

LOCAL PEOPLE BACK CAMPAIGN FOR A&E

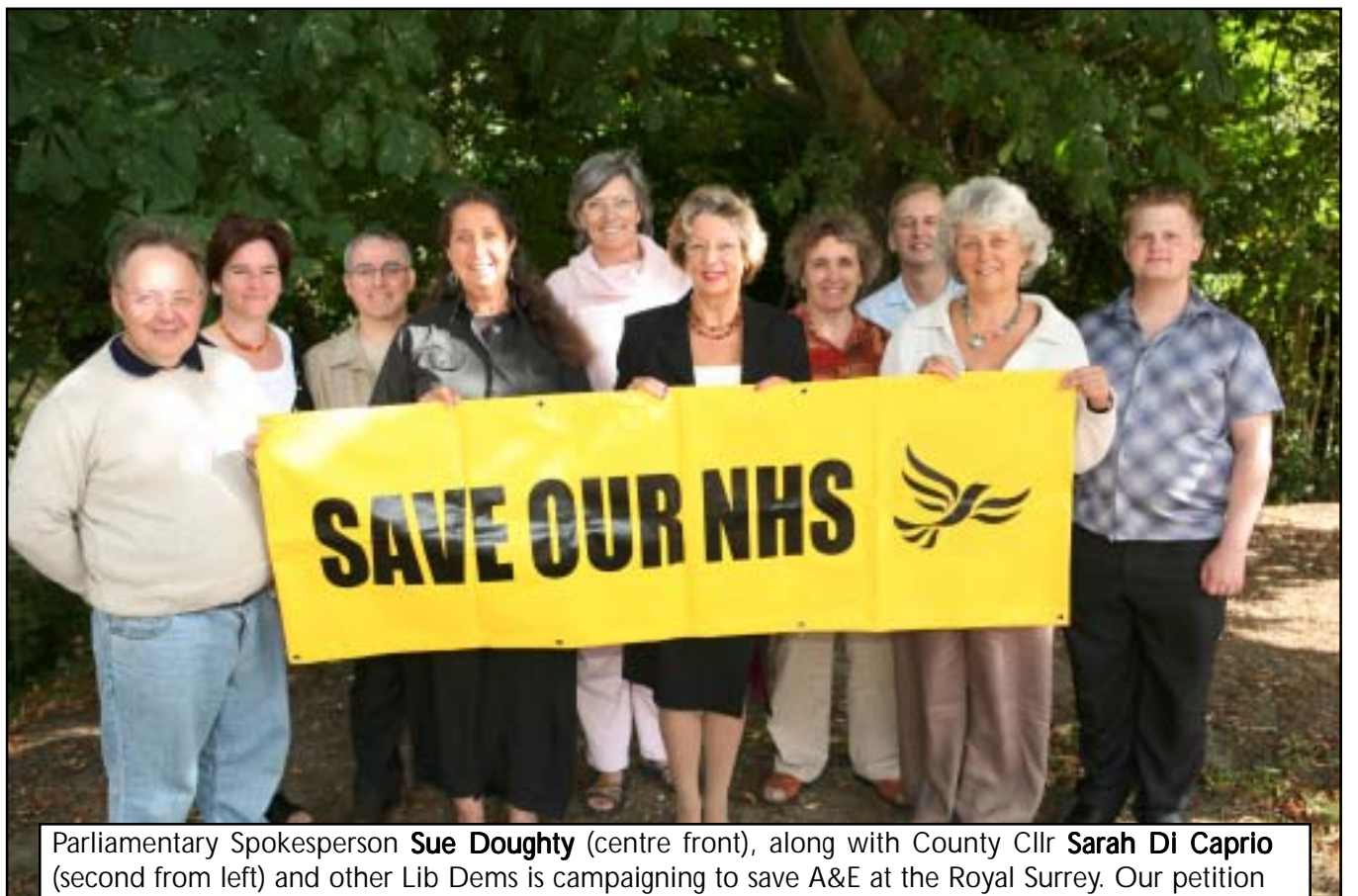
Thousands of local people have signed a Lib Dem petition as the battle intensifies to save A&E at the Royal Surrey.

The department could be under threat due to the massive debts that the Government has lumbered the NHS with.

Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** said, "Local people are rallying round our campaign to avoid these savage cuts. We have received thousands of signatures already."

Cllr Tamsy Baker added, "The proposals are appalling. If we lose A&E, people will face long ambulance journeys to Frimley or Chertsey. We will campaign as hard as we can against these cuts."

Sue Doughty has also written to Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt about the local NHS. You can sign our petition online, at: <http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/guildfordnhs>



Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** (centre front), along with County Cllr **Sarah Di Caprio** (second from left) and other Lib Dems is campaigning to save A&E at the Royal Surrey. Our petition has had a tremendous response.

New cameras to help fight crime

Guildford Borough will soon benefit from new CCTV cameras.

The Liberal Democrats proposed a number of new sites for CCTV in light of residents' concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Conservatives twice rejected the plans before they eventually passed them at a full council meeting.

