

Bishop's Stortford Climate Group – Local Elections 2023

Conservative, Alastair Ward-Booth

On behalf of the Conservative candidates for East Herts District Council in Bishop's Stortford

- 1. EHDC to reaffirm its commitment to its Climate Change Motion, review progress towards its target and strengthen its policies?**

In July 2019 Conservative-run East Herts Council unanimously approved a Climate Change Declaration. This declaration commits the council to take action to address the causes and impacts of climate change across our district. The Council adopted a Climate Change Strategy 2022 – 2026, which will naturally be reviewed during the course of the next Council term.

The 2023/24 Sustainability Action Timetable is published on the East Herts website ([here](#)) which shows how East Herts is committed to monitoring progress and strengthen its sustainability policies. A Conservative-run East Herts will continue to put sustainability at the heart of everything the Council does to create a cleaner, greener East Herts.

- 2. If elected, will you push for EHDC to undertake and complete, within one year of the election, a partial update of the Local Plan (LPPU) to require all new developments to be net zero? And to require net zero for domestic extensions when homes are modified?**

The Local Plan will be reviewed in full during the next Council term, including all measures related to Climate Change and the Council's net zero ambitions. A Conservative-run East Herts will continue to be involved with the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) which has approved over 150 actions to be delivered before 2030 in pursuit of the Council's net zero ambitions, including measures such as major developments having to have a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% from November 2023.

- 3. If elected, will you push for a full review of the project to regenerate the Old River Lane site, to engage the community and deliver new and exemplary proposals fully in line with the Council's commitment to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030?**

Your local Conservatives have always stressed the importance of arts and community use in the ORL regeneration scheme, which include an arts centre and a new public square / performance area. It was a great disappointment that the project has not been able to proceed as originally envisaged due to the cost of covid, changes to national funding rules and the two year delay caused by the judicial review of the Northgate End car park. We will continue to look at the best way to proceed with this regeneration project, and put sustainability at the heart of the redevelopment.

- 4. If elected, will you commit to enhance the management of parks and green space for wildlife, to continue 'No Mow May' and to develop green corridors throughout East Herts?**

Conservative-run East Herts has led the way in creating new wildflower meadows to help boost habitats for a variety of wildlife – including pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies, flies, moths and beetles that are in decline. Locations include the Parsonage Lane Play Area and the Shearers Field in Bishop's Stortford as well as wildflower meadows created in Southern Country Park.

A Conservative-run East Herts will continue to enhance the management of parks and green space for wildlife. In Bishop's Stortford, the

5. If elected, will you follow the Pesticide Action Network three-year phase-out plan for pesticides?

The HCCSP Action Plan for Biodiversity includes a commitment for local authorities to minimise and where possible exclude the use of pesticides/herbicides and a Conservative-run East Herts is committed to working with HCCSP members to implement this action plan and enhance biodiversity through suitable land management.