

Sue Doughty worried about effect of 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 for Guildford 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."



Former MP Sue Doughty is concerned at the effects the PCT's plans will have on carers.

Civic Hall - the saga grinds on

The net cost to build a 'state of the art' new Civic Hall, 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.

The cost of consultants so far is nearly £1 million – and rising fast. David Orchard said, "This situation is getting beyond a joke. The people of Guildford and the surrounding areas have waited far too long for the Tories to get their act together."

Watts Gallery - the hidden jewel of Compton

How many local residents have ever visited the Watts Gallery in Compton ?

Tucked away down a secluded rural lane near the A3 junction with the B3000, it is the only dedicated single-artist gallery in the UK, a centre for the Arts & Crafts Movement in Surrey, and attracts visitors from all over the

world to its many events, exhibitions and lectures. It is open every afternoon except Thursdays (admission is free), and there is a popular tea shop next door.

The painter G.F.Watts was one of the greatest Victorian portrait painters, but he was a powerful advocate of social reform and some of his paintings vividly

depict the inequalities and injustices of Victorian society. For more information, the Gallery website is www.wattsgallery.org.uk, their email wattsgallery@yahoo.co.uk, and their phone 810235. The Gallery is well signposted from the B3000. Bus 46 from Guildford stops right outside, but parking is easy too.

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.

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Contact your local Focus team

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Fewer accidents at "Carnage Corner"

Since flashing speed warnings signs were installed last year – at Liberal Democrat instigation – there have thankfully been fewer accidents on the A 281 bend at Tillingbourne Bridge (or "carnage corner" as it came to be known locally).

There is also now – at last – a pedestrian crossing near Shalford Church, again something that Lib Dems have long campaigned for. But more still needs to be done on Shalford and Compton's main roads to curb traffic speeds and protect children and the elderly.

Local Liberal Democrat campaigner David Orchard will continue his campaign in the Surrey Advertiser to persuade Surrey County Council to act.



Local campaigner David Orchard (above) has run a long campaign to improve safety on the A281. Accidents at 'carnage corner' (right) have been reduced, but there is still more to do.



Allotments vacant in Compton

Remember the taste of really fresh home-grown vegetables before the days of everything (even supposedly 'organic' produce) being pre-packed in supermarkets ?

Well, there's an easy way of achieving it again – there are vacant plots in the allotments at Compton. Now is an ideal time

to start, as the growing season begins in March and allotment



Why not get an allotment?

gardeners are all currently leafing through the seed catalogues planning what to grow in the coming year.

If you would like to get in touch with nature and start 'growing your own', contact Chris Harvey for a site visit and chat – telephone 810684.

Local news and action all year round

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

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 already fully compliant with disability/DDA requirements and the plans cut the number of parking spaces, **reducing** accessibility! David Orchard 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.

Shalford safety must come first

Former Member of Parliament Sue Doughty and her husband, local campaigner David Orchard, have added their voices to local worries about pedestrian safety.

Adding their support to the campaign for a crossing on King's Road Sue Doughty said, "We want local people to be able to walk safely here. Shalford is very much a spread out village, but it is vital that everybody can cross the road to reach bus stops and local shops.

Many parents and older people have told me just how worried they are about their own safety and that of the many children who live in the area.

Sue added " I was shocked to learn that our local councillors don't want to take up this issue because they don't want to upset the officers. I know that the officers are always ready to listen despite the fact that they can't always find the money. It is for the councillors to decide on the spending priorities and to make those difficult decisions."



Sue Doughty and David Orchard observe traffic on King's Road.

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 Shalford.

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.

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