

Working with you and for you

**A Liberal Democrat Vision for South Gloucestershire
2015 Local Election**



Stronger Economy. Fairer Society.
Opportunity for Everyone.

Published and promoted by Ruth Davis at 11 Lydbrook Close, Yate BS37 4HS



**Ruth Davis
Leader of South
Gloucestershire's
Liberal Democrat
Councillors**

Over the past four years South Gloucestershire's Lib Dem councillors have worked hard to ensure that local people have a voice on the Council and to keep our area moving forward, despite the tough financial climate.

I am proud that we have been able to work together with local residents to ensure that South Gloucestershire remains a great place to live and work. However, there is still much more to do.

This manifesto is not a shopping list of unfunded promises. Instead it presents a clear picture of our priorities and aspirations for the next four years.

I hope you will consider voting Liberal Democrat on May 7th so we can continue to work with you to keep South Gloucestershire moving in the right direction.



Ensuring fairness and empowering communities



Despite reduced funding from central government, the local Lib Dems have consistently worked to protect those in greatest need to help create a fairer society.

Localism is at the heart of everything we do. We will continue to ensure that important decisions are not simply left to council officers and that residents have a real voice in local decision-making.

1. Prioritise the protection of services for vulnerable residents and fight for fair access to services for rural residents.
2. Maintain the Council's commitment to a living wage and continue to lobby the Council's suppliers and providers to do the same.
3. Empower local communities and residents by ensuring that they have a voice in decision-making through town/parish councils and area forums.
4. Continuing to support local voluntary groups through area forum grants.
5. Look at ways of improving the standards of accommodation available for private tenants.

A record of action...

The local Lib Dems ensured that a proportion of New Homes Bonus money is given to the areas where the new homes have been built, so those that take the pain get the gain.

A healthier and more caring place to live



South Gloucestershire has some brilliant and caring health professionals. But services are still not always as good as they should be. We will work closely with the residents and the local NHS to help drive up standards and improve support for carers.

1. We will lobby for greater support and recognition for carers in South Gloucestershire.
2. Foster stronger partnership with your local NHS to help enable better local services.
3. Increase emphasis on helping people to lead healthier lives and doing more to help tackle chronic health problems caused by smoking, alcohol and drugs.
4. Support more work to help to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.
5. Work in partnership with the police to help tackle anti-social behaviour and create a sense of safety for all.

A record of action...

We have consistently campaigned for more health services to be provided at Yate, Thornbury and elsewhere so you don't have to travel to Southmead unnecessarily.

Helping to get South Gloucestershire moving



The local Lib Dem team have worked hard over the years to help improve public transport across South Gloucestershire.

We will continue to campaign hard to protect and increase local bus and train services and to take steps to reduce congestion and improve our roads.

1. We will make it easier for people to walk and cycle safely.
2. Improve roads and tackle potholes.
3. Reduce congestion through our towns and villages.
4. Open new Park and Share and Park and Ride sites.
5. Work with bus companies to improve services and reliability, reduce fares, and introduce smart cards.
6. Support improvements to rail services including MetroWest and half hourly trains between Bristol and Yate.

A record of action...

We've consistently campaigned for more bus services for under-served areas like Oldland Common. Lib Dem councillors successfully campaigned for the extension of the hourly 82 bus service connecting Yate to Southmead so that it now also serves Chipping Sodbury and Charfield.

Keeping our area green for future generations



Caring for our environment has always been a key Lib Dem principal. Over the past four years we have worked to increase the amount of rubbish South Gloucestershire recycles.

We will use green space designation powers to help keep our area green for future generations.

1. We will use the Council's planning powers to protect green spaces to the same level as the Green Belt.
2. Work to ensure more affordable housing is available locally (including through support for self-build schemes) while ensuring that neighbouring authorities also take their fair share.
3. Protect the local Green Belt from unsuitable developments.
4. Continue to improve recycling rates and increase the range of items that can be recycled.
5. Reduce the Council's carbon emissions through energy saving and increased use of renewables.

A record of action...

We delivered on our 2011 manifesto commitment to collect Tetrapaks for recycling as well as mixed plastics and small electrical items. We've also pushed the council to cut its energy bills and carbon footprint.

A stronger local economy that will benefit everyone



South Gloucestershire is the economic powerhouse of the West of England and this has helped to keep unemployment well below the national average. But more needs to be done to ensure that our local economy benefits everyone.

1. We will expand and promote apprenticeship schemes that provide real experience and prospects for our young people.
2. Work with businesses, schools & colleges to make sure people have the skills they need to help our local economy to thrive and create jobs.
3. Continue to improve broadband connectivity throughout rural and urban areas and to give residents more choice over their broadband provider.
4. Ensure even better support for new and existing businesses.
5. Keep local high streets the centres of our communities.

A record of action...

By working constructively with central government and the Local Economic Partnership we've helped to foster strong employment growth across South Gloucestershire.