



SWITCHBACK'S EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE BOARD (EBE) MANIFESTO 2024

1. INVEST IN COMMUNITY
2. MAKE HOUSING AFFORDABLE
3. MAKE TRAVEL AFFORDABLE
4. SUPPORT LONDONERS RETURNING HOME FROM
PRISON

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EBE MEMBERS ASK THAT EVERY MAYORAL
CANDIDATE COMMIT TO:

1. INVEST IN COMMUNITY
2. MAKE HOUSING AFFORDABLE
3. MAKE TRAVEL AFFORDABLE
4. SUPPORT LONDONERS RETURNING
HOME FROM PRISON

1. INVEST IN COMMUNITY SPIRIT

WE FEEL LONDON IS TOO DIVIDED AND PEOPLE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER LIKE THEY USED TO. WE WANT TO LIVE IN A CITY WHERE WE SAY HELLO TO OUR NEIGHBOURS, AND WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN LIFE. SUPPORT MIGHT JUST BE CHECKING IN ON SOMEONE WHO IS DOWN, OR GIVING SOMEONE A HAND WHEN THEY ARE STRUGGLING. REAL COMMUNITY IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS. WE NEED TO CREATE SPACES AND PLACES FOR THOSE RELATIONSHIPS TO GROW.

- ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY SPACES

WE'VE LOST TOO MANY IMPORTANT NEIGHBOURHOOD VENUES AND TRADITIONS. WE SPEAK ABOUT NEEDING MORE PLACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN AND THAT'S IMPORTANT BUT WE ALSO NEED PLACES FOR ADULTS TO SOCIALISE, WORK AND EAT TOGETHER THAT ARE AFFORDABLE. COMMUNITY SPACES SHOULD BE RUN AND LED BY LOCALS AND CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

- COMMUNITY EVENTS

LONDON HAS SOME AMAZING COMMUNITY EVENTS BUT THEY DON'T BENEFIT ALL AREAS. WE ARE THINKING OF SIMPLE THINGS LIKE BOROUGH WIDE TALENT SHOWS AND SPORTS EVENTS, AS WELL AS BIGGER EVENTS THAT GET THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OUT. MOMENTS THAT CAN GIVE US ALL THE CHANCE TO FEEL PROUD OF WHERE WE LIVE.

2. MAKE HOUSING AFFORDABLE FOR ALL LONDONERS

WE ALL HAVE A RIGHT TO A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

HAVING A LONG TERM PLACE WHERE WE CAN SETTLE DOWN AND BASE OUR LIVES IS SO IMPORTANT. IT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS SUPPORT, WORK, EDUCATION AND FULFIL OUR POTENTIAL. TOO MANY LONDONERS ARE STRUGGLING WITH HOMELESSNESS OR UNABLE TO MOVE OUT AND LIVE INDEPENDENTLY BECAUSE THE COSTS ARE SO HIGH.

MOST OF US FEEL WE HAVE NO HOPE OF EVER LIVING ON OUR OWN AND OWNING A HOUSE FEELS IMPOSSIBLE. A LOT OF US HAVE HAD TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS TO MOVE FAR AWAY FROM WHERE WE GREW UP AND FROM WHERE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WE LOVE STILL LIVE.

WE WANT TO SEE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OF ALL KINDS. WE WANT TO SEE REAL SUPPORT FROM COUNCILS TO HELP US WITH THE UPFRONT COSTS OF THINGS LIKE HOUSING DEPOSITS AND FINDING GOOD HOUSING OPTIONS IN OUR HOME AREAS.

3. MAKE TRAVEL AFFORDABLE FOR ALL LONDONERS

THE COST OF LIVING IS HITTING EVERYONE.

IT IS JUST TOO EXPENSIVE TO GO ABOUT OUR DAILY LIVES, GETTING TO WORK AND UNIVERSITY, SEEING OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES IS BECOMING HARDER AND HARDER, SOMETIMES IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN TRAVEL AND FOOD.

WE KNOW THAT USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS GOOD FOR THE PLANET BUT IT'S HARD TO HEAR THAT WHEN IT'S HURTING OUR POCKETS LIKE IT IS AT THE MOMENT. LOOK AT WHAT CITIES LIKE PARIS AND BERLIN HAVE DONE WITH FLAT DAILY FARES FOR ALL DAY TRAVEL. IF THEY CAN DO IT, THEN LONDON CAN DO IT TOO.

4. SUPPORT LONDONERS RETURNING HOME FROM PRISON

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RETURN HOME FROM PRISON IN LONDON. WE ARE LONDONERS TOO.

WHEN WE GET THE SUPPORT WE NEED, WE CAN BUILD AMAZING, FULFILLING LIVES FOR OURSELVES. WE NEED BETTER ONE TO ONE SUPPORT, SUPPORT WITH OUR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT IN GETTING STARTED WITH HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT.

MANY OF US WANT TO MAKE THE CHANGE FOR OURSELVES, WE JUST NEED SUPPORT ON THE JOURNEY. THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT US, THIS IS ABOUT THE WHOLE CITY. WHEN WE GET AWAY FROM CRIME AND PRISON, WE CAN BECOME POSITIVE ROLE-MODELS AND MEMBERS OF OUR OWN COMMUNITIES.