



FOCUS




From Bisley Liberal Democrats

Make YOUR Vote Count!
Only the LIB DEMS can beat the Conservatives here!

CON 55%	LIB DEM 45%
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Result of the Surrey County Council Election 2001, Chobham, West End & Bisley Division



It's a two horse race

“Council Must Help Tackle Climate Change”

Liberal Democrats are calling on Surrey Heath Borough Council to play its part in helping to reduce carbon emissions in the local area.

Rosalyn Harper, local Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson told Focus *“Climate Change is not someone else’s problem. Local authorities can act as leaders in their areas to promote environmentally sensible behaviour. They need to start with a public commitment to reduce emissions in activities under their control. In Surrey Heath that means enhancing recycling provision, utilising “green” energy sources, promoting environmental measures through the planning system and taking environmental aspects into account when making purchasing decisions”*. In a motion to the Council’s meeting on 15th December, West End Liberal Democrat Councillor Judy Douch called on the council to sign up to the ‘Nottingham Declaration’. *“The declaration commits authorities to improve their environmental performance by adopting simple standards of environmental responsibility.”*



Councillors John Faulkner and Judy Douch with Rosalyn Harper outside a school in West End. Tackling climate change is our responsibility for future generations.

Lib Dem Cllr John Faulkner commented *“Protection of the environment should be a priority here in Surrey Heath, as there are many pressures on it here. Our motion calls on the Council to establish an action plan by May, 2005. This plan is to be one for the whole area and not just for the Council itself, but should contain a public commitment to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Authority’s own activities. Much advice is available for local authorities on what can be done, for example at the website of the Energy Saving Trust.”*

This declaration, the text of which can be found on www.surreyheathlibdems.org.uk is purely voluntary but has already been signed up to by some 74 local authorities of all political affiliations, ranging from rural districts to metropolitan boroughs.

“Labour ‘ducks the issue’ over Traveller Provision”



Lib Dem Councillor John Faulkner at Pennypot Lane, Chobham where an illegal encampment has caused distress and anxiety to local residents.

Councillor John Faulkner, prospective Surrey County Council candidate for Chobham, West End and Bisley, has called on Surrey County Council to put pressure on the Labour Government to support recommendations to force all local authorities to provide authorised sites for travellers and gypsies. Permanent sites have already been provided successfully in Surrey Heath for many years.

Councillor John Faulkner told FOCUS *“There is a clear need to strengthen legislation against illegal sites and allow local Councils more powers to remove such sites quickly and without spending thousands of pounds on legal fees. The key to tackling this issue for the long term is to provide well managed sites - for both temporary and permanent use. Illegal sites occur as there is not sufficient provision across the country. Our local council has sites, others do not. It is time other Councils helped out!”* Residents may not be aware that it was the last Conservative Government which removed the duty for all local authorities to provide sites for use by the traveller and gypsy communities. Many councils across the country closed their facilities, leading to the increase in illegal sites we see today. Under Liberal Democrat proposals, the Gypsy and Traveller community would be provided with sufficient accommodation nationally by re-introducing the responsibility for all councils to provide sites. Local communities would then not suffer the nuisance and friction caused by unauthorised encampments. Local authorities, the police and the courts would no longer have to carry the burden and expense of dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Visit us at www.surreyheathlibdems.org.uk

Councillor John Faulkner selected to fight County Council seat

Councillor John Faulkner has been selected by the Liberal Democrats as their prospective Surrey County Council candidate for Chobham, West End and Bisley division which also includes part of Lightwater. John, who lives in Lightwater, is a Borough and Parish Councillor. John is a qualified chartered accountant and before recently taking semi retirement was Director of Finance for a leading London University. **Rosalyn Harper**, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Liberal Democrats welcomed John's selection and told Focus "With John, the residents of Lightwater have the chance to elect a tireless campaigner. John cares deeply about protecting local services but also getting value for money and cutting out waste from local government - he will get the best out of Surrey County Council for local people".



Pictured right: Cllr John Faulkner, Rosalyn Harper and Leader of the Liberal Democrats Charles Kennedy MP on a recent visit to Surrey Heath.

Action Needed On Red Road!

The two tragic deaths on Red Road, between West End and Lightwater in the week before Christmas highlight the need for something to be done about what has become a black spot for traffic accidents. From the beginning of 1999 there have been six personal injury accidents at the junction of Macdonald Road with Red Road, and 14 accidents in a one-kilometre stretch of Red Road through the bends.



Cllr Patricia Pinder, Rosalyn Harper and Cllr John Faulkner inspect the Red Road 'bends' between Lightwater and West End.

Cllr John Faulkner told Focus "Surrey County Council's local transport Director, Graham Hodgson, is taking the matter seriously. While the road surface markings and signage have been changed in recent years, Mr Hodgson has informed me that he is intending to take a pro-active stance on undertaking further improvement works. Discussions with the police will take place as soon as they have finished their

investigations into the latest accidents".

Rosalyn Harper commented "The introduction of flashing speed alert signs, together with advisory speed limits through the bends is one suggestion which may help to slow down drivers on this stretch of road". Cllr John Faulkner believes that Surrey County Council must allocate funds for a scheme that will improve road safety on this road as a matter of urgency. While drivers retain responsibility for driving carefully, the County Council should do all in its power to ensure that roads are as safe as possible.

Save Free School Travel

Councillor John Faulkner is campaigning against Labour's plans to remove free travel for children who have to take a bus to school. Currently pupils who live more than three miles from school (two miles for those under eight years old) receive free transport. New proposals would mean charges for nearly all children. Lib Dem research shows that up to a thousand local school children could lose their right to free school transport.



Councillor John Faulkner told FOCUS "This will hit parents and children across our area hard. Not satisfied with charging students to go to University, Labour now wants to charge children for getting to school! Among other effects, this is very likely to increase the use of cars for the school-run - with the potential for more than 200 million extra car miles being added to the already congested school run. This would result in more 7550 more tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year."



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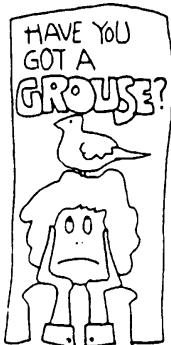
Conservative Surrey County Council has been seeking to blame increases in next year's Council Tax on the government. This ignores its own poor financial management and the opportunities it has wasted over many years to review how its budget is spent. Councillor John Faulkner, Lib Dem Finance spokesman, has proposed alternative budget strategies at Surrey Heath Borough Council for the last 5 years (which would have resulted in much lower council tax being needed by the borough council). He has challenged the county administration in Kingston to explain why they have failed to carry out a detailed spending review over the past seven years. It is not accurate to blame the Government entirely for the Council's financial position.

The Liberal Democrats have made constructive proposals for saving money without cutting services. These include improving the energy efficiency of Council buildings, reducing the millions of pounds spent on consultants and improving the monitoring of the Council's contracts. Unfortunately, the Conservative administration has been slow to act. The result is that Surrey's residents will suffer, either paying higher Council Tax or having to cope with cuts in services.

Pictured right: Councillors Judy Douch and David Whitcroft with the £32 million pound of public money that sits in Surrey Heath Borough Council's Bank account!



Please help me with:



My name: _____

My address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

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Help Our Campaign!

- I can deliver Focus in my road
- I can display a poster at election time
- I will vote Lib Dem at the next election
- I would like to vote by post in future
- I can make a donation to the Lib Dem Campaign
- £100 £50 £25 £5 £(other)

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