

A PLAN FOR *Conisbrough*



7 Way Action Plan for Conisbrough & Denaby

- 1 REMOVE the CRIMINALS**
- 2 ENGAGE with the COMMUNITY**
- 3 ENGAGE with our YOUNG PEOPLE**
- 4 WORK with TENANTS and HOMEOWNERS and LANDLORDS**
- 5 WORK with DMBC on their empty PROPERTIES**
- 6 WORK with ENVIRONMENT AGENCY to REDUCE FLOODING RISKS**
- 7 KEEPING IT GOING**

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I know that both Conisbrough and Denaby are wonderful places and have wonderful people but they can each be better and together we will make it happen.

INTRODUCTION



When I was elected I made a promise that I would do all I can to turn Edlington's fortune around. I have now put things in place and it is beginning to show results. It is an ongoing piece of work but it has started at last.

I want to continue with these plans for all of the wonderful Towns and Villages in my constituency. Each one is special and deserves to be treated on its own and not lumped in with everyone else.

Therefore this plan is to focus on the needs of Conisbrough and Denaby.

Conisbrough is known across the country for its Castle and this in itself is something we should all be very proud of. It has an eighth century church St Peter's which is in the very heart of the town.

Denaby just a mile away boasts a wonderful leisure centre and a train line to connect these two places to the rest of the world.

Conisbrough boasts some wonderful schools and I have visited many through my time as an MP. I encourage all parents in Conisbrough to download my Role Models manual from my webpage. This will help the next generation thrive.

As in many of the small towns that make up Don Valley, it is the people that make it great and I want to work with you to make it even better. But there is much to be done.

Now that we've come through the two year pandemic, I want to set out my new Plan to make this happen.

I have spent much time in Conisbrough and Denaby recently and have spoken with many people there to find out where the problems lie. I have consulted through social media as well. It is time for politicians to listen to you and not to tell you what your problems are.

Like many places in Don Valley there has been decades of neglect and this needs to stop.

I know there is a small number of people who have been congregating in the centre of the town. They clearly have their own problems with alcohol and drugs. This is keeping good decent people from entering the town centre. We can solve this.

I know there are Organised Crime Gangs that operate in the shadows.

I know there is drug dealing that operates in plain view too.

Along with this type of criminality comes antisocial behaviour (ASB) and a lack of pride in where people live.

We need to stop this now. How do we do that? A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the centre to tackle ASB so the Police can arrest or move people on. We need to lock up the criminals and we need to value each other and the places where we live. We need to look at our empty buildings and our housing stock. Let us make full use of what we have. It is common sense.

We need to look at the risk of flooding too. This needs to be addressed so that people and their properties are protected.

Much of this may have been said before. Much of this may have been done before.

But what is different this time is I believe that we now have in place a CEO of Doncaster Council and a Police Chief Superintendent who actually care.

We have new Government funding and an Environment Agency who know their local MP is on the case.

I believe that if we have the right people in power who care and have a community behind them working as a team with them, then there is nothing that cannot be done.

I have a vision for Conisbrough and Denaby; safe, clean streets with a happy community. Feeling valued and proud of where they live.

I want you to be part of this journey and for your ideas for Conisbrough and Denaby to feed into this work too.

But this plan gives us a starting point and lets the people in charge know I'm on it and that I am serious.

This will take time, but it will only happen if you are with me.

I really hope you are. ■



LOCK-UP THE CRIMINALS



The town centre is being spoilt by a few individuals who are causing a nuisance and deterring people from using the centre.

Empty streets allow the trading of drugs to happen in broad daylight.

The good people who do come into town see this activity and this deters them even more.

So we end on a downward spiral of empty streets except for the criminal element and what will follow will be lack of footfall which leads to boarded up shops.

Leaving the only businesses trading in town being the illegal ones that trade drugs and misery.

This is not a scenario that any one of us wants.

We can halt this decline but we firstly have to admit that this downward spiral has started. We need to check it before it becomes worse still.

So what do we do? We need CCTV. This will deter antisocial behaviour by recording what is occurring. It needs to be put in place as soon as possible. It costs money though so we had to apply to the Home Office for the funding.

The funding for that has now been granted and I want that CCTV in place now.

I also need you the good people of Conisbrough to call Crimestoppers

on 0800 555 111 to start to bring in the criminals. It's all anonymous.

You know who they are, you know the streets they are on. And you know the cars they drive.

The Police cannot do this though without information and so they need your help.

