

A3 Noise Barrier

At long last work is starting on a noise barrier from Dearbarn Bridge to the Dennis roundabout which should be completed by the end of March 2006.



For several years now your local Lib Dems have been putting pressure on the Highways Agency to give the roads backing onto the A3 a bit of peace and quiet. Special thanks should go to Guildford's former MP, Sue

Doughty, who used her influence to make this work a top priority. Unfortunately, the agency would not extend the barriers to protect all the residents who are suffering noise disturbance in that section of the A3.



The Lib Dems have long campaigned for a noise barrier by the A3. (l-r) Cllr Marilyn Merryweather, Cllr Val Hazelwood, County Cllr Fiona White, Cllr Olaf Kolassa and Former MP Sue Doughty are all pleased that one is finally being built.

Sue Doughty concerned by PCT plans

Proposals made by Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust (PCT) to close local beds could lead to problems for people cared for at home says former MP Sue Doughty. She said, "The increase in people needing care in their homes will make it hard for care staff to park by patients' homes. Carers should be able to get on with their job and not risk parking fines."

Southway Parking

Over the recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of cars parked all day on weekdays at the Southway corner by the A3 underpass and Southway shops.

The road is busy throughout the day and the parked cars have caused the bend to become a safety hazard. Local residents have difficulty parking during the daytime and local businesses have suffered because patrons are unable to park.

Cllr **Olaf Kolassa** said "I have watched buses having to negotiate with difficulty to pass this section of the road. At times when a bus waits at the bus stop, traffic has become held up in both directions. The road at this point has in effect become single carriageway, and a blind corner.

Your local councillors share residents' concerns and would like to hear your views about what could be done to overcome it.

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

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FOCUS
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LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

Local Youth Clubs under threat from Tory cuts

Stoughton and Bellfields Youth Clubs set for closure

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

The County Council's plans will see fifteen fewer youth clubs across Surrey. Some local communities will inevitably be left without a local youth club.

County Cllr **Fiona White** said, "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 anti-social behaviour."

Cllr **Val Hazelwood** added, "Instead of making cuts, the Council should be working with local communities to improve youth provision.

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

Replacement of of Fairfield Lodge Hostel - Your views wanted

Plans are currently being looked into by Guildford Borough Council to replace the present Fairfield Lodge on Fairfield Rise.

The hostel is now time expired and is found to no longer be suitable for the present needs of Westborough. It is intended that the site will be made up of self-

contained houses. Views on what kind of accommodation or housing should be built on this site to satisfy the local community requirements would be welcomed.

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



Concerned Liberal Democrats (l-r) Cllr Val Hazelwood, County Cllr Fiona White, Cllr Marilyn Merryweather and Cllr Olaf Kolassa at the under-threat Stoughton youth club.

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.

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

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 Olaf Kolassa 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 Seate, Lynda Strudwick, Caroline Keewes, 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.

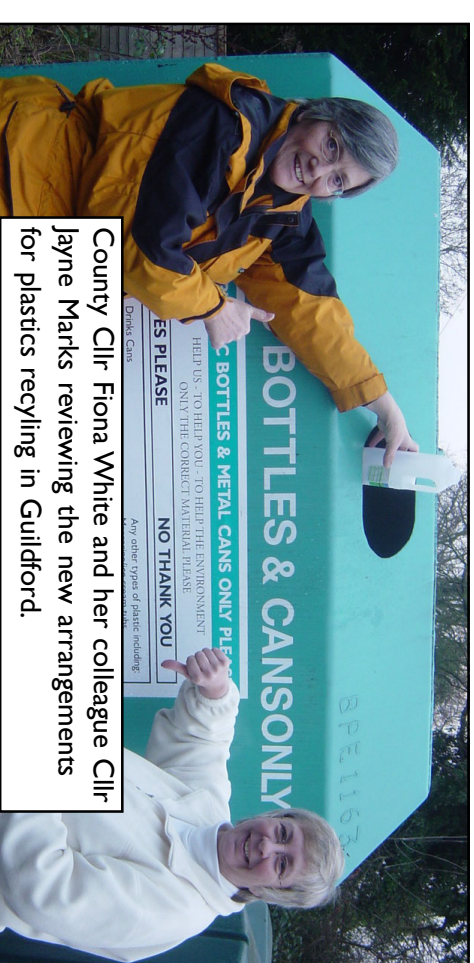


When will the Civic open?

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 Marilyn Merryweather 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 Fiona White and her colleague Cllr Jayne Marks reviewing the new arrangements for plastics recycling in Guildford.

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 Westborough.

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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