

TIME FOR CHANGE. TIME FOR A NEW COUNCIL.

VOTE CONSERVATIVE

MAY 2019

WE WILL END WASTE. NO MORE ANNUAL ELECTIONS

SAVING YOU **£350K**

COLCHESTER CONSERVATIVES BELIEVE IN COLCHESTER'S POTENTIAL BUT OUR TOWN CENTRE AND OUR INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION.

WE WILL

- ✓ PLAN BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND TACKLE CONGESTION
- ✓ SUPPORT BUSINESSES AND ATTRACT JOBS
- ✓ CREATE A CARBON NEUTRAL PLAN

- ✓ END COSTLY ANNUAL ELECTIONS
- ✓ HELP DELIVER A SOLUTION FOR JUMBO
- ✓ MAKE THE MOST OF OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE

WE WANT

ACTION AGAINST AGGRESSIVE BEGGING AND CRIMINALS

CLEANER, GREENER STREETS & MORE TREES

LOCAL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Dear voter,

Imagine a Colchester with the buzz of Brighton and the beauty of Bury St. Edmunds? Wouldn't it be good if our Town Centre eclipsed what Chelmsford has to offer? As well as regenerating key sites within the Town Centre I am firmly committed to protecting everything that is special about the countryside throughout our Borough and especially our wonderful Mersea Island.

Colchester is Britain's Oldest Recorded Town and was Britain's First Roman City, we have the world's largest Norman Keep, Britain's only Roman Chariot Racing Circus, Britain's first and longest Roman City Walls, hidden temples and iron-age treasures just waiting to be explored. We are the home of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star; Humpty Dumpty and Britpop legends blur.

A Conservative run Council will protect and promote our heritage and cultural assets to make Colchester the 'must visit' destination of East Anglia. Colchester should be a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will improve the long-term decision-making process and significantly reduce the cost of elections.

Sadly, some very basic issues need urgent attention. We are all suffering from years of excessive housing development and a lack of proper infrastructure planning, gridlocked roads, poor air quality and disjointed cycle routes. A Conservative Council will work with Essex County Council and the Government to deliver improvements.

Our historic Town Centre needs fixing. Our pavements have fallen into disrepair, our historic Charter market has contracted. Aggressive beggars are taking advantage of good natured Colcestrians. We want to ensure that help gets through to those who are genuinely homeless. A Conservative Council will invest in our CCTV network to improve security and, working with the Police, take a zero-tolerance approach to those who seek to intimidate and spoil our Town Centre.

It is almost 2000 years since the Romans first arrived here - by setting out a vision now, our children and grandchildren will reap the benefits. It will take time, but I am determined to deliver a better Colchester for us all.

Yours sincerely



Cllr. Darius G Laws, Castle Ward
Conservative (Opposition) Group Leader
Colchester Borough Council - 2019

CLEANER & GREENER COLCHESTER

We will create a plan so we're carbon neutral. We also want to return Civic Pride to our streets and tackle the scourge of plastic litter and grime. We will do this by:

- ✓ Committing to a carbon neutral Colchester, we will publish an annual audit on performance.
- ✓ Making recycling easier and incentivise residents and businesses to recycle more - so we can save the Earth's natural resources, reduce landfill and be more cost effective. We will take steps to help to reduce 'single use' plastics.
- ✓ Incentivising electric cars, electric bikes and cycling to help improve air quality.
- ✓ Planting more trees, shrubs and flowers. Returning our once beautiful Victorian tree-lined streets back to how they once were.



- ✓ Investing in Zone Wardens, Rangers and street cleaning teams.
- ✓ Increasing the use of fixed penalty notices for dropping litter, dog fouling and graffiti.
- ✓ Improving access to the River Colne

ENTERPRISE & ASPIRATION

Conservatives have always been the party for enterprise and aspiration. We will support, grow and welcome entrepreneurship within the Borough of Colchester.

As well as helping start-ups, we will encourage established retail brands and service sector businesses to make Colchester part of their portfolio. We promise we will make

Colchester even better, safer, cleaner, greener and a nicer place in which to work, live and play.

SAFER COLCHESTER

Aggressive professional beggars are creating an intimidating atmosphere in our Town Centre. These people, who prey on the goodwill of people in Colchester, make it harder for us to identify those who are genuinely in need and direct help to them.

We will clamp-down on anti-social behaviour and do all in

our power to make Colchester a warm and welcoming place by:

- ✓ Investing in Police Community Support Officers
- ✓ Using council and Police powers to end aggressive begging in the town.
- ✓ Helping genuine rough sleepers back into accommodation.
- ✓ Investing in better CCTV and supporting the Police in evidence gathering.

✓ Taking a zero-tolerance approach to violent offenders and anti-social behaviour.

✓ Banning violent offenders from licensed premises.



FIGHTING OVER-DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Colchester has grown too big, too quickly. Since 2003, more houses and flats have been built in our Borough than anywhere else in East Anglia. Yet, the local infrastructure has not kept pace.

