

# **GOFORPUREGOLD**

## **Liberal Democrat Priorities for Oxfordshire 2005-2009**

### More for children and young people

- Increase funding for the Council's Youth Service to provide a good countywide service as well as targeted support for young people with special problems
- Keep the needs of young people in mind when planning transport services
- Encourage schools to provide a wide curriculum that engages the interest of all children and help them to succeed in reaching their potential
- Ensure that there is full time education, suited for their needs, for every child who does not fit into a mainstream school
- Increase the numbers of social workers in child protection so that Oxfordshire is at least equal to the national average

### Improve Transport

- Reduce delays in getting traffic schemes implemented by better performance management
- Give higher priority to the repair of pavements and footpaths
- Ensure the needs of walkers and cyclists are taken into account at an early stage in planning traffic schemes
- Increase resources for Better Ways to School, which is a project to reduce car use, so that we can respond to the demand from schools more speedily
- Improve transport links between Oxford and the rest of the county. Any new scheme must make a real difference to the transport provision without being either too expensive or environmentally unacceptable

### Run an efficient, modern council

- Complete the work already started on sorting out the Council's financial and IT systems
- Improve the way we consult with the public so that they know their views really count. Ensure that people from ethnic minorities are included in this
- Make access to Council services easier; one-stop shops with Districts and other partners; electronic access; prompt and useful response to personal, electronic, telephone or postal enquiries
- Ensure that Council meetings and reports are easily accessed by the public
- Maintain and improve the County magazine

- Support national LD policy to replace Council Tax with a fairer system, such as Local Income Tax, based on the ability to pay

#### Protect the Rural Character of Oxfordshire

- Protect the Green belt around Oxford
- Support rural communities through;
  - more frequent buses serving market towns
  - improved access to County Council services
  - affordable housing in villages
- Resist Labour City Councillors' plans for an ever-expanding Oxford, which we do not believe is supported by Oxford's residents
- Defend the interests of Oxfordshire against the decisions of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the undemocratic South East England Regional Assembly

#### More for Older People

- Put pressure on the government to support the Lib Dem policy of free personal care for older people
- Work with District Councils to produce community-based transport services (bus, shared car or taxi), meeting the needs of people without cars
- Put more resources into helping older people to stay active and independent through our preventative strategy and more day centres
- Continue support for the programme of building new residential homes, fit for older people today
- Maintain fair wages for care workers
- Give more support for family members acting as carers

#### Care for the environment

- Take determined measures to reduce pollution in Oxford and other busy town centres
- Uphold the County's commitment to 50% affordable housing in new developments to meet local need
- Ensure the infrastructure (transport, water etc.) is in place before new houses are occupied
- Protect the county's bio-diversity
- Work with other councils to reduce the amount of waste produced by Oxfordshire households
- Improve the maintenance of the county's network of footpaths