

HEREFORDSHIRE ALLIANCE

If you want things to see change
You need to do things differently

2nd May 2019

VOTE FOR CHANGE – VOTE ALLIANCE

Right across Herefordshire, people standing in these local elections are pledging to work together to bring about a change in the way the Council is governed and a change in how the County is led.

Candidates who have pledged to uphold the principles underpinning 'The Alliance' are listed on The Herefordshire Alliance website:

www.HerefordshireAlliance.org

Please check that your preferred candidate has pledged to support 'The Alliance' before casting your vote.

HEREfordshire
ALLiance 



+ NON-ALIGNED INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

It's Time for Change

We could show you lots of pictures of potholes, overgrown verges and overflowing litter bins, but what's the point? We all know standards have slipped in recent times, and Herefordshire faces further huge challenges in the next four years. The Revenue Support Grant from Central Government, which is supposed to redistribute central taxation to account for local differences, has now **reduced to nil**. This means that while the Conservatives have been in charge of Herefordshire, **the council has lost £90m per year (adj. for inflation) of funding for our services.**

Both our MPs, Bill Wiggin and Jesse Norman, have **repeatedly voted in favour of slashing this funding**. They have even **voted against 'expressing regret' at this situation** AND have also voted against **'resolving to base future decisions on local government funding on fairness, protecting front line services and promoting growth.'** (*www.theyworkforyou.com)

So how do we change things? We need to accept that urban-centric, top-down national party policies simply do not work in places like Herefordshire. **We need to stop voting for more of the same, move on from a one-party controlled Council and reject the stifling Cabinet system.**

Instead **let's make a positive move** to an inclusive and more widely representative system of governance involving all your elected representatives. **Why is this change so important?**

The Conservative Cabinet comprises just 8 of your 53 councillors. Over the last 12 years it has:

- **sold the remaining 9,000 acres prime Herefordshire land comprising 73 publicly-owned farms against the expert advice they paid thousands of pounds to receive**, thereby depriving the public purse of a solid revenue stream, and reducing the asset base of the council against which we could borrow in future;
- **allowed officers to overspend millions** without authorisation (e.g. £1m overspend on Blueschool House refurbishment)
- **failed to obtain sign-off of the 2016-17 accounts or tell us why senior personnel had to leave the Council in a hurry** ('Mystery over Council Accounts', Hereford Times);
- **failed our children in care** (multiple High Court judgements against Children's Services) while massively overspending every year on the provision of these same services;
- **done away with our Tourist Information Board/Visit Herefordshire**, failing local business operating in the leisure and visitor economy, despite this being one of our county's biggest business sector;
- **proposed more housing than the county can possibly deliver**, and more than government considered necessary. This has led to a failure to deliver housing land resulting in predatory and unplanned developments which have damaged communities and put pressure on existing local services;
- **outsourced almost all our Council services** to private companies like Balfour Beatty and implemented cuts in the wrong places - which have led to increased fatalities on our roads and neglect of our community spaces;
- **failed to deliver their own promised growth in jobs and starved our market towns of inward investment;**
- ... and the list goes on, and on ...

This is too much influence in the hands of just 8 people!

VOTE FOR CHANGE – VOTE FOR **HEREfordshire**
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