Sue Doughty said, "CCTV has been uniquely responsible for increasing public safety. One of the cameras is in this ward at the corner of London Rd and York Rd. Hopefully this will have a strong effect in deterring vandalism and other crime.

"We must now extend the cameras to other places to help protect the public."



Sue Doughty discussing crime with a local police officer. The Lib Dems successfully campaigned for more CCTV cameras in Guildford to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Tories Ignore Protests

Ignoring over 400 objections from the public, the Tories have agreed to panic proposals to get around the ban on new housing being built within 5 km of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) such as Whitmoor Common.

They claim the plan will protect rare ground-nesting birds, by spending over £1 million on 'improvements' to council-owned countryside to attract people away from the SPAs.

The Lib Dems say the Strategy is flawed and the money should be spent on community benefits such as green space accessible to new housing.

Cllr Gordon Bridger said "This Strategy is deeply flawed. North Guildford residents will not go through town to walk their dogs in Chantry Woods. The Conservatives should listen to the public."

The Lib Dems are pleased that Tyting Farm was removed from the Strategy, but disappointed that the Conservatives insisted on keeping in Chantry Woods, with over £450,000 to be spent on measures such as a new car park and dog bins.

Tyting Farm Saved



Cllr Tamsy Baker and County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio at Tyting Farm. After a long campaign, it has been saved for public use.

Local people are delighted to learn that after a long campaign, Tyting Farm has been saved for public use.

The Council had been planning to sell the site off but has backed down after pressure from local residents and the Lib Dems.

The Council has agreed to a 50 year lease at a peppercorn rent to a bid from the Surrey Wildlife Trust and a charity, the Halow Trust. They cater for young adults with special needs who would live there and help out with farm work. It is expected to have a community of fifteen.

County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio said, "The Trust have very considerable funds to restore and adapt buildings to their needs in accordance with established planning requirements. Congratulations to local residents who did a great deal to secure this outcome."



If there are overhanging branches or awkward tree roots on public pathways, please contact County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio. Sarah is in discussion with SCC over this Sumach tree causing problems outside Denehyrst in York Road.

Lib Dem recycling scheme coming at last!



Thanks to Lib Dem pressure, plastic will finally be collected from the doorstep

Guildford will finally benefit from Borough-wide kerbside collection of plastic bottles, after the Conservatives backed down.

For years, the Lib Dems pushed for the scheme to help reduce landfill and the threat of incineration across Surrey. After rejecting the scheme in February, the Conservatives have finally bowed to Lib Dem pressure.

The next task is to keep food waste out of the black sacks going to landfill. Lib Dem councillors want that collected for composting, and proposed a trial scheme for 2007. So far the Conservatives have refused to commit themselves.

Cllr Gordon Bridger said, "I am glad the plastics collection scheme is finally here – better late than never. Now we need a collection scheme for food waste - which the Lib Dems are pushing for."

New Pond for Castle

All Councillors were appalled by the sudden unauthorised asphaltting-over of the tiny tadpole pond in the Castle grounds.

An overzealous Parks Director was responsible who has now departed. Fortunately the Council intends to create a new pond similar in design to the original (promoted by our erstwhile Mayor, Henry Peake) but much larger than the pocket-sized one that we lost.

We hope that the tadpoles and the children – all of whom enjoyed it – will not have to wait too long.

Oxford Road Appeal

The many residents who attended the enquiry into the appeal against the rejection for conversion of No 8 into flats will be pleased to hear that it has been rejected on grounds of the impact on neighbours and on 50 ground nesting birds on Whitmoor Common.

They will be sorry to hear that the Inspector did not accept as grounds for rejection the loss of a family house - as there is no policy currently in force which allows for this reason. However, it is a policy which the Lib Dems will seek to introduce in the next Planning Review

Did you know?

Guildford's Conservative MP has missed over a third of her meetings on Parliament's Health Select Committee.

With health services in Guildford under threat from Government cuts, she has the worst attendance record of all the committee members who have been in place since May 2005.

BOOK SALE

Saturday 25 November

St Joseph's Church Hall, York Rd

Free entry - refreshments - thousands of second hand books, CDs, vinyls and tapes

Please contact Alan or Maija Lawrence on 01483 503701 if you have any spare books, tapes or CDs. We will collect from you.

Contact your local Lib Dem team

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Cllr Gordon Bridger

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County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio

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Meet your Lib Dem councillor: If you have an issue that you would like help with, we hold a surgery at Millmead on the first Thursday of every month from 6.30pm. Ring 306000 to book an appointment with a Borough or County Councillor.

Help us to campaign for the local area!

Do you want to help the Liberal Democrats? Return this slip to:
Liberal Democrats, Freepost, SCE 15741, Guildford, GU1 7BR.

I can deliver some leaflets in my area

I can display a poster at election time

I can help with clerical work

I can make a donation of £___ to help pay for Focus

(A donation of £6+ entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join or already belong, tick here)

Name

Address

Tel

Email

The Liberal Democrats may wish to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we think are of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.