

“PCT plans will cause more problems for carers...”

...says local campaigner Sue Doughty

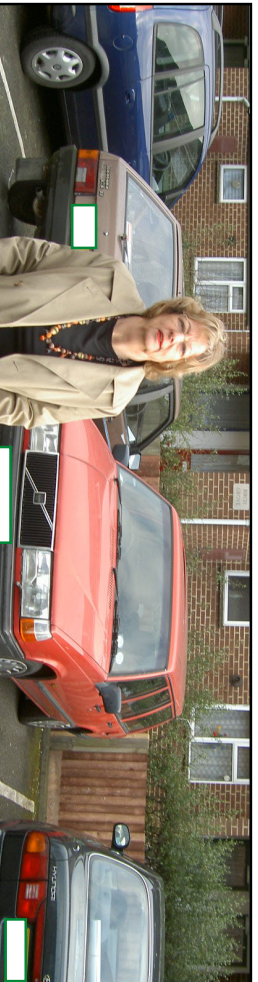
Proposals made by Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust (PCT) to close beds at Milford and other community hospitals could lead to bigger problems for people who need care at home says former MP Sue Doughty.

She has pointed out the problems faced by community nurses, care staff and other carers in finding parking places is leading to less time being spent on the patient and staff incurring parking fines. The increase in people needing nursing care in their own homes will make matters worse. Many older people who need nursing help at home have complained to Sue about this growing problem.

In Guildford as a whole over 30% of households have someone with a long term illness and in North Guildford the figure is higher.

Sue pointed out to the PCT that although technology has provided some improvements in the care people need, in over crowded parts of Guildford 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.”



Parking is already difficult for carers in many parts of Guildford - Sue Doughty is concerned that the PCT plans will make it worse.

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 _____

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LABOUR'S RENT SHAME

Tony Blair's Labour Government is forcing Guildford Borough Council to raise rent levels for council tenants.

Under a complicated national formula, rents will have to go up by 3.2% - above inflation.

Cllr Pauline Searle said, "I never thought I would see a Labour Government forcing local councils to increase rents for their tenants.

"Perhaps if they had not wasted billions of pounds of taxpayers money on an unwanted war in Iraq they would not be doing this.

"This is further evidence of how Labour today are just like the Tories in their outlook."

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 6.30. Ring 306000 to book an appointment with a Borough or County Councillor.

Contact your local Focus team

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Spring 2006
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Local Youth Clubs under threat from Tory cuts

Stoughton and Bellfields Youth Clubs set for closure

Tory-run Surrey County Council is planning to close Stoughton and Bellfields youth clubs.

The closures are part of £50million of cuts, as detailed in the middle of this issue of Focus.

The County Council's plans will see fifteen fewer youth clubs across Surrey.

County Cllr **Pauline Searle** (Lib Dem, Guildford North) said, "The County Council claims that the old service won't be discontinued until the new one is in place.

"But when they are closing so many youth centres, some communities will inevitably be left without one.

"There has been no public consultation so far and both the under-threat youth clubs are popular and well-maintained.

"There is little affordable entertainment for young people

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



Concerned Lib Dem County Cllr **Pauline Searle** at the threatened Bellfields Youth club

in Guildford and most just want a safe, warm place to meet up with their friends.

"Nobody likes having large groups of kids hanging round on the streets but we need to provide them with an alternative. Closing youth clubs is the worst possible way to tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour.

"Instead of making cuts, the Council should be working with local communities to see how things could be improved.

"The County Council don't even own the buildings, so they will not even save a lot of money from these closures.

"The Lib Dems will be carrying out a survey in the local area - please help us by returning the survey forms."

Local News - Christ's College Plans

Christ's College held a Public meeting last month giving local people the opportunity to view plans for the new School.

The new Christ's College is proposed to be a three storey building on the school's playing fields with

the existing main building being demolished.

Also on the site will be Pond Meadow School, moving from Park Barrn. This single storey building will offer an opportunity for pupils to be taught alongside others of the same age in specialist teaching and social space.

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 Pauline Searle said, "This is quite clearly a prestige project and 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.

County Cllr Pauline Searle 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."

2) Council builds war chest

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 re-opened; 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 in 2001, has rocketed from £2m 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.



When will the Civic open?

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 Pauline Searle 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."



County Cllr Pauline Searle (right) and her Lib Dem colleagues recycling plastic. This service is being bought to the doorstep in some of Guildford - but not in Stoke (see below).

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 only in certain parts of Stoke.

But 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

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St Joseph's Church Hall,
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