

Lib Dems Call to Prevent Increased Parking Chaos

The campaign for planning powers to prevent increasing parking chaos in Guildford's has suffered a set-back, following the Conservatives' rejection of a Liberal Democrat proposal.

Lib Dem councillors proposed that developers must provide one parking space on-site for every small flat or house, with more for larger homes, unless they could show there was no

problem with on-street parking in that area.

This proposal, for the draft Parking Standards planning guidance, was rejected by the Conservative majority on the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Ted Mayne said, "We have increasing parking chaos on Guildford's streets, both within and outside the town centre. The Conservatives should think again."



County Cllr Eddie Owen supporting Burpham FC's bid to make Sutherland Park their home.

Football in East Guildford

Cllr Eddie Owen is supporting Burpham FC in their attempt to persuade Guildford Borough Council to make Sutherland Park their home ground with priority pitches in the Borough.

Join the Winning Team!

Do you want to help the Liberal Democrats? Return this slip to:

Guildford Lib Dems, **Freepost** SCE 15741, Guildford GU1 1BR.

- I can deliver some leaflets in my area
 - I can display a poster at election time
 - I can help with stuffing envelopes
 - I can make a donation of £ _____
- (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 _____

Possible Youth Centre for Merrow or Burpham

Last year, planning approval was granted for construction of a youth centre on the Bushy Hill recreation ground next to the community centre.

Since that time, discussions have started with residents about locating a site to provide for both Merrow and Burpham.

County Cllr Eddie Owen said, "I am very keen to support youth services in East Guildford.

Surrey County Council's Business Delivery Review is sending out the wrong messages by recommending the closure of youth clubs; I hope that this one gets support."

Did You Know?

After voting down a Lib Dem proposal last year for kerbside collection of plastics, the Tories did a u-turn and a trial scheme has started in some wards, including Burpham.

They have refused a Lib Dem suggestion to extend plastics collections in 2006/7 and to start planning for composting of kitchen waste by 2007/8.

Contact your local Focus team

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.

Guildford Lib Dems, Freepost SCE 15741, GU1 1QD.

Surrey County Cllr for Guildford East

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Guildford Borough Cllr for Burpham

Ted Mayne - 01483 565296 edward.mayne@guildford.gov.uk

www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk

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FOCUS
 on Burpham

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 LIBERAL
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PLANNING BOMBSHELL

All applications for more housing locally are currently being refused, on the advice of English Nature, which itself is based on a European Habitats Directive.

This will apply until the Council has plans in place to protect ground nesting birds found in the Special Protection Area (SPA) of Thames Basin Heath. The whole of Guildford town lies within the SPA protection zone of 5km.

Council plans for hundreds of flats at both Bedford Road and at the

Civic Hall site will be affected. They will probably have to open up land in mitigation elsewhere for public recreational use.

Both Lib Dem representatives in Burpham, Cllr Ted Mayne and County Cllr Eddie Owen, are keen that Tying Farm can remain council-owned for this purpose.

This option may not be open to all developers. Unfortunately, the development of 72 flats opposite Kingpost Parade in London Road was allowed on appeal before the Directive was taken seriously.



Cllr Ted Mayne and County Cllr Eddie Owen at Kingpost Parade in London Road.

Lib Dems =

Lower Taxes

Council tax rises, 2006

Tory SCC	Tory GBC	Lib Dem GBC Proposal
+5%	+2.48%	+1.85%

See inside for a special report on how the Tories tax you high and waste your money

Thornchace Community School saved from closure



Following two years of support from County Councillor Eddie Owen, the Surrey Schools Organisation Committee has turned down an application to close Thornchace School.

Cllr Eddie Owen wants to see improved local provision for girls with behavioural, emotional and social disabilities (BESD) as opposed to Thornchace closing.

Eddie said, "I am delighted that the Committee have decided to keep Thornchace open. The specialist teaching that Thornchace provides is absolutely vital for many youngsters in the local areas with BESD."

Local news and action all year round

Focus Special: How the Tories waste YOUR taxes

1) £1.5million prestige plan 2) Council builds war chest

The bill for the Tories' new reception area at the council offices has now climbed to £1,500,000 - as opposed to the £1,000,000 that Focus reported at the end of last year.

