

# Westborough FOCUS

**AUTUMN 2006**

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

## LOCAL PEOPLE BACK CAMPAIGN FOR A&E

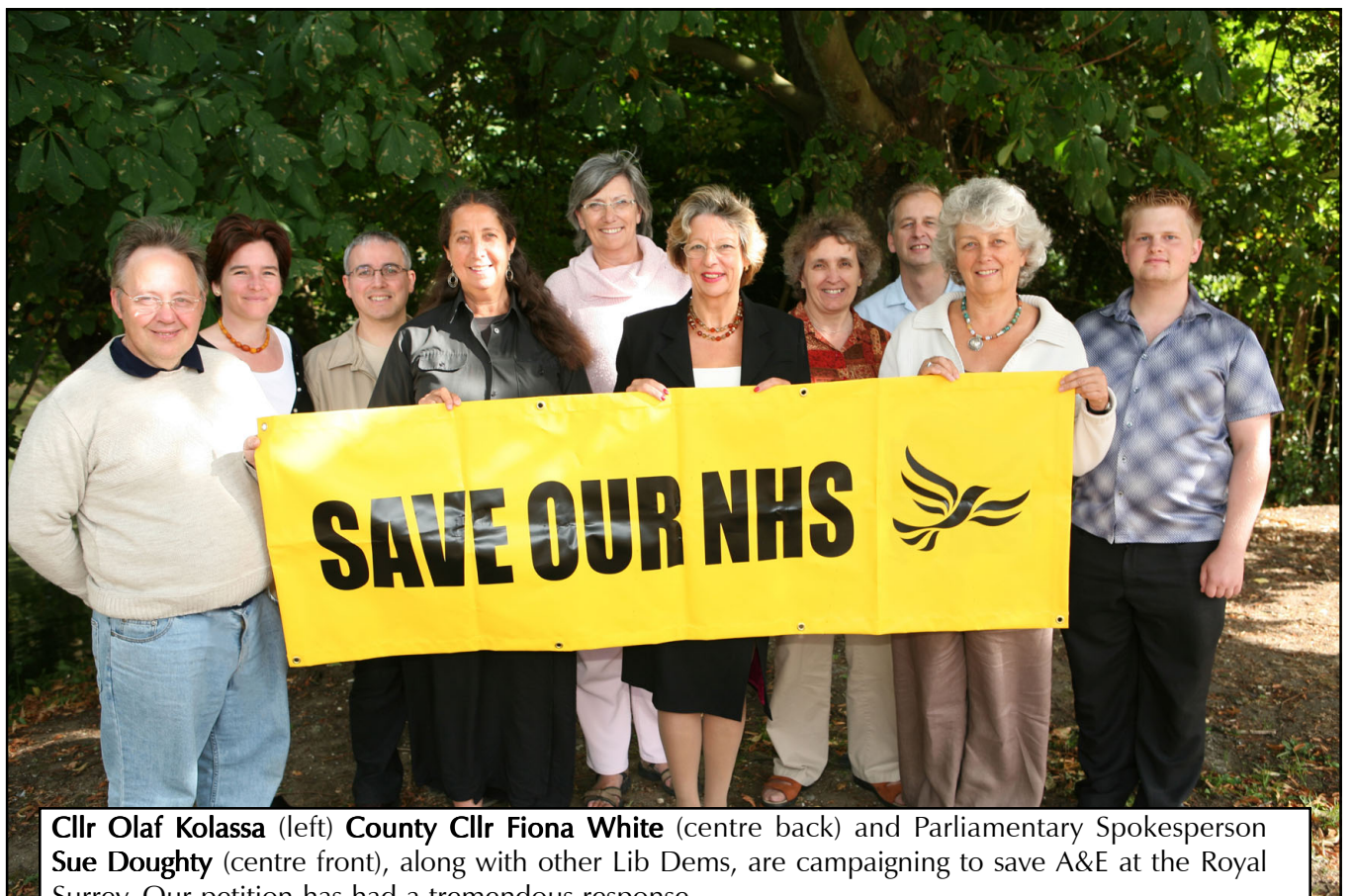
Thousands of local people have signed a Lib Dem petition as the battle intensifies to save A&E at the Royal Surrey.

