



Tom Wootton's Bedford Borough Mayoral Manifesto 2023

Our plan to make Bedford
Borough a better place to live,
work and raise a family.

Election Date Thursday 4th May



Tom Wootton as Mayor will:

MANAGE PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE MORE EFFECTIVELY

- Early build of infrastructure for local schools, GPs and dentists
- Prioritise adoption of new roads and estates
- Bring the planning and enforcement teams to effective staffing levels
- Support rural and urban areas to retain their own distinct identities

SUPPORT VULNERABLE ADULTS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Introduce a cabinet member role for families
- Reinvigorate our tired sports centres
- Encourage more leisure attractions and cultural experiences into our Borough
- Continuously work with our schools to improve the education experience

GROW THE BEDFORD BOROUGH ECONOMY

- Make our town centre a place where people want to shop, live, work and socialise
- Attract new investment to positively encourage more employment in our Borough
- Do more to keep the Borough clean and tidy
- Improve Bedford and Kempston's toilet and family facilities

CREATE A SAFER BOROUGH

- Create a positive environment making residents feel safer
- Build better relationships with partner agencies including the Police, NHS and schools
- Street lighting to meet our residents' needs
- Improve pavements to reduce trip hazards

KEEP BEDFORD MOVING

- Work with bus companies to restore and improve bus services
- Make transparent all Borough dealings with East West Rail
- Introduce 4 hours free parking every day and review all council owned multi-storey car park charges
- Improve the road network including cycle access and routes

IMPLEMENT A REAL GREEN AGENDA

- Improve recycling rates with clear transparency on our progress
- Reduce our energy costs by using more renewable energy
- Increase the number of grants made available to reduce the carbon footprint in our Borough
- Trial the introduction of residential glass recycling and food waste collections

Tom Wootton

Mayoral Candidate

Tom believes if we are ever to flourish, a new leader is needed



My name is Tom Wootton and I am proud to come from Bedford. I am proud to come from Bedfordshire. I am also proud of our history, heritage and culture of this our county town.

This is our manifesto, it's the culmination of months of work. Meetings, surveys, conversations with residents in and around the Borough and is our plan for the whole of the Borough; Bedford town, Kempston town and all our rural areas.

We have chosen to lay out policies that we believe will change Bedford and Kempston and our rural areas for the better.

Our manifesto hopes to improve the day to day life of our residents. We want a Borough that we are all proud of. I would love to be talking about large highway projects etc but actually, it's how our lives are affected each day that I believe is the starting point for a new leader of our borough.

We all want;

- A town centre we are proud of and want to go to
- A house building strategy that doesn't lose the identities of our urban and rural areas
- Leisure and cultural activities for our children, as well as for adults to enjoy
- A complete review of all council charges including unfair management charges
- And so much more for our Borough

This is why I believe we need a new leader. Not one that we have had for 14 years during which time we have seen our Borough deteriorate. We want to look after today's generation and future generations of Bedford residents, business owners and visitors.

Bedford's best days are yet to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wootton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a horizontal line underneath.



A word from Festus Akinbusoye Police and Crime Commissioner

I am delighted to be supporting Councillor Tom Wootton as candidate for the 2023 Bedford Borough Mayoral election.

Since I was elected as Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, I have been truly impressed by his positive, can-do attitude as well as his genuine support for our police officers.

Councillor Tom Wootton recognises the impressive progress Bedfordshire Police have made over recent years, where the force has gone from being rated as ‘inadequate’ by His Majesty’s Inspectorate to now being rated as one of the best performing forces in the country in its most recent inspection in 2022. In fact, Bedfordshire Police became the first police force to be rated as ‘outstanding’ in how well it manages offenders.

With a record 1,456 police officers now in Bedfordshire, thanks to investment by a Conservative government and local Police and Crime Commissioner; I want to work more closely with the next Mayor of Bedford Borough to ensure both our rural and urban centres feel safer. For this to happen, it is crucial that our frontline police officers and Community Support Officers (PCSO) know they have the backing of elected leaders to be tough on crime, prevent harm and support victims of crime.

I have been extremely impressed with Cllr. Tom Wootton’s support for our police officers, interest in community safety, and desire for working in partnership. He will be a fantastic Mayor of Bedford Borough.

It is my pleasure to endorse and support Councillor Tom Wootton as next Mayor of Bedford Borough.

WE WILL MANAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING MORE EFFECTIVELY

✔ Early build of infrastructure for local schools, GPs and dentists

✔ Prioritise adoption of new estates and roads

✔ Bring the planning and enforcement teams to effective staffing levels

✔ Support rural and urban areas to retain their own distinct identities

We will deliver effective staffing levels in the planning and enforcement teams ensuring residents receive a good and timely service

We will have better delivery of planning and enforcement - ending the failure to hold developers to account in delivering key infrastructure

We will commit to review ALL local charges for fairness and continue to lobby against unfair Estate Management and Open Space Management charges

We will create an environment to support businesses moving to the Borough

We will work with the NHS to improve the provision of GP surgeries and dentists to meet local demand

We will work with residents and Parish Councils to hold utility companies to account

We will protect urban and rural identities

We will ensure the right housing is built in the right places - including starter homes



WE WILL SUPPORT VULNERABLE ADULTS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

✓ Introduce a cabinet member role for families

✓ Reinvigorate our tired sports centres

✓ Encourage more leisure attractions and cultural experiences into our Borough

✓ Continuously work with our schools to improve the education experience

We will introduce a cabinet member role for families ensuring they have a voice when important decisions are being made

We will overhaul our failing sports and leisure facilities and make them fit for purpose