Apparently the aim is "to improve disabled access and to upgrade facilities." However, the reception area is fully compliant with disability requirements and the plans cut the number of parking spaces, **reducing** accessibility!

Cllr Ted Mayne said, "This is quite clearly a prestige project and it is an absolutely appalling waste of money."

How should this be spent?

Only a few changes are needed to help the disabled - such as better lighting and moveable seating - and to improve public safety by relocating deliveries to the rear of the building. These would not cost £1,500,000.

What do you think?

What would you spend the money on? Safety schemes such as better street lighting and CCTV? Environmental improvements such as better parks and cleaner streets? Facilities like community halls and sports courts?

Let us know your views

Do you agree that the Tory scheme represents appalling value for money? Would you like to see the money better spent? Please get in touch using the contact details on the back.



● Lib Dem councillors Tony Phillips, Pauline Searle, Lynda Strudwick, Caroline Reeves, Ted Mayne and David Goodwin are fighting extravagant Tory plans

3) Waste at County Hall



Millions of pounds of your money is being wasted by Conservative-run Surrey County Council.

Anger is growing as local council taxpayers learn that Surrey's portion of council tax is to soar by more than double the rate of inflation - while some services face being cut and money is

wasted by mismanagement.

During the last year £15 million has been spent on expensive agency costs resulting from poor retention and recruitment policies at County Hall.

Money has also been wasted on expensive external consultants, called in to try to save money!

Another £4 million has been spent on a failed initiative to move the County Offices from Kingston to Woking.

County Cllr Eddie Owen is critical of the budget set by the Tories at County Hall. He said, "I accept

that savings need to be made in Surrey's budget, but it is wrong that front-line services are being cut so drastically while money is wasted elsewhere."

With borough council elections in 2007, Guildford Conservatives have once again chosen to use council tax to build up their "war chest".

As well as a "parking reserve" of £100,000 started last year, we taxpayers are now adding to an "Invest to Save" fund of £300,000.

Lib Dems voted against this and instead proposed increasing council tax by just 1.85% - below the rate of inflation - while improving many services, such as:

✓ **Extending plastic collection throughout Guildford – nothing in Tory budget.**

✓ **Reducing litter with a rapid response team – street cleanliness is less than half Tories' own target.**

✓ **More resource for on-street parking – cut time for lengthy reviews and look into car-share schemes.**

✓ **Enhancing CCTV/recording equipment - backed by police.**

✓ **Retain Nippy Chipper service – being axed by the Conservatives.**

The Liberal Democrats also sought: a commitment towards running the Civic when reopened; collections of food waste; and to restore funding for smaller local projects that have been neglected recently.

The Tories rejected ALL of these proposals and the borough's share of council tax will go up by 2.48% - more than Lib Dem-run neighbour Waverley Borough Council.

Civic Hall - the saga grinds on

Two years after the Tories decided to close the Civic to avoid spending £81,500 to keep it open, they still have no confirmed plans for a replacement.

The net cost to build a 'state of the art' new Civic, as promised by the Tories has rocketed from £2m in 2001 to £20m.

They are reluctantly considering refurbishing the existing building – but are still wedded to unnecessary extravagance.

Consultants' plans for development of flats and parking alongside the Civic would not be compatible with refurbishment.

Sue Doughty worried by PCT plans

Proposals made by the local Primary Care Trust (PCT) to close beds could lead to problems for people cared for at home, says former MP Sue Doughty.

She has pointed out the problems faced by community nurses, care staff and carers in parking, which is leading to less time being spent on patients. The increase in people needing care in their own homes will make matters worse.

Sue pointed out to the PCT that additional time will be needed by care staff just to get through the traffic and park. As a result of her concerns a review is being undertaken of the arrangements for carers in Guildford.

Sue said, "I hope that as a result of this, we get to a situation where carers are able to get on with the job they are doing instead of driving round trying to park or risking a fine."



When will the Civic open?



Sue Doughty is concerned by the effect that PCT plans will have on carers being able to park.

BOOK SALE Saturday 24 June

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.