

**AUTUMN 2006**

- CCTV to help fight crime
- Anger over SPA proposals
- Community Centre Delayed

# 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 **Pauline Searle** added, "The effect on local healthcare will be devastating if A&E closes - especially with West Surrey already having Cranleigh and Milford Hospitals set for closure."

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>



Lib Dems including Cllr **Fiona White** (centre, back) and Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** (centre front) are campaigning to save A&E at the Royal Surrey. Our petition has had a tremendous response.

## Still no Action on Traffic

Local residents are still waiting for action on traffic from the two Conservative-run Councils - despite months of lobbying from your local Lib Dems and the Stoughton Community Association (SCA.)

The Lib Dems, as well as SCA Chair Paul Kassell, are concerned about the unacceptable level of traffic problems in Stoughton.

Officers and other councillors can be in no doubt about the danger in the area with the traffic mounting the pavement in Grange Rd. They are quick to express sympathy but there is as yet no action or commitment to:

- 1) A Stoughton-wide traffic study
- 2) A halt on future development until the traffic problems have been resolved.
- 3) A response to the comprehensive report submitted by SCA.

Cllr **Fiona White** said, "It is just not acceptable for the councils to express great sympathy and concern and then to say that they don't have the money, resources or authority to do anything about it."

Cllr **Pauline Searle** added, "Instead of wasting £1.5million on the Millmead reception area and £4.62million on an aborted move to Woking, the Conservative Councils should be taking action over local traffic issues."

The vital Park and Ride site promised for North Guildford has still not yet been built. Cllr **Jayne Marks** said "I've been calling on both councils for months now to get on with our park and ride to help reduce through traffic in the Stoughton area.

"It has taken a long time to get some action but we have at last got the councils looking at possible sites. Residents can be sure that we will be keeping up the pressure."



Cllr **Pauline Searle**, Cllr **Fiona White** and Cllr **Jayne Marks** surveying traffic in Grange Road. The Lib Dems are concerned about the volume of traffic using Grange Road. Cars often mount the pavement causing a safety hazard.

# Stoughton hit by Conservative SPA mess

Ignoring over 400 objections from the public, 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.

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, 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 Fiona White said: "The Conservatives have adopted a strategy which will not work. Their refusal to invest in any part of North Guildford means that this area will gain no benefit. If parts of Guildford take extra housing, they should have the investment nearby and not a car drive away. The Tories should listen to the public and think again."

# Stoughton Community Centre delayed

Stoughton Community Centre has been delayed by what seems to have been a hitch with the legal planning document that needs to be signed before the building can start.

The I06 Agreement has been drawn up but not yet agreed by the lawyers. The developers have assured us that they are planning to continue with the build.

The sub-committee of Stoughton Community Association tasked with working on plans for fitting out and running the centre is keen to get started. However, they cannot work out a business plan without more information from the developers of the Centre.

The sub-committee now has representation from people all over Stoughton including residents near the site in QEP.

Cllr Pauline Searle said "The new committee are tackling this with re-newed enthusiasm along with colleagues from QEP itself. We are confident that the centre will become a much used facility run firmly with the needs of all residents in mind."

# New cameras to help fight crime



Sue Doughty discussing crime with a local police officer. The Lib Dems successfully campaigned for more CCTV cameras 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.

Cllr Jayne Marks said, "I am glad that Guildford will benefit from this scheme to improve public safety. We must now extend the cameras to other places to help protect the public."

# Local news in photographs



After years of Lib Dem pressure, plastics will now be collected from the doorstep for recycling. However, the Lib Dems want to take the scheme even further and allow organic kitchen waste to be collected in a similar manner.



Stoughton's Lib Dem councillors Cllr Fiona White, Cllr Jayne Marks and Cllr Pauline Searle, admiring the Shepherd and his Flock statue in Queen Elizabeth Park. "It is great to see some art in such a lovely setting" Pauline told Focus.



Pauline and Jayne have been campaigning for a halt to so called back-land development like this one in Grange Rd. By knocking down this house, developers can build 11 houses in the gardens behind and put more pressure on the already over crowded roads.

# Making Stoughton a Brighter Place to Live

New planters have been installed all along the Worplesdon Rd. Cllr Pauline Searle has been working with officers and local residents to try to iron out some problems with positioning. "At long last the project that residents all voted for has got underway and we look forward to seeing them filled with shrubs" said Pauline.

# 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

Parliamentary Spokesperson - Sue Doughty

☎: 01483 306000

✉: [sue@suedoughty.org](mailto:sue@suedoughty.org)

County and Borough Cllr Pauline Searle

☎: 01483 825424

✉: [pauline.searle@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.searle@guildford.gov.uk)

Borough Cllr Jayne Marks

☎: 01483 232124

✉: [jayne.marks@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.marks@guildford.gov.uk)

Borough Cllr Fiona White

☎: 07818 270907

✉: [fiona.white@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.white@guildford.gov.uk)

**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 1BR.

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.