More houses means pressure on the already over-stretched local infrastructure, including roads, schools, GP Surgeries and the Hospital. To deal with the Borough's infrastructure crisis and over-development problem, a Conservative led Council will:

- ✓ Scrap plans for a 27,000 home new town west of Colchester and empower Wivenhoe and communities to the east on development. Return to the drawing board on the local plan.
- ✓ Implement a 5-year plan to deal with Colchester's worst infrastructure problems.
- ✓ Ring-fence the New Homes Bonus funding received from government for infrastructure projects not elephants.
- ✓ Introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on all new housing developments to help pay for roads, sustainable transport and other infrastructure.
- ✓ Empower communities, villages and parishes to develop Neighbourhood Plans, which will protect their identities and allow local residents a direct say over jobs, homes, infrastructure and services for the future.

✓ Ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place before the completion of all new housing developments.

✓ Publish an annual report on how we are reducing our infrastructure deficit.

✓ Explore introducing discounted bus passes for young people and families

✓ Create a cycling and walking masterplan. As well as linking disjointed routes, this would also deliver improved lighting and CCTV to ensure the paths are safe.

✓ Support the provision of new Alms houses as an alternative to social rented accommodation. Modern Alms houses can provide truly affordable housing for local people, of all ages

EASIER TRAVEL

Travelling around the Borough can be slow and frustrating. We want to create an environment that attracts shoppers, visitors and new businesses - and also enables local people go about their daily business! We will do this by:

- ✓ Introducing a discount bus pass for young people and families.
- ✓ Introducing 'Boris Bikes' throughout the Borough, as well as exploring E-Bike solutions,

supported by a new cycling masterplan.

- ✓ Promoting a shuttle bus and Park & Ride routes between rail stations, leisure and retail destinations.
- ✓ Creating a 'Tube style' bus map for the Borough of Colchester.
- ✓ Making sure cycling provision is not just an add-on but part of an integrated transport system.
- ✓ More funding for the Local High-

✓ ways Panel work to invest in transport projects across the Borough.

✓ Taking back control from Essex Highways of minor street repairs, furniture and signage within the historic Old Town and non-parished areas.

✓ Launching VIP car parking for Green (Electric) cars and accelerating the installation of Green infrastructure (such as charging points) to improve air quality.

END ANNUAL ELECTIONS

We will replace annual Borough Council Elections with “all out” elections once every 4 years.

Many Local Authorities, including neighbouring Braintree and Tendring

Councils, hold elections only once every four years, with all Councillors being elected at the same time (“all out” elections). Colchester’s election cycle encourages short-term decision-making and discourages long-term planning. It is also a waste of your money. Each election costs £177,000, so a move to “all-out” elections would save

£354,000 Council Tax-payers’ money over a 4-year cycle.

This move will give greater assurances to our key grant funded partner organisations such as: the Mercury Theatre, Firstsite, The Arts Centre, Age Concern and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

PROMOTE TOURISM, OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE, CULTURE AND IMPROVE THE PUBLIC REALM

Colchester’s heritage is our unique selling point and should underpin our tourist drive and Historic Old Town experience. We should aspire for UNESCO World Heritage Status. We will make more of what we have by:



- ✓ Exploring opening a Roman experience / Tourist Information Centre as part of reviewing the St Botolph’s Quarter Masterplan.
- ✓ Licensing ‘Roman’ street re-enactors and other historical ‘characters’.
- ✓ Helping to deliver a “restaurant in the sky” for Jumbo, with a lift for all to access.
- ✓ Introduce a multi-site ticket scheme for local attractions, including the Castle, Zoo and Roman Circus Centre.
- ✓ Ensuring ‘once in a lifetime’ archaeological opportunities are maximised, including looking into opening an Ancient Briton and Roman Visitor Centre at Gosbecks, and better supporting the country’s only known Roman Circus.

MAKING MORE OF WHAT WE HAVE

- ✓ Enhancing Colchester Market and make the ‘lanes’ (Eld Lane and Sir Isaacs Walk) even more pedestrian friendly.
- ✓ Improve the public realm by delivering new public squares such as St Nicholas and Jumbo Square.
- ✓ Ensuring more public owned art and artefacts are displayed, and not left in storage.
- ✓ Introducing music in Council-run car parks. Lighting up the Roman Walls, Jumbo, civic buildings and other important monuments.
- ✓ Support the retention of our libraries

HOUSING AND RURAL ISSUES

We have consistently challenged the current left-wing Coalition Council’s approach to housing. We will keep all options on the table and are prepared to modify the Local Plan. We want to avoid speculative development that can put pressure on existing community services and identities.

Many rural areas feel let down by this Coalition Council, especially over the engagement in the ‘Garden Communities’ project.

A Conservative Council will empower communities, villages and parishes to develop Neighbourhood Plans which will protect their identities and allow

local residents a direct say over jobs, homes, infrastructure and services for the future.

We will also work more closely with Essex County Council to address issues and concerns that tend to disproportionately affect those living in rural areas, including:

- ✓ A strategy to improve the Broad band service.
- ✓ Delivering a rural bus service that residents need and want.
- ✓ Support development of Alms houses for local people of all ages.
- ✓ Supporting the rural ‘Dark Skies’ project.



LOCAL HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

We will review the criteria to support prioritising social housing for local residents with the most complex needs first.

TIME FOR CHANGE. TIME FOR A NEW COUNCIL.
VOTE CONSERVATIVE

02 MAY 2019

Call or email us: 07786 007560
conservatives@colchesterborough.com

[Twitter.com/ColTories](https://twitter.com/ColTories)

[Facebook.com/ColchesterConservatives](https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterConservatives)

[@ColchesterConservatives](https://twitter.com/ColchesterConservatives)

www.colchesterborough.com