



## Candidate Statement: Josh Reynolds - Liberal Democrats

Thank you for your email and the amazing work you and your colleagues are doing for Maidenhead residents. Ironically, I am writing this email in sweltering June temperatures — an important reminder of what this is all about.

Locally, we have always said we will try to stop development on inappropriate sites and where we are unable to do so, we will mitigate the impact of those developments by reducing the footprint, encouraging environmentally friendly building and supporting nearby rewilding.

We want developers to put climate change and biodiversity first, through our planning system and corporate plan. When it comes to any development in the Borough, we are aligned with the Climate Partnership's Vision of "The population of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead will be a healthier and happier community, thriving in harmony with nature. Everyone will benefit equitably from cleaner air and water, affordable, renewable energy, greater biodiversity and efficient, resilient infrastructure."

We will certainly oppose any more sacrifice of the green belt across the Borough.

Energy generation and efficiency is a key component of our asset management plan.

We want to see:

- Solar panels on roofs
- wider use of ground- and air-source heat pumps, and rainwater harvesting
- cleaner modes of transport with more cycle paths and secure bike parking, better walking routes, an improved bus service and a dramatic increase in electric charging points.

And we will maintain the weekly recycling collections to encourage residents to recycle more and choose sustainable forms of packaging.

I am opposed to the government directive to disband our Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) and am adamant that we will keep them going in the Borough.

Nationally, Liberal Democrats are committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045 at the latest. We would:

- Meet the UK's commitment under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions by at least 68% from 1990 levels by 2030, and campaign for greater global ambition. As part of this we would work to associate the UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) with the EU ETS.
- Restore the international development budget to 0.7% of national income and ensure tackling climate change is a key priority for development spending. We would continue the UK's support

for the UN Loss and Damage Fund for countries particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and ensure a just transition for all.

- Give Ofgem and other regulators a duty to help deliver net zero.
- Invest in education and training to equip people with the skills needed for the low-carbon economy of the future.
- Ensure that nature-based solutions, such as tree planting, form a key part of the UK's strategy to tackle climate change.
- Put our farming and food system on an environmentally sustainable footing.
- Make it cheaper and easier to switch to electric vehicles, electrify Britain's railways, and reduce the climate impact of flying.
- Require all new homes and non-domestic buildings to be built to a zero-carbon standard - fitted with solar panels and require landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties to EPC C or above by 2028.

I and the Liberal Democrats want to champion the expansion of community and decentralised energy. We would:

- Reduce access costs for grid connections.
- Reform the energy network to permit local energy grids.
- Guarantee that community benefit funds receive a fair share of the wealth created by local renewables.
- Give small low-carbon generators the right to export their electricity to an existing electricity supplier on fair terms.
- Make it a requirement that large energy suppliers work with community schemes to sell the power they generate to local customers.

To ensure businesses play their part in tackling climate change, Liberal Democrats would:

- Introduce a general duty of care for the environment and human rights in business operations and supply chains
- Require all large companies listed on UK stock exchanges to set targets consistent with achieving the net zero goal, and to report on their progress.
- Regulate financial services to encourage climate-friendly investments, including requiring pension funds and managers to show that their portfolio investments are consistent with the Paris Agreement and creating new powers for regulators to act if banks and other investors are not managing climate risks properly.

I'm sorry this email goes on for so long — I have actually heavily condensed it and can share more with you if you wish, but I hope this gives you a flavour of how seriously we are taking the threat posed by climate change.

Please do get in touch if you would like any more of the details.

Kind regards,  
Joshua Reynolds