

Recycling - mixed blessings

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

But they have refused a suggestion by the Liberal Democrats to extend plastics collections in 2006/7 and to start planning



Sarah Di Caprio and Vivienne Johnson want to see all Guildford served by kerbside collection of plastic.

for the composting of kitchen waste by 2007/8.

Lib Dem Environment Spokesperson on Surrey County Council, Sarah Di

Caprio, is particularly disappointed that the scheme applies only to bottles. "Many people are telling me how much more goes into their black sacks now that they can't recycle plastic pots and tubs"

For the sake of our environment, let's hope for more Tory U-turns.

Parking controls coming in May

Hundreds of people took the trouble to respond to a special questionnaire

Vivienne Johnson circulated last November in a last ditch effort to confirm the views of residents about the proposed Controlled Parking Zone.

The main concern related to whether Saturday restrictions should apply, but this survey exposed several more localised bugbears – as well as a keen wish to have restrictions in place

before the next school year.

Council officers advised in the strongest terms that some of these suggestions would require re-advertisement and extensive delays to implementation.

Vivienne argued – with mixed results! – for several measures that would make a big difference for a few but without much wider impact on the area.

"I was not prepared to risk massive delays, but I'm pleased that I succeeded with a few minor

improvements. For the important issues, such as Saturday

restrictions, I just had to accept assurances of a comprehensive review, starting next year, that would explore different controls with suitable boundaries.

"I feel particularly let down that the Tories have rejected my calls for better funding for this function, which is grossly under-resourced. Sadly we are going to have to wait until work elsewhere in the borough has been completed."

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 _____

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 see either a Borough or County Councillor

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

Surrey County Councillor for Guildford SE
Sarah Di Caprio - 01483 562127 sar.di.caprio@surreycc.gov.uk
Guildford Borough Councillor for Christchurch
Vivienne Johnson - 01483 574940 vivienne.johnson@guildford.gov.uk

www.guilfordlibdems.org.uk

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Spring 2006
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
on Christchurch

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 Vivienne Johnson and Sarah Di Caprio are keen that Tying Farm can remain council-owned for this purpose.

This option may not be open to all

developers. All outstanding applications for housing are affected by the Directive, including conversion of the Clavadel Hotel, and nearby 128a Epsom Road; plans to extend 5 Aldersey Road with dwellings in the back garden; and renewed plans to replace 12 Watford Close with flats.

Inspectors might also be influenced with appeals for flats at 111 Epsom Rd & 10 Aldersey Rd.



Vivienne at the Clavadel Hotel, where conversion plans could be put on hold.

Next Police Panel

The next police panel meeting is at Burchatts Barn in Stoke Park 3rd May, at 7pm, supported by PC Keith Deadman-Nicholls (07967 986194, 11708@surrey.pnn.police.uk), PCSO Felicity Burns (07967 987573, 863@surrey.pnn.police.uk) and GSW Brian Cuff (07901 513650, brian.cuff@guildford.gov.uk).

Lib Dems = Lower Taxes

Council tax rises, 2006

Tory SCC +5%	Tory GBC +2.48%	Lib Dem GBC Proposal +1.85%
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See inside for a special report on how the Tories tax you high and waste your money

Police focus on speeding

Under a new scheme called "Community Speedwatch", the police train civilian volunteers to use speed guns in local roads of special concern.



Boxgrove, Tangier and London Roads were highlighted by residents at the January Christchurch police neighbourhood panel.

Penalty tickets cannot be issued by the volunteers, but persistent speeding could result in warnings, then fines. Sarah Di Caprio hopes to use some of her SCC allocation to purchase a speed gun for her area when the scheme is introduced locally. If you are interested in volunteering, contact PC Dave Thomas on 656@surrey.pnn.police.uk or phone 0845 1252222.

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!

Vivienne said, "This is quite clearly a prestige project and an 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, cleaner streets, more trees in selected locations?

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



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.

- 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

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.

Now the Conservatives are talking to the University about combining the town's Civic Hall with a Performing Arts Centre on the campus.

The cost of consultants so far is nearly £1 million – and rising.

Vivienne said, "This situation is getting beyond a joke. The people of Guildford have waited far too long for the Tories to get their act together."



Cllr Vivienne Johnson and County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio want to see the Civic re-open.

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.

Sue Doughty concerned by PCT plans

Proposals made by Guildford & Waverley 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 other carers in parking, which is leading to less time being spent on the patient. 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 full review is being undertaken of the arrangements for paid and unpaid 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."