

Holy Trinity Parking Latest GOOD NEWS... BAD NEWS...

Lib Dem County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio is delighted to report that some 16 extra parking spaces have been found in Charlotteville.

Sarah believes this will be a considerable help in easing parking pressure in and around the Charlotteville area.

Sarah Di Caprio said, "I am delighted that these extra spaces have been found to go some way to easing parking congestion. Residents should be able to park as close as possible to their homes - this will be a big help."

Meanwhile, Cllr Tamsy Baker's suggestion of a new type of permit for daytime on weekdays will be debated by councillors and a proposal to extend the boundary of Parking Zone H has been postponed for examination.

Holy Trinity will not be protected from parking chaos after the Tory majority on the Council voted down a proposal by Lib Dem Cllr Gordon Bridger.

Gordon proposed that parking permits would not be granted to new developments where on-street parking was already insufficient, but the Tories rejected that and made vague promises of a review instead.

Gordon wanted all new developments to provide one parking space for each home. The Tories' latest policy proposals still allow developers to provide far fewer parking spaces.

Cllr Gordon Bridger said, "This is a very disappointing decision. There will now be even more parking chaos on our streets."



County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio at Charlotteville, where extra spaces should help parking problems

News in Brief

Phone Masts

Local Lib Dems Cllr Gordon Bridger and Cllr Tamsy Baker want to hear the views of residents after the latest local planning application by phone company Orange.

Following a public outcry, an application for a giant 23 metre phone mast on Pewley Down has twice been rejected by the Council's Planning Committee.

Now, Orange have come up with a new proposal, for five eight metre poles with a box attachment at the base.

Your local Lib Dems are keen to hear from residents as to which they consider the 'least worst' option - if this new application is rejected, then at a public enquiry the inspector may approve the 23m Pewley Down mast.

Turret House Saved

Following years of negotiation, Turret House at the corner of Jenner and Epsom Roads has been saved from demolition.

The landmark building will now be retained for residential use after a campaign by local councillors and residents.

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 Liberal Democrats, Freepost SCE 15741, GU1 1QD.

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FOCUS
on Holy Trinity Ward
Spring 2006
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Lib Dems concerned about future of Tyting Farm

Amid growing concerns from residents that Tyting Farm might be acquired by speculative developers, Lib Dem councillors say that any decision about the sale of Tyting Farm should be made in public by the Council's Tory Executive.

The Lib Dems are opposed to the farmland being sold off in individual blocks and would urge that it should be retained as one managed unit.

Cllr Gordon Bridger said, "The main aim of the Council must be to protect the open area of the North Downs rather than just looking for financial gain."

Surrey County Council has a stake in the Tyting Farm land, dating back to 1942.

County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio added, "This is a precious area of Green Belt countryside, and many residents have contacted me to protest about the sale."

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



Cllr Tamsy Baker and Cllr Gordon Bridger at Pewley Down. Your local Lib Dem Councillors are hoping to see the amount of the down available for public use expanded.

Pewley Down set for expansion?

Pewley Down could be set for an expansion thanks to Lib Dem Cllr Gordon Bridger.

The Pewley Down Volunteers have done fantastic work in making this an area of special environmental interest. Gordon's proposal that this public space be extended along the south west side of



Burgess Way has been enthusiastically welcomed.

Gordon Bridger said, "This is an area of outstanding beauty and should be in the public use."

The Volunteers have also received a £2,000 boost to their funds from Sarah Di Caprio. Sarah put part of her annual SCC allocation towards the group, with the aim of helping them purchase equipment such as a vandal-proof lockable shed.

If you have a community-based project you would like to see funded, please contact Sarah Di Caprio using the details on the back page.

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 _____

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 Gordon Bridger 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.



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 Sarah Di Caprio is critical of the budget set by the Tories at County Hall. She 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.

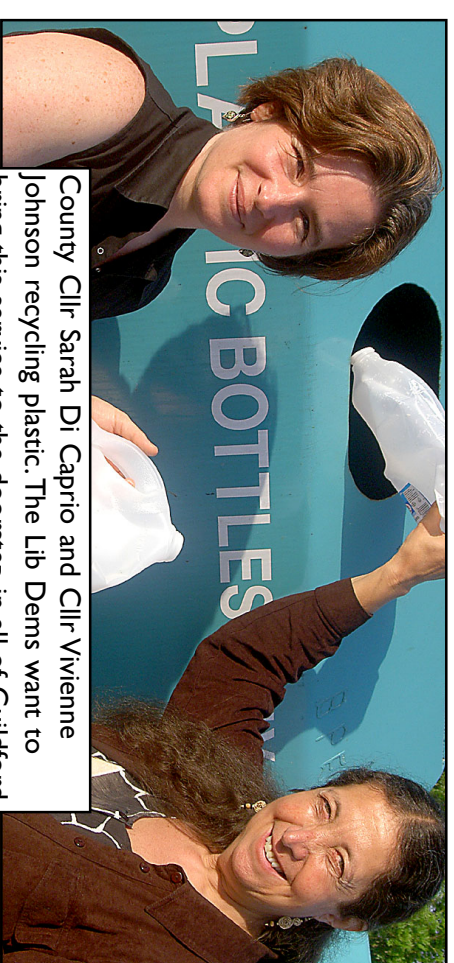
Civic Hall - the saga grinds on

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.



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 Holy Trinity.

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.



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 Gordon Bridger 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."