Facebook posts don't work in arresting criminals but they do work in spreading bad news. We need to stop posting on social media and instead use Crimestoppers anonymously.

Some people say they never see the police at night. I can assure you the police are about but many of the criminals you see in the day operate at night too. We stop them in the daytime and we stop them at night too.

Let's help the Police help us.

The antisocial behaviour seen in the town centre often does not break any laws but I do know it upsets people seeing people drunk and or under the influence of drugs. A PSPO will give police the power of arrest or move on these individuals.

CCTV will also help with this behaviour and either catch these people doing criminal acts or lead to them receiving help. Either way they need removing and I will work with DMBC to find the solution.

Organised Crime Gangs (OCG) can't operate without the small time dealers and young people being caught up in this crime.

I will cover helping our kids in the Youth section but we need to lock up the small time dealers and the OCGs too. So anything you can do to help. Please do. We need to all put our shoulders to the wheel. The sooner we do the sooner we make real progress.

Having spoken with the Police on many occasions, they believe it is only a few

individuals who are causing much of the trouble. We must remove these people from Conisbrough and Denaby.

We need a concerted effort from the local police to rid Conisbrough & Denaby of these people and also all of the gangs that operate in this area. We need an open police station, and we need a presence at night, not just during the day.

The police have informed me they are hoping to carry out many small operations to rid our streets of these criminals and I will track their progress. There needs to be a collegiate approach between council enforcement officers and the local police to cover as reasonably practical 16 hours a day 7 days a week of presence on the streets of Conisbrough & Denaby. This needs to be budgeted for until all known perpetrators are removed and then only scaled back once this has been sustained for a predetermined length of time.

Regular meetings between myself, the Chief Executive and Chief Superintendent are required to make sure that progress is made and that enforcement and police attendance has not slipped at any point until our objectives have been completed.

Protection must be given to all residents that help enforce this approach; mainly by protecting their identity. The opening of the police station at least five days a week should be a priority. Although this can sap resources, the confidence this gives to you is worth it. We will win this fight. ■





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through social media I will let you know what progress we are making and how you can help.

Community engagement via all types of media shall be required and if you can help with this then please contact my office.

I do love to meet as many people as I can. If you have a community group you would like me to attend just let me know.

I also spend much time in the High Street speaking with our local businesses, so if you see me do please stop me and say hello. ■



Much of the antisocial behaviour is caused by younger people with time on their hands and no one to take charge of the situation. This needs to change.

With the main ringleaders gone, a void will be created. We need to fill this void for our young people with activities that they want to take part in.

Youth clubs are desperately needed. We need to start slowly with these but eventually build up to a full offering with many volunteers. If you think you can help, just let me know. We need venues and people if we are to win this battle against antisocial behaviour. Basically we need you.

Existing community groups need to work together to expand their operations and hopefully be funded by new central government investment.

There will also be a void created for further criminals to enter. We need to make sure that the demand for their products and their lifestyle is diminished. Our young people and parents need educating of the dangers of organised crime and also on the entrapment techniques these criminals use.

Doncaster Council are doing some wonderful work in this area and I will ensure all parents get their opportunity to learn how to protect their children and notice the 'tell-tale' signs when things are going wrong. Much of the above are just my ideas, so in the coming months the first part of this phase of community engagement will start with leaflet drops and community meetings. Then we can really listen to everyone's ideas.

But we must see an even greater police presence first. ■

WORK WITH TENANTS AND HOMEOWNERS

If we are to have any chance of success, we need the whole community to engage with this project.

Everybody needs to play their part. A simple and meaningful way is for each and every person is to tidy their front gardens. This could be part of a community day during which everyone tidies their front garden.

A fortnightly event with help from community officers for those who are unable to do so themselves? I genuinely believe that with the criminal element removed followed by a street clean by the council and a leaflet drop outlining progress and a public meeting we will start to see progress.

It is natural to feel good when something looks better through your own efforts. We need to encourage all homeowners that a lick of paint goes far and if monies are an issue then we need to tap into council resources to help with this. This will help bring cohesion between the community and the police.

Action days where council staff and police use

community hours should be involved in this type of work. Clean streets, clean front gardens, tidy front doors and a community engaged will start bringing pride and value back to each individual. We will start feeling good again. ■



WORKING WITH LANDLORDS



HMOs are a problem in many place across Doncaster but these types of property are now appearing in our small towns and villages. This to me is not what village life should be about.

