

## **Bishop's Stortford Climate Group – Local Elections 2023**

### **Liberal Democrats, Mione Goldspink**

Here are my answers to your questions , if I am elected to East Herts District Council on May 4<sup>th</sup>, I will certainly :-

1. Call for EHDC to reaffirm its commitment to its climate change Motion, to review progress towards its target and to strengthen its policies. Since I and my Lib-Dem colleagues were the ones who proposed the Climate Emergency Motion in July 2019, I feel very strongly about this topic. The Conservatives watered down the motion a bit, by refusing to use the word "Emergency", but they did agree to the target of becoming net Zero in Council's operations by 2030. At the previous meeting in May 2019, my suggestion that every Council proposal should be required to have a sustainability and environmental assessment attached to it was accepted by the whole Council. Over the last 4 years, we Lib-Dems have been monitoring progress closely.
2. Yes, I will certainly push for EHDC to undertake and to 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. These requirements are long overdue, and the lack of any teeth in the existing Local Plan has been a source of great disappointment and frustration to us all, and especially to members of the Development Management Committee.
3. Yes, I agree completely with your comments. I and my Lib-Dem colleagues have been calling repeatedly for a Review of the proposals for the Old River Lane site. At the very first Council after we were elected in May 2019, we proposed a Motion that the whole project should be put on hold in order to allow for full public consultation. The Conservatives voted against this motion. More recently, we worked with some Labour activists to organise a public meeting at which we explained what Cityheart's outline planning application entailed, and the Council's aims to demolish 2 existing buildings against its own policies. About 200 people attended the meeting and thereafter sent 250 letters to the council asking for a pause. We had all sent in comments, individually, against the Planning Applications for the demolitions. So, yes, I will continue to push for a full review of the project to regenerate the Old River Lane site and to engage the community etc.
4. Yes, I will commit to attempting to enhance the management of parks and green spaces for wildlife, to continue "no Mow May", and to try to develop green corridors throughout East Herts. I cannot promise to achieve all of this, but I will try. (As Lib-dems we did propose a Motion on protecting wildflowers, but, I'm afraid that I cannot remember the date.)
5. Finally, Yes, I will certainly attempt to follow the Pesticide Action network UK three-year phase-out plan for pesticides.