

- CCTV to help fight crime
- Recycling scheme here at last
- Anger over SPAs

LOCAL PEOPLE BACK CAMPAIGN FOR A&E

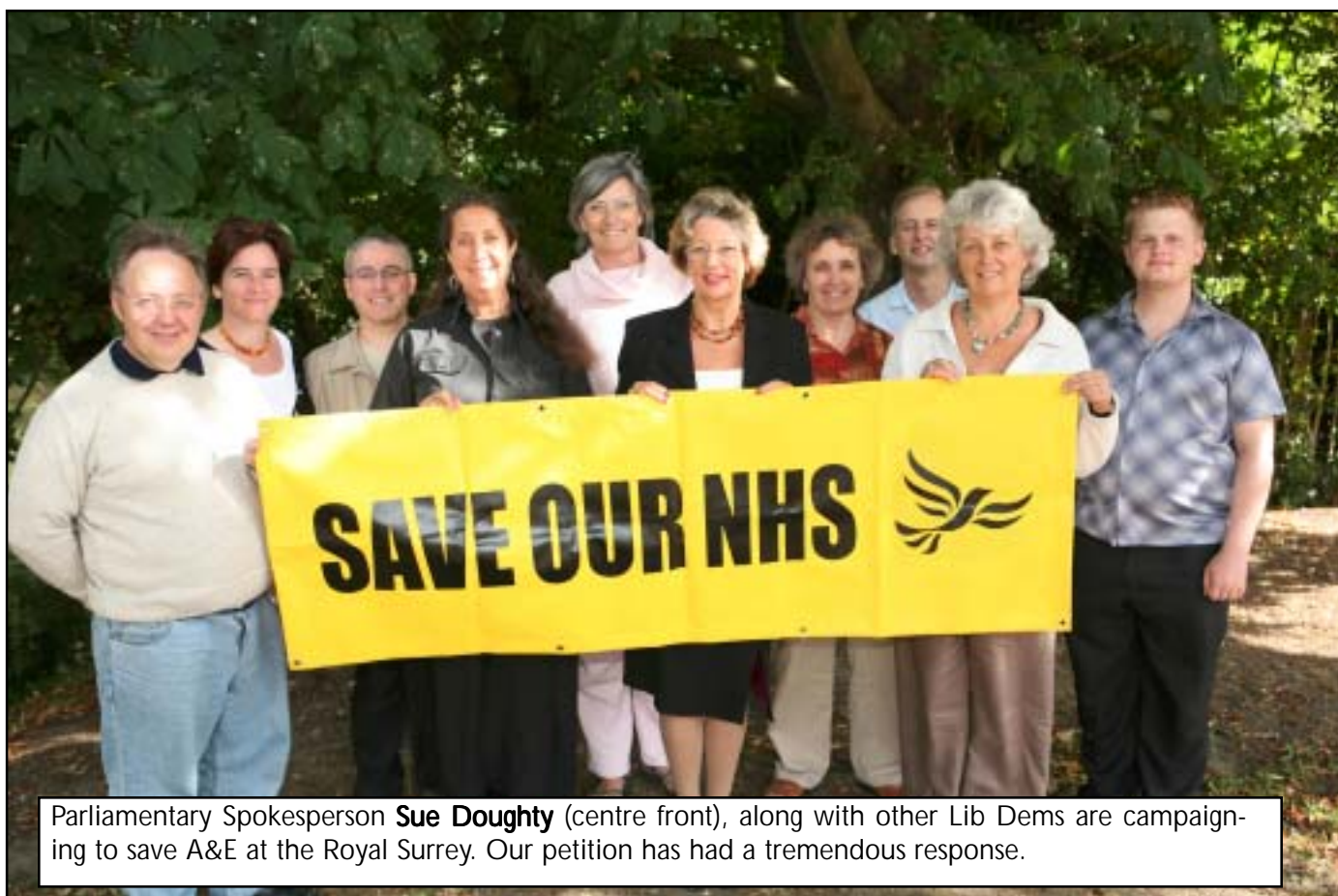
Thousands of local people have signed a Lib Dem petition as the battle intensifies to save A&E at the Royal Surrey.

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."

County Cllr **Eddie Owen** added, "What is happening to our local NHS is a scandal with Cranleigh and Milford Hospitals already set to be lost. I am glad that people have responded so well to Sue's petition."

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 other Lib Dems are 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' fears about violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

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

Cllr **Merilyn Spier** said, "CCTV has a very important role in increasing public safety. My Lib Dem colleagues and I are glad that more cameras are being introduced across the borough.

"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

Once again ignoring public opposition, the Conservatives 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 to the north of Guildford.

The Tories claim the new SPA Avoidance Strategy will protect rare ground-nesting birds, by spending over £1 million of planning-gain money on 'improvements' to council-owned countryside, including Riverside Park, to attract people away from the SPAs.

Liberal Democrat councillors argued that the Strategy will not work, and the £1 million would be better spent on benefits to the community such as green space easily accessible to new housing.

Cllr **Merilyn Spier**, Lib Dem Planning spokesperson, said "This Strategy is deeply flawed. It's unbelievable people will get in their car to struggle through traffic to walk their dogs in Riverside Park. The Tories should listen to the public, and think again."



Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** and **Cllr Merilyn Spier** study plans for the new civic. After years of dithering and delay from the Conservatives, we are finally getting a new Civic Hall.

Civic Hall latest

Guildford will finally be getting a new Civic Hall after years of Conservative dithering were brought to an end.

The new-build project in London Road will cost £20 million+. Plans for a move to the University campus were rejected after a survey carried out by the Liberal Democrats found less than 2% support.

Cllr **Merilyn Spier** told *Focus*, "I am glad we are eventually getting our Civic back after years of delay. So many local people have told me how much they miss events that used to take place there.

"It is however, a shame that the cost is so high - many local people feel that the old Civic could and should have been refurbished at a lower cost."

Lib Dem recycling scheme coming at last!

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 **Merilyn Spier** said, "I am glad the whole borough will now benefit from this scheme that we have campaigned for for so long."



Cllr **Merilyn Spier**, Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** and County Cllr **Eddie Owen** are delighted that after years of pressure, The Lib Dems' recycling scheme is finally being introduced.

Roads need repairing

The Lib Dems are becoming increasingly concerned at the state of Surrey's roads.

Even the leader of Tory-run Surrey County Council (SCC) admitted in *The Surrey Advertiser* that "The condition of the county's roads is not meeting public expectation everywhere."

Despite widespread anger in Surrey about the state of the roads, SCC have reduced the number of Highways Officers by 50% as part of their Business Delivery Review - trying to save money having wasted millions on a failed office move to Woking and hiring expensive consultants.

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.

Appeals Procedures Updated

Recently, the Council found it necessary to update its own procedures relating to the administration and conduct of planning appeals.

Councillors on the Planning Committee were asked to delegate this process to our officers who have always administered the process efficiently and professionally. Whilst we recognised that planning appeals must adhere to a very strict timetable, the Planning Committee agreed that it was important for Ward Members to be consulted.

Cllr **Merilyn Spier** said, "In proposing the amendment to ensure that Ward Members are consulted during the Appeal process, I was very pleased that the majority of Councillors on the Planning Committee agreed with me." I also asked for a report to come to the Planning Committee to clarify the process to follow regarding officer consultation with Councillors.

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.

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 Name
 I can display a poster at election time Address
 I can help with clerical work Tel
 I can make a donation of £___ to help pay for *Focus* Email

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

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.

Contact your local team

Parliamentary Spokesperson - Sue Doughty

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Cllr Merilyn Spier

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County Cllr Eddie Owen

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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.