

# LABOUR'S FIVE PLEDGES TO RENEW RUGBY TOGETHER

## INTRODUCTION

**Vote Labour on May 4th to overturn the Conservatives' wafer-thin majority.**

After nearly 20 years of a Conservative-led Council the local elections in May offer a once in a generation opportunity to forge a new future for Rugby and its villages.

Labour has the energy, ambition, and know-how to make a difference.

After nearly 20 years it's time for a new administration committed to working with the whole Borough to **Renew Rugby Together.**

### **Vote Labour on 4<sup>th</sup> May and we will:**

- ❖ RESTORE PRIDE IN OUR TOWN
- ❖ PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT
- ❖ IMPROVE LOCAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICES
- ❖ FOCUS ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
- ❖ ENSURE HOUSING IS FOR THE COMMUNITY NOT FOR DEVELOPERS

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## **1. RESTORE PRIDE IN OUR TOWN**

- ❖ **Restore pride in our town and make you proud to be from Rugby once again**
- ❖ **Work with businesses and volunteers and investors to improve the town centre**

*Our town has a proud history.*

*We will renew this sense of pride by targeting the most unsightly buildings in the town and engaging strongly with the owners to encourage and persuade them, via planning guidance, to improve the look of the town.*

*We also recognise that a town is nothing without its people and we will work with our fantastic volunteer groups to promote and channel their effort towards making Rugby a better place to live and work.*

*Our town centre has been badly let-down by the Conservative Party. After nearly 20 years running the Council, they have no plan to improve matters other than to spend up to £5m*

*of taxpayers money on more consultants and more feasibility studies.*

*We will work with businesses to create a thriving town centre with a flourishing market and develop a new incubator business hub to support local entrepreneurs and start-ups. Most importantly our clear vision for the town will enable us to bring in major investment and partnerships.*

*We will bring in town centre renewal plans that will enable Rugby to become the busy, successful town it once was.*



## 2. PROTECT AND IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ **Protect the Green Belt by stopping Conservative plans to open up a new Rugby Local Plan to developers**
- ❖ **Create a Green Spaces Taskforce**
- ❖ **Ensure adequate parking for lorries.**

*Rugby has already met government targets for new houses after huge growth in recent years. Enough is enough. Yet despite this the ruling Conservative administration have recently voted through plans to launch a new Local Plan and a "call for sites" to developers.*

*We will focus on improving what we have, not an endless race to build more and destroy our natural environment in the interests of developers, while ignoring the pressure on our vital services.*

*Labour will create a Green Spaces Taskforce to improve wellbeing by improving existing spaces and expanding the Borough's stock of green spaces, in consultation with residents and community groups.*

*Rugby is at the heart of a key UK logistics corridor with the A5, M6 and M1 nearby, attracting many large logistics warehouses to our neighbourhood. Poor management of the infrastructure planning by the Conservative-led Borough and County Councils means that parts of New Bilton and Brownsover Central Park are now being used for lorry parking, our green spaces are being used as a public toilet, and criminality is increasing in the area – trends likely to be repeated in areas like Dunchurch where many new warehouses are being built.*

*We will clear up this mess by working with the County Council and other authorities to put in sufficient parking and other facilities so that our community doesn't suffer any further.*



### 3. IMPROVE LOCAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- **Improve health provision at St Cross Hospital**
- **Ensure more GP surgeries are built in Rugby**
- **Protect people most vulnerable to the cost of living crisis**

*Our key health services are at breaking point with an increasing population that's also getting older by the day.*

*The lack of facilities in the Borough must be made a higher priority.*

*We'll work with University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire to ensure that facilities at St. Cross are expanded and enhanced.*

*After nearly 20 years in control of the Council the Conservatives are too fixed in their ways to see the problems all around them.*

*The cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating effect on society.*

*Many people are struggling to make ends meet and rely on quality public services more than ever just as they have been weakened by Tory cuts.*

*We will work to ensure that people who need help do not miss out on vital services.*



### 4. FOCUS ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- **Address the mess of secondary education in the town**
- **Establish a Youth Engagement Forum**

*Public squabbling between Conservatives in charge of the Borough and County Councils has led to there being no secondary school in the north of the borough.*

*This causes difficulties for families and chaos on our roads every morning and afternoon.*

*We will create a new unit to match services and amenities to new developments, including through better enforcement of Section 106 agreements.*

*For too long Rugby's talented young people have been ignored and policies shaped without listening to the next generation.*

*We will create a new Forum to engage with young people, consulting them and bringing them directly into the policy-making process, so that they can help design policies and allocate available funds in a way that maximises positive impact on their lives and the wider community.*



## 5. ENSURE HOUSING IS FOR THE COMMUNITY NOT FOR DEVELOPERS

- ❖ **Stop too many Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) blighting our streets**
- ❖ **Improve housing standards**
- ❖ **Bring in an affordable housing plan**

*Labour got the Tories to commit to reducing the over-concentration of HMOs in the urban wards, but this will still take years, so we would aim to bring in an Article 4 Direction to limit numbers quickly.*

*Our Councillors got the council to re-open the Private Sector Landlords Forum and we'll use this to improve housing standards in the privately rented sector.*

*Rugby Borough has met government house-building targets, but this doesn't help those in most need because there aren't enough affordable homes for our growing community.*

*Instead of the costly Tory plan to write a new Local Plan, we will amend the existing Local Plan and use Section 106 agreements to require*

*developers to maximise affordable housing provision.*

*We will also accelerate the Council's property acquisition strategy and social/council house building schemes to deliver the quality, affordable homes needed by the community.*

The existing Conservative Council in Rugby is tired and complacent. After 20+ years in charge the town and its surrounding areas are crying out for fresh ideas, purpose and ambition to succeed.

We will deliver on the above agenda by working tirelessly to deliver practical results as soon as possible.

We will work with the whole Rugby Borough community, empowering you to be part of positive change.

We will work non-stop to attract the investment and grants that the current leadership has failed to do over the last 20 years.

**Rugby deserves better.**

**It's time for a change.**

**It's time to #RenewRugbyTogether with Labour.**