foul.

Conclusion

The Bromsgrove Labour party understands that the environment is not the responsibility of any one department or local authority, but that environmental considerations need to be integrated within all major policy and spending decisions.

In order to take the necessary steps to tackle climate change nationally, local authorities, such as Bromsgrove have to step up and play their part.

By laying the groundwork for a genuinely different kind of local economy, one that is genuinely focused on renewable energy, tackling pollution, future-proofing our infrastructure etc... We can ensure that Bromsgrove, as a place to raise a family, work and socialise, looks forward to the opportunities that the green industrial revolution will afford for future Bromsgrovians.

Printed by Bromsgrove Printing, 14 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AE. Promoted by Rory Shannon on behalf of Bromsgrove Labour Party at 15 McConnell Close, Bromsgrove, B60 3SD.