We will encourage new leisure attractions and make Bedford a centre of culture

We will invest and expand the Borough summer holiday schemes to keep our children engaged in activities throughout the long summer holiday

We will expand our dedicated sports development team to attract new sports for all as well as encouraging elite sports within our Borough

We will be quicker and more responsive when dealing with schools to set our children up for a successful future

We will promote emotionally healthy schools and improve access to mental health provision in all schools for children and staff

We will grow and promote activities for all from pre-school children to teens

We will hold a review of transport costs, in particular for children and post-16 young adults for education travel purposes



WE WILL GROW THE BEDFORD BOROUGH ECONOMY

- ✔ Make our town centres a place where people want to shop, live, work and socialise
- ✔ Attract new investment to positively encourage more employment in our Borough
- ✔ Do more to keep the Borough clean and tidy
- ✔ Improve Bedford and Kempston's toilet and family facilities

We will reverse the 14 years of Lib Dem/Labour failure to protect and revive Bedford and Kempston

We will increase the footfall to our town by offering more for families, teenagers and young professionals

We will work with local businesses to set up informal monthly sessions to make the Mayor more accessible

We will create a programme to attract new businesses and support existing businesses in our Borough

We will encourage more employment opportunities by creating a more fertile environment

We will make Bedford and Kempston cleaner by having a dedicated town centres cleaning team

We will provide more accessible toilets and family friendly baby changing facilities



WE WILL CREATE A SAFER BOROUGH

- ✓ Create a positive environment making residents feel safer
- ✓ Build better relationships with the Police, NHS and schools
- ✓ Street lighting to meet our residents' needs
- ✓ Improve pavements to reduce trip hazards

We will improve community safety and make Bedford Borough a safer place to live, work and socialise by working closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner

We will improve the working relationships with partner authorities to reduce antisocial behaviours

We will work to prevent the persistent levels of fly-tipping both in the urban and rural areas - this is a danger to both our residents and local wildlife and is unacceptable

We will improve street lighting where required to ensure residents feel safe when walking after dark

We will have a properly prioritised pavement improvement plan to create safe walking in all parts of the Borough

We will improve the cleanliness and safety of our multi-storey car parks with a robust repairs and maintenance programme



WE WILL KEEP BEDFORD MOVING

✓ **Work with bus companies to restore and improve bus services**

✓ **Make transparent all Borough dealings with East West Rail**

✓ **Introduce 4 hours free parking every day and review all council owned multi-storey car park charges**

✓ **Improve the road network including cycle access and routes**

We will work with bus companies to improve the bus routes and timetables to enable all residents to have access to better public transport

We will introduce a dedicated team to ensure our bus station is cleaner, tidier and safer

We will hold a review of transport costs - including fares for young people and subsidy levels

We will fight alongside affected residents to protect their homes from the East West Rail development by working with all parties concerned to get the right outcome for Bedford

We will revive our town centre by opening up some council owned multi-storey car parks to 4 hours free parking every day whilst retaining free Sunday parking and extending overnight free parking

We will increase the night time off road parking by offering free parking in some multi-storey car parks from 6pm - 8am to relieve kerbside congestion

We will aim to make traffic flow better in Bedford and Kempston after completing a full review of the current road network and resident requirements

We will improve and expand the cycle network in the urban parts of our Borough making it safer for both pedestrians and cyclists

We will improve the existing Park and Ride facility to make visitors to our town feel welcome upon arrival

We will support a speedy construction of Wixams train station



WE WILL IMPLEMENT A REAL GREEN AGENDA

- ✓ Improve recycling rates with clear transparency on our progress
- ✓ Reduce our energy costs by using more renewable energy
- ✓ Increase the number of grants made available to reduce the carbon footprint in our Borough
- ✓ Trial the introduction of residential glass recycling and food waste collections

We will work with local businesses to broaden their recycling options

We will improve our recycling rates in the Borough whilst also encouraging re-using and upcycling. Waste less - Pollute less

We will trial doorstep collections of glass and food waste around the Borough

We will be transparent and publish our recycling rates against agreed targets

We will actively monitor air pollution and publish results regularly - enabling us to make informed decisions on improvement opportunities

We will offer up to 2 free bulky waste removal collections a year to fight fly tipping in every community

We will invest in renewable energy technologies with the long term goal of reducing our energy costs

We will improve the co-ordination of the Borough's Green Strategy

We will protect our much valued green spaces and look for new dedicated green space opportunities

We will promote 'Shop local, buy local' - supporting local businesses in our Borough

We will facilitate a fairer distribution of electric car charging points across the Borough

We will continue sustainable tree planting but with a proper watering and maintenance programme



**It's time for a change
Vote for Tom Wootton**

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Tom WOOTTON



Bedford Deserves Better

**Bring
photo ID
to vote**

**Please do not forget your ID - you
won't be able to vote without it**

**Acceptable ID list can be found by
scanning this code.**

**Including how to get a free voter ID
if you don't have one.**

**You can also find the guide in
English, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian,
Urdu, Portugese and Somali.**



Tom Wootton

Bedford Borough Mayoral Election
Thursday 4th May 2023

our plan

1 We will manage infrastructure and planning more effectively

2 We will support vulnerable adults, children and families

3 We will grow the Bedford Borough economy

4 We will create a safer borough

5 We will keep Bedford moving

6 We will implement a real green agenda

 **Conservatives**

Promoted by Bernard Jones on behalf of Tom Wootton and The Bedford Borough Conservative Team all at 23 Tavistock Street, Bedford MK40 2RB. Printed at White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford MK40 3RL