

Boston District Labour Party

Manifesto

For the Local Elections May 2011

Our Vision for Boston



We will fight for a Boston that is safer, cleaner, greener, active, accessible, creative, healthy, attractive, homelier and fairer.

BY:

Putting the people of Boston first

Strong community leadership

Being honest and transparent

Listening to the electorate

Giving value for money and not wasting expenditure

A safer Boston -- clamping down on crime and anti-social behaviour

- Involve the public in making the town safer, listening to their views and making use of their local knowledge
- Bring council staff responsible for tackling graffiti, dog fouling, noise, etc. together with neighbourhood police teams to meet the public at street meetings and neighbourhood panels
- Seek to maintain existing levels of CCTV and look at possible new cameras in areas like Burgess Pit and Revesby Avenue, working closely with the police.
- Encourage residents to bring forward their concerns about how pubs and clubs are run and where necessary rescinding their licenses if they don't comply with local concerns
- Clampdown on binge-drinking – ensure licensed premises abide by the terms of their licences on noise, nuisance, drinking outside
- Make full use of the government's new regulations giving councillors the right to object to applications for licences and to instigate reviews into existing ones where it appears that licensing conditions are being flouted
- Campaign to reduce drinking on our streets by working with local supermarkets, publicans and the police
- Work closely with voluntary and health organisations to promote services for people suffering from drink and drug problems to reduce the effects on individuals and families within Boston.

A cleaner Boston -- With on the spot fines for litter, fly-tipping

- Introduce 'contracts' between the council and local communities, pledging to keep their area up to an agreed level of cleanliness and enabling local residents to set off an investigation into the cleanliness and safety of their part of town. This will involve the Council, the police and other public bodies and local residents' groups signing community contracts pledging quality services in a locality
- Fight for the reintroduction of the dog warden and pest control officer that were previously scrapped by the council
- We believe that every resident has the right to have their street cleaned regularly and we will work with communities to ensure year round cleanliness
- Put pressure on food outlets in the town and the borough to take a greater responsibility to reduce the amount of rubbish/litter outside their premises, and where necessary use council enforcement powers.
- We will put pressure on the council to renew its aging fleet of refuse collection vehicles to make sure that we have vehicles that are fit for purpose and value for money

A greener Boston -- With local targets for cutting greenhouse gases

- Ensure new developments are built to the highest environmental standards and enforce environmental requirements of building regulations
- Compel all new developments to make proper provision for protecting green space as well as for adequate play space for children
- We would investigate ways to re-establish the allotments in Broadfield Lane, and also look at developing other allotments as we recognize that people wish to have the use of allotments for growing their household needs
- To review and upgrade our play provision, ensure that they are fit for purpose, encourage greater use and ensure that new play areas are installed through the planning system when new houses are built

- Develop plans for increasing recycling, including collecting food waste and glass.
- We wish to encourage greater use of energy saving bulbs and strive towards Boston being at the forefront of energy saving by using these bulbs
- Ensure that all residents are aware of how to use the recycling facilities and positively encourage people to recycle more waste.
- We will work together with our supermarkets and shops to reduce the use of plastic bags
- The provision of burial and crematorium services should be affordable and of the highest quality. We will strive to ensure that the facilities provided in Boston fully meet the needs of our community and complies with modern standards of emissions.
- We would promote the good practice which is done in other authorities and take several cases of litter and fly tipping enforcement to court at the same time to maximize value for money and encourage maximum enforcement.
- We would instigate annual clean up awards for individuals, local streets and companies where we would promote good practice which would highlight people who go that extra mile and also giving examples of bad practice to improve the standard of cleanliness in Boston.

An active Boston -- With more sports and leisure facilities

- To develop a Boston Leisure Pass which is accessible to a wide range of people including senior citizens, registered unemployed people, anyone on income support, registered disabled people, and all 16-18 year olds. The pass would allow holders to be able to use various leisure facilities at a reduced price.
- To ensure that our swimming baths are fit for purpose and have a charging policy that doesn't discriminate against people with low incomes
- We have never supported the enormous amounts of money being paid to PRSA. We have not seen the confidential papers and are not in a position to give an absolute answer before May – however on the information we have at this time, we would commit to cease all funding to the PRSA as soon as possible and could not envisage voting for another penny being spent after May

- To develop an active relationship with all sports organisations within the Boston area.
- To promote a sports partnership forum bringing all sports together in developing a truly integrated sports provision for all ages
- To encourage local GPs to promote fitness by prescription and work with local sports providers to develop this service
- To promote the Olympics 2012 throughout the Borough, either through sporting events at our sports centres or localised events within our communities

An accessible Boston -- Traffic flow in and around Boston keeps moving

- To establish a commission that acts as a catalyst to improve traffic flows in and around Boston engaging all political parties, the local community, businesses, schools, churches, health and Boston Borough Council to keep pressure on Lincolnshire County Council and the government for long term actions and solutions.
- To ensure that fairer car parking charges are introduced to encourage more people to our town and reflecting that Boston is a low income area
- To keep pressure on Lincolnshire County Council to maintain the into town bus service and maintain rural bus services within the borough boundary and to fight any cuts in essential bus services where necessary
- To ensure that local taxis provide quality services at affordable prices and where necessary enforce their licenses
- To work hard to promote cycle routes within our town
- Encourage local schools to develop walking bus and other transport solutions to reducing the school run
- Encourage local people where possible to do car sharing either for business or leisure activities

A creative Boston -- Encouraging culture and the arts for all

- Take cultural activity out into the local communities around the borough.
- To work with Blackfriars Theatre and its theatrical user groups to encourage and promote drama, music, dance within our town and its local communities

- Provide finance for local artistic and community events such as Party in the Park
- Promote cultural activities through our schools, youth organizations, older people's organizations and local communities.