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 Marilyn Merryweather** added, "The local NHS is in crisis because of Government mismanagement. The Lib Dems are fighting these appalling cuts throughout West Surrey."

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>



Cllr Olaf Kolassa (left) County Cllr Fiona White (centre back) and 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



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.

**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 Olaf Kolassa** said, "I am glad that the Conservatives have backed down and the Borough will benefit from more cameras. CCTV has an important role in protecting the public's safety.

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

### A3 Noise barrier in place

The noise barrier along the A3 has been completed.

**Cllr Val Hazelwood** said, "It took many years of fighting by your local Lib Dem councillors and Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** but the barrier is complete.

"It makes such a difference to those living by the road, protecting them from noise, dust and fumes. Many thanks to the contractors who tried to keep disruption to a minimum while the work was being done."



Your local Lib Dem team inspect the completed barrier.

# Tories ignore public protests

Many local people are angry about Conservative panic-proposals to avoid the ban on new housing caused by Special Protection Areas (SPAs) such as Whitmoor Common, despite strong opposition.

New houses can not be built within 5 km of the SPAs inhabited by certain rare ground-nesting birds unless new open spaces are provided to discourage residents away from SPAs.

The Conservatives want to spend over £1 million on four sites of council-owned countryside to divert people from the SPAs. The Lib Dems say this

will not work and the money should be spent on green space easily accessible to new housing .

North Guildford has the greatest amount of housing planned but the Tories rejected a LibDem proposal to include Westborough Woods as a new open space. Residents will now have to drive to other open spaces if they are not to use the SPAs.

**Cllr Fiona White** said, "This area will gain no benefit from these Conservative plans. If parts of Guildford have to take extra housing the investment should be nearby, not a car drive away."

# School Update

Residents are still concerned about the future of the St Francis School site now that the school has closed.

**County Cllr Fiona White** has spoken to the children's services department of the County Council. They have assured her that the proposed uses are only for services for children with special needs and that there are no plans to sell off any part of the site.

The likely uses are for some office accommodation for a children's social work team and some direct provision for local children with special educational needs. Fiona is meeting soon with the children's services team to discuss the details for future use.

# Egerton Road - Let Down Again



The Liberal Democrats are frustrated that the Egerton Road railings remain damaged.

Once again residents have been let down by the County Council's highways contractors.

The railings at Egerton Road were damaged months ago. The damage was reported to the Council's highways staff who have referred it to the contractors.

Despite the safety implications, the repair work has still not been done - although your Lib Dem team will keep the pressure up until it has been.

**County Cllr Fiona White** said, "I cannot understand why, even though the contractors let us down time after time, the County's Conservative Executive have renewed their contract."

# Lib Dem recycling scheme coming at last!



Thanks to Lib Dem pressure plastics will be collected across the whole borough

**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 Olaf Kolassa** said, "It is good news that the Conservatives have finally backed down and are allowing this scheme to start. We need to expand it though to include kitchen waste."

# New affordable housing

Twenty affordable houses are to be built at the site of the former Fairfield Lodge at the corner of Fairfield Rise and Southway.

A new road into the estate, to be called "The Spinney" will give access from Southway. The land was sold to a housing association for the purpose of building affordable housing for rent.

They will be available to local hard-working people who are on the council's housing waiting list. **Cllr Olaf Kolassa** states "these houses were being built for local needs, and will remain so."



Cllr Val Hazelwood, Cllr Marilyn Merryweather and Cllr Olaf Kolassa inspect a site for new affordable housing.

# 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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**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 I5741, Guildford, GUI 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.