

**General Election 2019 – NNGO
Questions to Candidates**

Subject	Question	Why are we asking these questions?
Local Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action will you take to ensure truly affordable housing for local people is actually delivered? • Do you support the 6 district councils' current intention to continue to plan build 100,000 houses by the mid 2030's, when the latest government projections show we only need approximately 50,000? • Where would you put the 300,000 houses that Oxfordshire is expected to produce as part of the 1 million houses imposed by the "Oxford-Cambridge growth Arc?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are we asking these questions? • Housing should be plan-led not developer led (shouldn't facilitate speculative development) • Local authorities should be able to enforce affordable housing delivery to the levels specified in local plans and not give way to developers who say they are unprofitable. • Local authorities should be able to review numbers using the latest 2016 Objectively Assessed Need figures not the (higher) out-dated 2014 figures • Truly affordable housing is needed for rent as well as to buy • "Affordable Housing" at 80% of market rate is still unaffordable for many local people. • The proposed level of imposed house building will not improve affordability
Oxford-Cambridge Expressway/ East-West rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your position on the building of a new multi-lane highway across Green Belt/open countryside in Oxfordshire? Why? • What is your view of Highways England requiring local authorities to sign Non-Disclosure agreements about the Expressway? • Do you think the promised "review" will come to anything? • How do you think my community will be impacted by a new Expressway? • Where do you think the money will come from to build an Expressway? • Which should be the priority? The Expressway or East-West Rail? • Do you have concerns that East-West rail will merely create dormitory towns for London Commuters? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New highways create traffic demand and increase noise and air quality issues for local communities • Rail should be considered before road • Widespread development, intended to accompany the expressway, will adversely affect the Oxfordshire landscape • Jobs and housing should be closely located, and not requiring transport systems devised to support long distance commuting • East-West rail should be electrified (or possibly hydrogen-fuelled) to reduce CO2 / noise emissions, and have the capacity to carry freight.
Ecology/ Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you ensure that protecting and enhancing the environment in your constituency (particularly in light of climate emergency) is a top priority? • What are your thoughts about the Oxford Green Belt? Do you favour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to start by ensuring District plans include proper policies on E&E e.g. Zero Carbon and Green infrastructure plans (instead of the current absence) • Support explicit linkage to the Government 25 year plan for the environment in local plans

	<p>building housing on it or protecting and enhancing it for improved uses by local people?</p>	
Local democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your view on how groups like the LEP and the Growth Board take account of local peoples' views? • What will you do to ensure local peoples' views are genuinely taken account of in strategic matters? • What do you think about housing and growth targets that are imposed from central government without meaningful local consultation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP is commonly viewed as an undemocratic and unelected Quango which imposes development • Growth Board is commonly viewed as undemocratic, not allowing comprehensive scrutiny of its decision making • Candidates should support comprehensive engagement with local communities and not pay lip service to consultations after the decision is already largely determined
Population of Oxfordshire/ growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you support the aspiration of the National Infrastructure Commission's "Partnering for Prosperity" report to add a further 1 million houses and 335,000 jobs by 2050 in the "Oxford-Cambridge Arc"? • If the Expressway is cancelled, does this objective still stand? • If so, surely infrastructure will need to be delivered at an equally catastrophic level for the rural county of Oxfordshire? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should Oxfordshire be forced to deliver astronomic levels of growth imposed by central government? • This equates to a potential of an additional 300,000 houses in Oxfordshire (6 new Oxfords and an increase of 70% in Oxfordshire housing stock) all far beyond what is actually needed
Oxfordshire Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your view on the forthcoming Oxfordshire Plan 2050? • Where do you think large-scale development (if proved to be needed) should be located and why? • If elected, what will you do to ensure all new housing is built to the highest possible eco-standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban brownfield sites should be used in preference to greenbelt or greenfield • Higher housing densities using modern high-quality eco-construction techniques • Co-location of work and housing should be promoted to discourage commuting • Need for sustainable travel solutions not reliance on cars • Build homes to the highest building standards - Carbon neutral housing, garden village principals for all developments • Plans need to be fully linked and inter-dependant with plan project timescales which marry up
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will you do to support the delivery of sustainable, cost effective public transport and local cycling and walking strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many rural areas have lost their bus services forcing people into cars (if they can afford them) • Local people feel they are not listened to when councillors claim that building

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will you do to fight for local peoples' commonly held concerns that local infrastructure (especially roads) are at saturation point? 	<p>1000s of new homes will have no impact on local infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote green transport plans with all new developments
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are you personally doing to reduce your carbon footprint? • What will you do if elected, to address the absence of meaningful proposals to address climate change and air pollution? • How do you think the quality and quantity of future development in Oxfordshire should be assessed in light of climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What REAL action and leadership (global and local) have we seen from central government so far? • Around half of our current carbon dioxide emissions are from housing and transport. These issues are critical to meeting carbon reduction targets by 2050 or earlier.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you support the provision of rural employment and housing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of focus on promoting small scale work and affordable housing in rural communities which increases commuting and the desertion of rural communities by younger people.