A healthy Boston -- Encouraging healthier lifestyles

- Press the health authorities to recognise the extra needs of Boston and to allocate additional resources to the town.
- To build on the successes of the Boston Healthier Walks and ensure that there is more take up by giving more flexibility of times and days and locations within the next twelve months
- To promote and develop local growing schemes and encourage the citizens of Boston to be engaged in gardening by setting up tool hire schemes to help them grow vegetables and flowers in their gardens or within community patches across the Borough and to extend community growing into our streets/ open spaces/ public areas following the example set by Todmorden.
- To promote community co-operative food hubs where people can buy cheap food which would benefit low income families who struggle to buy nutritious food

An attractive Boston -- Tackling derelict properties and preserving the best of its historic architecture

- To review and preserve the best of Boston's architectural heritage
- To promote Boston as a desirable shopping area within the county by developing good affordable parking, an attractive market place and a good retail mix.
- We are concerned that the proposed £2M development of Boston Market Place is an untimely use of Boston Borough Council resources and detracts expenditure from other key services. This piecemeal development will not deliver the improvements needed for the centre of our town and needs a total rethink.
- To review expenditure on Christmas lights and events and to organize a proper civic "Turn on" of the Christmas lights engaging local schools, theatre groups, businesses and the wider community, encouraging attendance of the mayor and all councillors.
- To work with the environment agency and central government to ensure the proposed flood barrage actually goes ahead and delivers an attractive legacy that encourages people to visit the barrage

- To develop more attractive maintenance and presentation of our waterways and drains within Boston to encourage tourism
- To keep the Assembly rooms and ensure that it is more publically used giving it a more sustainable income
- Maintain the strong relationship with the Boston Stump in promoting tourism.
- We are eager that 116 High Street is completely refurbished and brought back into public use and will work with other agencies to this end
- To review our Tourist Information Office and if necessary, return it to the Market Place where it was more used

A homelier Boston -- Tackling homelessness and create sustainable housing

- Bring forward an additional tough licensing scheme for privately rented accommodation to protect tenants from bad landlords
- We will fight for more enforcement on overcrowding where bad landlords make people live in intolerable living conditions
- To put a greater emphasis on Boston Borough Councils commitment to reducing homelessness and where necessary find resources from the council budget or external funders to encourage emergency accommodation/drop in centres, especially during periods of cold weather.
- Review and improve the existing choice based lettings scheme
- Ensure that our planning system maximizes the development of more sustainable housing which is available for social housing with affordable rents
- Create better dialogue between the Environment Agency and Boston Borough Council when discussing issues around flood risk so this does not blight the possibility of new builds in Boston
- More partnership working with voluntary groups who are engaged in supporting homeless activities.
- Take tougher measures including compulsory purchase to bring empty homes back into use.
- We wish to promote and develop independent living within the home and we will work closely with other agencies to ensure that the added burden does not lead to poverty

A fairer Boston -- Improving the position of the poorer households and communities

- Work to narrow the gap in incomes and quality of life between our town and the rest of the county and the East Midlands. But equally we will work to narrow the gap between the most deprived parts of Boston and the rest of the town.
- The voluntary sector is a key part of service provision to our local communities and is under threat because of disproportionate central government cuts. We will fight to minimize the impact of these cuts to these key services providers – namely CAB, CVS, Age Concern, Centre Point Outreach etc. to protect the most vulnerable people in our society.
- To recognize the contribution of smaller third sector organizations to the local community and work with them to ensure they have a sustainable future
- Develop an anti-poverty strategy for the town
- Establish a zero tolerance of hate crime against anyone due to their disability, sexual orientation, race etc.
- Work with disability groups to press shops, hotels, restaurants, pubs etc throughout the town to make their premises fully accessible
- Involve local people in debating alternative options for future policies, work to rebuild public trust and confidence in politics and expanding on the placecheck ethos to all areas across the borough
- Introduce better ways of engaging young people, building on the successes of school councils and looking at introducing a young mayor to champion young people's issues on the council
- We have been appalled how the BBIP have abused the right of residents to be fully aware of how the council does its business by holding numerous meetings behind closed doors and burying information in confidential reports. We will fight for more open meetings and for almost all but the most confidential or sensitive paperwork to be available to the public based on openness and transparency.
- To value all of our council staff and the public service ethos they represent and ensure that they are actively listening to the needs of the citizens of Boston
- Details of councillor's attendance at meeting and other civic duties and the record of their declared interests to be reviewed and published on the council website