

FOCUS

Shalford, Compton, Artington,
Peasmarsh and Chilworth

AUTUMN 2006

- CCTV to help fight crime
- Recycling scheme here at last
- Chaos over local bridges

LOCAL PEOPLE BACK CAMPAIGN FOR A&E

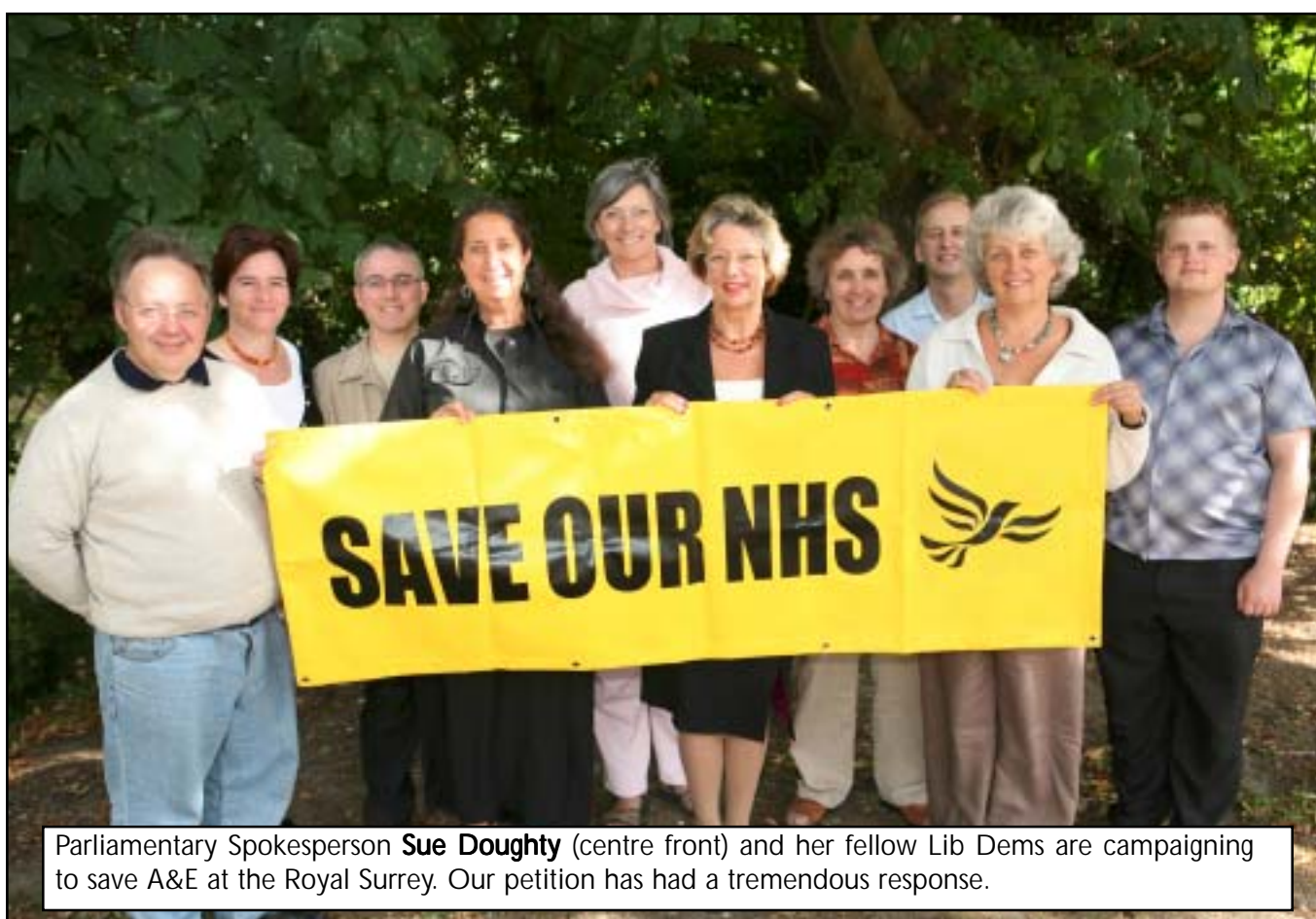
Thousands of local people have signed a Lib Dem petition as the battle intensifies to save A&E at the Royal Surrey.

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."

Local campaigner **David Orchard** added, "People in Shalford and the nearby villages will be particularly affected by this - we could face enormous ambulance journeys through Guildford to Frimley or Chertsey."

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) and her fellow 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



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

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.

Local campaigner **David Orchard** said, "These new cameras will give residents across the borough extra peace of mind. CCTV is a successful way of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

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

www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk

News In Brief

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 outside consultants.

Civic Hall latest

Guildford will finally be getting a new Civic Hall after years of Tory 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 Lib Dems found less than 2% support.

Local campaigner David Orchard told *Focus*, "Many local people missed the Civic Hall. It is ridiculous that it was closed for so long. I am glad a new Hall will eventually be opening, although this new build is very expensive."

Tories ignore protests

Once again ignoring public opposition, the Council's Conservative Executive 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.

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 Chantry Woods, 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.

David Orchard said, "The strategy is flawed and a waste of money. It will not help protect birds as many of the avoidance sites are a long way from the homes they will supposedly be serving."

Chaos over local bridges

Local people have been angered by confusion over two local bridges.

Just four days after the *Surrey Advertiser* announced that the long-awaited footpath / cycle-track bridge across the River Wey had been installed and opened by Surrey County Council (SCC), it was closed again!

This was, apparently on "health-and-safety" grounds as the gravel on the approaches was the 'wrong size' ! Local Lib Dem activist David Orchard alerted the *Surrey Advertiser*, held a meeting by the bridge to talk to puzzled local people and left SCC in no doubt as to their feelings.

Some notice was evidently taken, the gravel was replaced and tarred over, and the bridge finally opened some eight days later.

However, as soon as one bridge opens another closes! Further along this popular footpath (The Wey South / Downs Link) the bridge over Cranleigh Waters was promptly closed by the

Conservative-run County Council for repairs.

A re-opening date of 7 August was announced, but by the Bank Holiday on 28 August it was still closed, and many local cyclists and walkers were disappointed.

Local campaigner David Orchard said, "SCC makes much of its footpath-friendly image when the governing Tory councillors want to get re-elected, but in practice seems as incapable of managing footpath and bridge repairs as it is with the County's main roads (see regular stories in the *Surrey Advertiser* here.)"



Local people have been angered by delays to work on local bridges. First the river Wey crossing closed within four days of opening (left) and then the Cranleigh Waters crossing was closed throughout August (right.) Local campaigner David Orchard (far left) and Parliamentary Spokesperson Sue Doughty (above) were among frustrated residents.

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 Liberal Democrats 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 Liberal Democrat pressure and will be introducing the scheme.

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.

Local campaigner David Orchard said, "I am glad the plastics collection scheme is finally here, but we need to do more. Collection of organic kitchen waste will further help local recycling rates."

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.

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.

Contact your local Lib Dem team

Parliamentary Spokesperson Sue Doughty

☎: 01483 306000 ✉: sue@suedoughty.org

Local campaigner David Orchard

☎: 01483 562243 ✉: dorchard@waitrose.com

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.

- can deliver some leaflets in my area
- can display a poster at election time
- can help with clerical work
- can make a donation of £__ to help pay for *Focus*
- Name
- Address
- Tel
- 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.