

Annual Report



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We work hard for you - all year round

The Liberal Democrats aim to be the hardest working political party all year round in North Hertfordshire and beyond. We represent residents, push forward sensible policies and improve the local area to help make Royston a greener, happier, healthier place to be.

That's why we're taking stock to look at everything that you have helped us to achieve this year.

Since May 2019 - when the Liberal Democrat group became part of the joint administration of North Herts Council - we've been able to both do much more for the local area - including supporting local organisations, taking action to improve the environment and listening to local people's views more.

On the County Council the Conservatives are still in control but we have been able to make some improvements to local roads and pavements, whilst arguing that much more could be done.

In this annual report, we'll run through some of what we've achieved in Royston on your behalf. We want to show you that every vote you lend to us turns into positive change for Royston and North Hertfordshire.

Steve Jarvis, Ruth Brown, Carol Stanier, Emma Squire-Smith & Tom Perry

Keeping in touch all year round



Steve Jarvis, Ruth Brown, Carol Stanier, Emma Squire-Smith and Tom Perry working for Royston all year round

Action for our area ...

Recycling bins for the town centre

Nine new recycling bins have been installed in Royston town centre to promote recycling and discourage litter.



The bins have been provided by NHDC through the Royston Town Centre Working Party led by Ruth Brown. The dual compartment bins enable shoppers to dispose of cans, plastic, bottles and paper in a separate compartment of the bin which is emptied separately and recycled.



Tree planting and wilding

North Herts Council have set up a community tree planting programme which will provide 10,000 trees for residents to plant in the district this autumn.

This is in addition to planting more than 1000 trees on the council's own land in the last year.

The council has also identified 30 sites which could be "wilded" to increase biodiversity.

20mph limits for safer roads



Steve Jarvis has fought to overturn a decision by Herts County Council to make it harder to introduce 20mph limits. Unfortunately Conservative councillors blocked his efforts meaning that any 20mph limits that are installed will cost more.

Steve hopes that the decision can be overturned after the County Council elections in May but in the meantime has come up with a way to get a 20mph limit installed in Tannery Drift. The narrow road, narrow pavements and the school means that this is one of the roads most in need of a cut in speeds.

Supporting local groups and businesses

The last year has been tough for many people but it is great to see how local groups and neighbours have supported one another. Ruth Brown worked with NHDC to set up a £150,000 fund for Covid community support and Steve Jarvis has allocated money from his HCC locality budget. Organisations which have benefitted include NESSIE for support of young people with mental health problems, Homestart for families with young children and Royston Day Care Centre for the elderly.

North Herts Council has made grants to 35,000 businesses totalling over £35 million. This includes local schemes to meet the needs of those the government overlooked, such as taxi drivers and homeworkers.



Free School Meals

Liberal Democrat County Councillors pressed the County Council to step in when the government refused to provide free school meals during the Christmas holidays.

Eventually the council gave in and will provide vouchers for the Easter holidays and May half term, but they are still refusing to help families over the summer holidays or in the next school year.

Roads and pavements

Getting Herts County Council to repair the roads can be a challenge - and the Conservatives have just cut the budget because they say the roads are in good enough condition.

Steve Jarvis has managed to get a number of improvements done, including plans to build a traffic island in Baldock Road to slow traffic and ease crossing. It is also good to see that work is now planned to deal with some of the safety issues on the A505 between Royston and Baldock.

