



## What's happening where you live:

Due to environmental pollution (mainly airborne) in Hertfordshire we are suffering:

- **Five year lifespan reduction**, cognitive and developmental damage in Herts children,
- **Twenty times more adult deaths** from air pollution than on our roads every year,
- **Noticeably increased weather extremes** including regular local flooding and droughts.

## What's being done:

### National government response:

The UK has one of the world's most ambitious climate change targets and has passed numerous laws giving local authorities powers to make development sustainable, and to reduce local air pollution. The UK has now achieved almost HALF of its climate change target, but the rest depends largely on what happens at local level...

### Local Government response:

Herts and Three Rivers Councils:

- **No local monitoring of the most dangerous particulate pollution.**
- **"Plans" filled with aspirations and hot air but no *measurable actions*.**
- **Won't enforce basic pollution controls on industrial vehicles or even their own.**
- **Senior staff have "no vision for the area" and stifle improvement from within and outside.**

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## OUR response:

Things need to change faster around here, and in a way that makes life better not harder. We can't change national politics and we don't want to change how you vote: **we just want our area to be run better, and to see the best of what we can realistically have**, not just the bare legal minimum (or below) as currently: **here's how to start getting that in two simple steps (or just one email):**

### Step 1

#### Stop the dog and pony show / football team problem:

Across the country there are excellent councils run by independents and coalitions, Conservatives, Lib Dems and Labour. There are also terrible examples from all. In our area we happen to have Libs in TRDC, Cons in Herts, and they are both focussed on beating each other and both failing us. What's the solution? **Hold everyone to a set of simple, common sense principles that can be measured:**

### Step 2

#### You tell THEM what to do:

When people ask for your vote, **YOU tell THEM what you want to see in a binding commitment BEFORE election day.** That's what the People's Plan is: a non-party political starting point for making things MEASURABLY better and to put YOU back in control - **whoever you vote for**, tell them: People Plan commitment first, or no vote.



## What's the plan?

Two short documents, one covering **Transport** (air pollution, traffic, better ways to help us get around safely and easily without cars), and one for **Planning** (making sure that whatever happens with local development it's to high standards and makes us proud). They cover almost everything that really impacts your daily life, and life expectancy. They are all:

- **Zero net cost** or money savers.
- **Common sense**, and only points everyone naturally agrees on
- **Realistic**: accept that development will happen: but ensure it works *for* us.
- **And help** genuine councillors and council officers (there are many) do a better job *for us*.

## Who supports this idea?

**Local residents associations, charities, a parish council, and four councillors so far - and crucially: every resident in the area who has read it.**

No single councillor can “get” anything done alone. But with several committed to doing their best to implement measures wherever possible? You'll see real change. And when the next round of elections arrives, for the first time ever, you'll have an *objective* set of exam results to judge how your candidate, and the council performed.

Exaggeration? Try to find a single *objective* achievement that you'd feel meets the challenge of restoring the five years that children in this generation have lost. Try to find a manifesto commitment that has measurable ways to get us out of this...there are none or very few.

## What can you do?

- **Email** your preferred council candidate now and tell them to put a commitment to getting the People's Plan points into council policy into their election manifesto now. Before the election or simply committing to you via email.
- **Tell them the same when they come round.** They all have email on phones. Also they've all had tehplan by email. So there's really no excuse. Some will say they can only have so many manifesto points: remind them; this is just one.

If you write to your preferred council candidate now, there's a realistic chance you can have an impact on life expectancy in this area AND avoid a load of expensive, backwards development choices that make daily life harder. You can't count on Central Government to step in: they already have: they told councils to improve air quality. OUR councils aren't and now a newborn will die five years younger than their parents. The choice is yours: Repeating the voting cycle we're locked into has brought us here: the first drop in UK lifespan pretty much ever. Let's break the vicious cycle.



## Ultra short version:

- **Carrots not sticks:** EG: provide safe, easy cycle access *first*, to *encourage* less car use.
- **Common sense:** Measure what you do and if it's not working: stop doing it / paying for it.
- **Be reactive:** Assess, and, if they work, deploy good ideas *rapidly*..and monitor this.
- **And, be proactive:** We can't have senior staff without vision and leaders who don't lead.

**CRITICALLY:** There's a measurable action for each of these in the plans. Anyone can sign up to a list of good ideas, but we've put targets in place (that could be easily met by even an average quality Local Authority). That's the difference.

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## FAQ:

### Where are your figures from?

Herts Council (pollution and road deaths).

UK Govt: 2020 newborn average lifespan = parents - 5yrs.

### The plan should cover more eg xyz:

It probably should, and definitely could. But it's supposed to be easy to read, and it's not a panacea! It can't cover everything: it's a starting point for getting a handle on Local Government performance in the area. We don't want to be doing this: the point of Councils is to manage the area *for* us...but well. There are already a lot of good expert officers at TRDC and Herts, they're often not in charge though. But with the right leadership, we get what we're entitled to: expert contract managers handling the costs and benefits of our area for us in genuinely inspiring ways. Not administrators doling out our money to contractors because their job is to spend it, and Planners destroying Green Belt because their job is to fill fields "because the government tells them" overseen by ineffective, complacent leaders.

### Surely you're exaggerating how bad it is?

Sadly no. Not the deaths and illness: in fact we're pulling punches. Not re: incompetence and mediocrity either: TRDC are 10 years late with their local plan and they are now literally delaying even producing a Climate Change Plan until 2023. Herts CC "manage" most major highways but categorically refuse to enforce UK law on their own fleet and don't monitor the impact of what they do. In fact they don't even monitor who is spending your money a lot of the time. There are a thousand examples: Herts spending £500,000 of our money on pavement works in Maple Cross no-one asked for whilst saying they can't find £5,000 for air pollution monitoring is one. So is TRDC losing you the right to object to development on air pollution grounds because they argued that there is no pollution problem in the area is another... it's endless, and there's only one way to stop it: change the culture of the council from defensive complacency to genuine progress focus.