

#LOCALECONOMY

Worcester has a thriving economy in retail, manufacturing, services, construction and tourism, but, in many cases, it is sustained by too many low-paid jobs, following NHS and public sector cuts. We need to ensure that the local economy has a positive impact on everyone. The Green Party wants to increase the amount of local spending that is retained in the local economy.

OUR PLEDGE

- Small business grants and apprenticeship schemes working with Worcestershire Business Central and BIPC Worcestershire
- An expansion of recycling schemes, for businesses including food recycling, that will see the city move towards 'zero waste'
- We support the regeneration of The Arches and the creative industries it brings to the city
- We will push for a Made in Worcester logo for businesses to use, to help residents shop local



#LOCALDEMOCRACY

Local government can be difficult to understand and often seems remote from everyday life. The Green Party wants power to be devolved to local level and more resources placed under the control of local government, thus giving local people more say in the issues that matter.

OUR PLEDGE

- Genuine consultation that comes before decisions are made, not after
- We favour Proportional Representation to make your votes matter
- Giving residents more opportunities to influence council priorities directly
- To get rid of outdated terms such as 'chairman' in favour of 'chair' on council committees
- We don't subscribe to bipartisan politics. We consider each motion, based on the best interests of residents



#DECENTHOMES

The Green Party believes that a community with its people securely housed to a high standard of energy efficiency and affordability is a settled community in which individuals and families can prosper. Houses built, renovated and insulated by local firms that are rented or sold to people living and working in Worcester contribute substantially to our vision for a local economy.

OUR PLEDGE

- In 2021, there were 1,081 empty homes in Worcester, up 123% from 2020. Empty Homes should be used to reduce the need to build on green spaces.
- Worcester Green Party resists the sale of social housing and would promote the use of more flats and dwellings above city centre shops (LOTS) and other suitable under-used premises
- To help those living in fuel poverty, we favour initiatives to install insulation and other energy efficiency measures in homes
- We will push developers for higher minimum standards (at least D rating) of energy efficiency in new housing that truly benefits the residents
- We support 'Building for a Healthy Life' (2020) design guidance when looking at new homes



#BETTERTRANSPORT

The Green Party favours a clean and healthy urban environment with excellent public transport and a road network serving disabled people, pedestrians, cyclists, freight and cars safely and cleanly. Worcester suffers from major traffic congestion and is in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). We therefore need to reduce the motor traffic coming into the city centre.

OUR PLEDGE

- The City and County councils must work together on a vision to improve the transport infrastructure to deal with problems such as congestion, poor air quality and noise pollution
- The separation between motor traffic and people walking and travelling by bike should be achieved as completely as possible, following LTN 1/20 guidance
- We would establish an integrated public transport network, this includes Park and Ride sites in Worcester
- We support moving HGV parking from Croft Road car park



#WORCESTERWOMEN

We will not rest until women are afforded the same opportunities as men, everybody benefits from an equal society. We know the best decisions are made when both women's and men's voices are heard. We support the Ask Her to Stand campaign as well as 50:50 parliament.

OUR PLEDGE

- Ensuring all highways decisions have an Equalities Impact Assessment carried out to ensure that they positively support women's travel patterns
- We will push for all council committees to have a 50:50 gender balance to ensure the best decision making
- We favour all full-time council jobs to advertise the possibility of a job share to reflect caring responsibilities and unpaid work
- We want to change the council's constitution to offer maternity leave, paternity leave and adoption leave for councillors
- We will continue to support Reclaim The Night in Worcester and condemn violence against women and girls



#STABLECOMMUNITY

We need more effective partnerships between social services, the police, education establishments and the public. A significant factor in reducing crime is building and maintaining stable communities.

OUR PLEDGE

- More community policing, with officers on the beat, rather than relying on CCTV surveillance
- Improved street lighting so residents feel safer walking at night
- Greater support for local food production via allotments, farmers' markets and local producers
- We want to make it easier for residents to organise street parties to encourage community cohesion

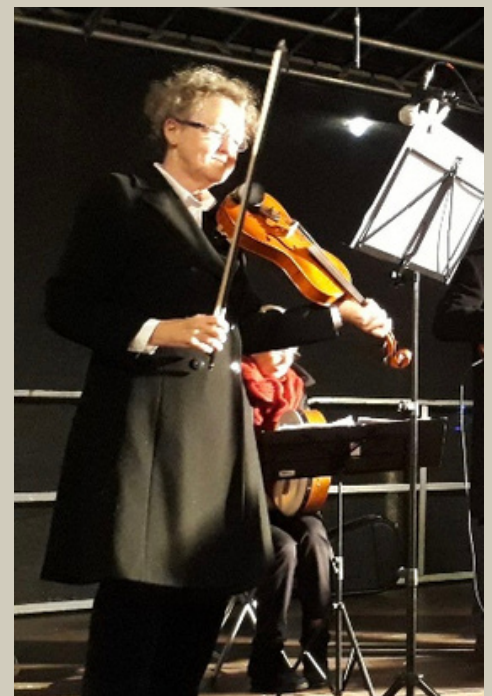


#DESTINATIONWORCESTER

Worcester is already a tourist destination offering attractions that include Worcester Cathedral, Museum of Royal Worcester, the Victorian Christmas Fayre, the Worcester Festival as well as the city's Civil War heritage, though there is potential for much more. We want Worcester to be the obvious choice for a UK city break.

OUR PLEDGE

- Tourists want to be able to move around the city without congestion, therefore we support bike hire for tourists to explore all the city has to offer
- Worcester Green Party favours a major expansion of tourism based on enhancement of the riverside and promotion of and support for the arts, theatre and entertainment
- We would have a review of tourism policy to include ideas such as the Cornmarket car park becoming a piazza
- More blue plaques to celebrate local legends such as Dame Louise Johnson, Ernie Payne, Shelia Scott OBE & Vesta Tilley



#HEALTHYRESIDENTS

Well-being is more than about prosperity; it is also about quality of life. The Green Party favours an effective, preventative approach to health care. We recognise the importance of both physical and mental health. The council should work with health authorities to ensure that local, community-based GP clinics and health services remain publicly run and accessible to all residents.

OUR PLEDGE

- In urban areas, we encourage the planting of trees, lawns, parks and parklets. We want to see more benches, squares, parks, parklets, open spaces and cafes as they are both desirable and popular
- Greater support for local food production via allotments, farmers' markets and local producers
- 20mph zones in residential streets to improve road safety and air quality and encourage more people to walk and cycle to improve their health
- We support Worcester City FC at Claines as well as Severn Stars, Worcester County Cricket Club, Worcester Warriors, Worcester Warriors Women, and Worcester Wolves