I believe planning regulations allow for a certain amount of HMOs on a street but I personally believe this to be wrong and I will do what I can to address this situation in Westminster.

However while this is allowed DMBC must not let these properties run without constant management.

Locals who complain about the noise and disruption that affects their daily lives should be taken seriously and problems dealt with immediately.

Landlords and tenants who do not live by the rules of decency should be held to account.

When allowing planning applications the placement of bins should be taken in to account.

Untidy bins make a place look neglected and this is not good for the community.

Those homes now turned into HMOs should be an example to the rest of the street of what a home should look like externally. Landlords are making vast sums of money from these once family homes and they should therefore pay to keep their external appearance of the highest standard.

Tidy front garden, clean front doors and window frames. Clean windows and painted soffits.

DMBC has the powers, it needs to use them and if it doesn't then it should and will be held to account in Parliament by myself, your MP.

We need homes. I understand that, we do need bedsits for single people but if we are to have them we need a zero tolerance on unkept properties and absent landlords.

I will do all I can as I know our council will with all our help. ■

FLOODING

WORKING WITH THE EA

When I first became an MP I remember attending a meeting on flooding in 2020 at the Library.

It was a robust meeting to say the least but your concerns have stayed with me.

I met with insurers and I now hope at least with flood cover at least some anxieties have been removed with people being able to get some more affordable insurance cover.

There has been a South Yorkshire Flooding Forum set up which I am a part of and hoping this will not just become a talking shop. If it does, then I will call them out. We are here to take positive action not to talk.

Some good news is that schemes have been put in place re Natural Flood Management. This will help in the short, medium and long term.

Planting trees and looking after the natural moss and peat areas upstream from Conisbrough will help soak up

the water and release it more steadily when we have these torrential rain.

Cleaning out the brooks to let water escape more easily will help too.

I have some of my own ideas on how we can help too and will be working on those over the coming months.

One thing is for certain, I will do all I can to make sure the people of Conisbrough are as protected as they can be. And I will lobby government for additional funds wherever they are possible.

I will also be honest with you and let you know what I can and cannot do.

Again if you want a personal or group meeting with me just let me know.

Flooding might only physically affect a small number of properties in Conisbrough but I know in the community, it does actually affect you all. ■



SUSTAINABILITY



The goal is a safe, happy place for everyone in Conisbrough & Denaby.

Where the town centre is a nice and pleasant place to go.

Where organised crime is a thing of the past and our streets are drug free.

A town where antisocial behaviour is a thing of the past and kids are happy, entertained and busy.

A town where derelict buildings are put to use and inadequate landlords dealt with.

Where HMOs are kept to a minimum and those if granted are held to a high standard so that any negative impacts are dealt with immediately.

Where DMBC has to use the powers it has and to make sure that these places do not detract from community living.

Where working as a community to reduce the risk of flooding with many small projects will help reduce people's anxiety and give them a better way of life.

I am always seeking new funds for my constituency. Hopefully with funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund, we can revitalise parts of Conisbrough that need that little extra help.

As always with everything this will take time. Sometimes things can take a generation but we need to make a start.

We need a plan and that is what this is. So let's please read this plan. Please come back to me on your thoughts. Don't listen to the nay sayers.

Think positive thoughts about your home town be that Conisbrough or Denaby. Let's speak it up not down.

Be proud of where you live. ■

MAKING CONISBROUGH & DENABY GREAT AGAIN



1 LOCK-UP the CRIMINALS

Removing the organised crime gangs and eliminating anti-social behaviour in the town centre.



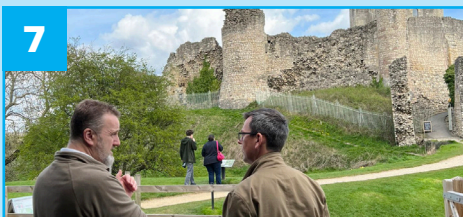
3 ENGAGE with our YOUNG PEOPLE

Working with our great schools and existing wonderful community groups to extend existing youth facilities and add additional outlets as required.



5 WORK with LANDLORDS

Refurbishment of properties and protecting their investment.



KEEPING IT GOING

Keeping what we have made good forever.
A Zero Tolerance approach to keep us on track!



2 ENGAGE with the COMMUNITY

Through public meetings and working with community groups.



4 WORK with TENANTS and HOMEOWNERS

The Big Clean - working with all residents to keep all out streets tidy.



6 WORK with ENVIRONMENT AGENCY to REDUCE FLOODING RISKS

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