

# RUBBISH!

The Council's latest statistics show that the rubbish on local streets is getting worse.

Last year the Lib Dems launched a campaign in Friary to get the Tories to clean up their act - but there has been no improvement.

Do you live near a rubbish 'blackspot'? Fill in the questionnaire on our website and we can make sure it goes on our 'hit list'!



Cllr Caroline Reeves wants to see the Council do more to keep our streets clean.

## Neighbourhood Watch Details

### Effects of new licensing laws

We are keen to increase the number of Neighbourhood Watch groups here in Friary & St Nicolas. These groups have been proved to reduce crime and can also mean cheaper home insurance.

Our Community Safety Warden, Rodney Bates, is leading the campaign for these. If you would like information, contact one of your local councillors or Rodney himself on 07767 311404 or batesr@guildford.gov.uk

The new licensing laws have not seen a rise in drink related crime in Guildford.

Guildford Pubwatch and the Borough Council have recorded a reduction of 44% for violent crime in the town during December.

If you have any concerns related to pubs in the town centre, contact Sgt JP Davis, who is part of the Licensing Enforcement Team on either 653179 or 1862@surrey.pnn.police.uk

## News in Brief

### Another Lib Dem Success

We fought the siting of a phone mast at the top of Wodeland Avenue. The subsequent appeal was then lost by the applicant.

### Safer School Crossing

The first stage of the Friary redevelopment will be the new bus station, which will not only give us a new, better bus station but will also eventually improve traffic flow.

When the new temporary traffic redirection begins, Cllr David Goodwin has requested that funding be made available from the Friary redevelopment to ensure that the roads around Sandfield School will be made safer with a new crossing and school warning signs.

### Temporary Bus Station

There will be two temporary bus stations while the new bus station is being built. One will be on the site of the original bus station, now the Farnham Road car park. The other will be at the top of North Street. Look out for new traffic routes, relocated bus stops and some buses on different roads!

## 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, GUI 1QD.**  
**Surrey County Councillor for Guildford South West**  
 David Goodwin - 01483 824616 david.goodwin@surreycc.gov.uk  
**Guildford Borough Councillors for Friary & St. Nicolas**  
 David Goodwin - 01483 824616 goodwin@guildford.gov.uk  
 Caroline Reeves - 01483 450816 reeves@guildford.gov.uk  
 Rupert Sheard - 01483 576897 sheard@guildford.gov.uk

[www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk](http://www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk)

[www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk](http://www.guildfordlibdems.org.uk)  
**FOCUS**  
 on Friary & St. Nicolas  
 Spring 2006  
 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

## Council U-turn over Bedford Road site

Tory-run Guildford Borough Council is set to create further parking chaos in the centre of Guildford after their latest planning application.

The Council have proposed to build a block of 142 flats on Council land in Bedford Road. However, the proposed plans offer just 67 parking spaces - in direct contradiction with the Executive's recommendation in December that all town-centre flats should have one parking space each.

Cllr **David Goodwin** said, "Friary & St. Nicolas residents are sick of parking being pushed onto our streets because developers provide insufficient on-site parking."

Cllr **Caroline Reeves** added, "If we are to improve residents parking in the town centre, all new developments should have one parking space per unit, or developers should be supporting a car share scheme on their site."

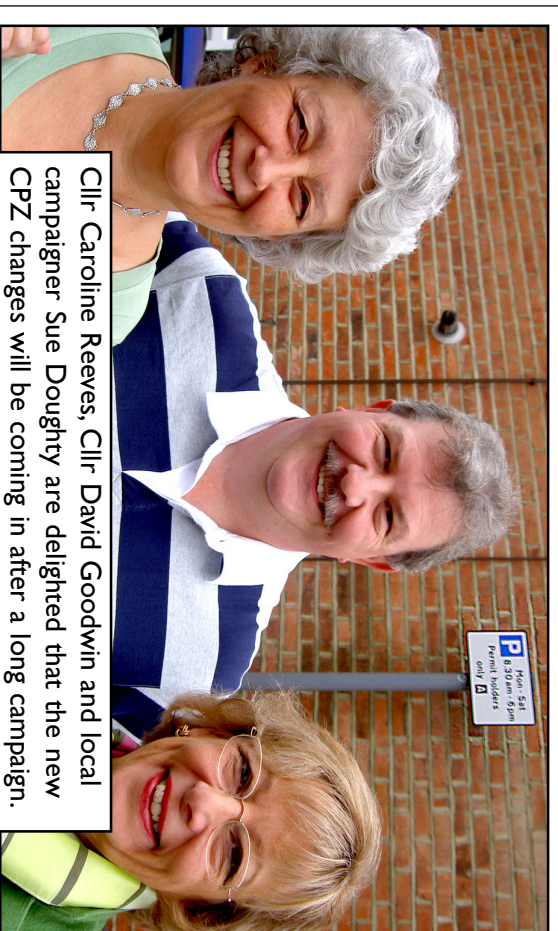
Cllr **Rupert Sheard** said, "The plans also fail to meet the council's planned targets for affordable housing. It is a scandal that they are rushing through this development to avoid falling foul of their own rules which they will introduce in a few months time."

## Lib Dems = Lower Taxes

Council tax rises, 2006

<b>Tory SCC</b>	<b>Tory GBC</b>	<b>Lib Dem GBC Proposal</b>
<b>+5%</b>	<b>+2.48%</b>	<b>+1.85%</b>

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



Cllr Caroline Reeves, Cllr David Goodwin and local campaigner Sue Doughty are delighted that the new CPZ changes will be coming in after a long campaign.

## CPZ changes - at last!

Work is underway and we hope that the new signs and markings will be complete by June.

The changes will create more residents only parking spaces. We have been promised a review of the situation in a year's time, and if necessary a whole new approach to town centre parking.

Councillor Caroline Reeves said "We have been pushing hard for amendments to the CPZ for some time now and these changes can only improve on-street parking for residents in the town centre."



The long awaited changes to the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) are happening after a campaign from your local Lib Dems.

The Council carried out a thorough questionnaire of local views and these will now be reflected in the changes.

## 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 Rupert Sheard 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



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.

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

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

Cllr Caroline Reeves 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."



Local campaigner Sue Doughty and Cllr David Goodwin recycling plastics. The Lib Dems want to bring this service to the doorstep.

### 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 is starting in some wards shortly - but sadly not in Friary & St. Nicolas.

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.

## 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 Maïja Lawrence on 01483 503701 if you have any spare books, tapes or CDs. We will collect from you.