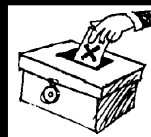




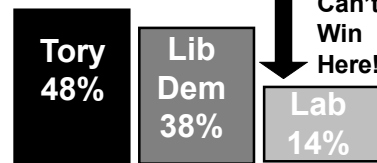
FOCUS



From Lightwater Liberal Democrats



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



Result of the Surrey County Council Election 2001, Windlesham Division.

It's a two horse race

Conservative Council Fails To Back Police On CCTV

Liberal Democrats have condemned a decision not to push ahead with improved CCTV coverage across the Surrey Heath area as 'short-sighted'.

The recent decision by Tory run Surrey Heath Borough Council means that proposed improvements could have to wait years. This is despite a clear need for cameras to be installed in certain areas to help tackle crime and anti social behaviour. In private, the decision has been condemned by serving police officers. Councillor Meurig Williams told Focus *"This decision is short-sighted and just shows that the Tories are not committed to supporting our Police and tackling crime – when it comes down to it they are not prepared to put up the money which is needed to keep our streets safe."*

Liberal Democrat Councillors recently conducted a fact finding mission to the CCTV control room at Runnymede Borough Council which has superior facilities to Surrey Heath Borough Council.



Liberal Democrat Councillors Bryan Ward, John Faulkner, Patricia Pinder, David Whitcroft and Parliamentary Spokesperson Rosalyn Harper on a fact finding mission at the Runnymede Borough Council CCTV Control centre

Overwhelming Support For CCTV Campaign



Rosalyn Harper, the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson for Surrey Heath and her Lib Dem team collected over 500 petition signatures in the first few hours of launching their campaign calling for the provision of CCTV facilities for the outlying parts of the Borough. Rosalyn Harper told FOCUS, *"I was overwhelmed by the reception we received in Lightwater. The majority of people were very supportive towards our campaign. They really felt let down by the Tory Council and couldn't understand why the Council hadn't given the installation of CCTV in their village shopping area a higher priority. It was a great opportunity to listen to residents and business people alike concerning their views on crime and anti-social behaviour."* Councillor Meurig Williams told FOCUS *"CCTV is not seen as a fix-all solution but one way to reduce crime. Lib Dems also support increasing the number of police on our streets, which is Lib Dem policy paid for by scrapping the ID Card scheme, and improving our facilities for young people in the area."*

Save Free School Travel

Liberal Democrats are 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 Meurig Williams 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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Action needed on Red Road!

The two tragic deaths on Red Road, 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.



Above: Cllr Patricia Pinder, Rosalyn Harper and Cllr Meurig Williams inspect the Red Road 'bends'

Cllr Patricia Pinder 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 Meurig Williams 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.

Councillor Meurig Williams re-selected to fight County Council seat

Cllr Meurig Williams has been re-selected by the Lib Dems as their prospective Surrey County Council candidate for the Windlesham electoral division, which includes a large part of Lightwater. Meurig, who lives in Bagshot, has been a Windlesham Parish Councillor since 1995 and was Chairman in 2003-4.

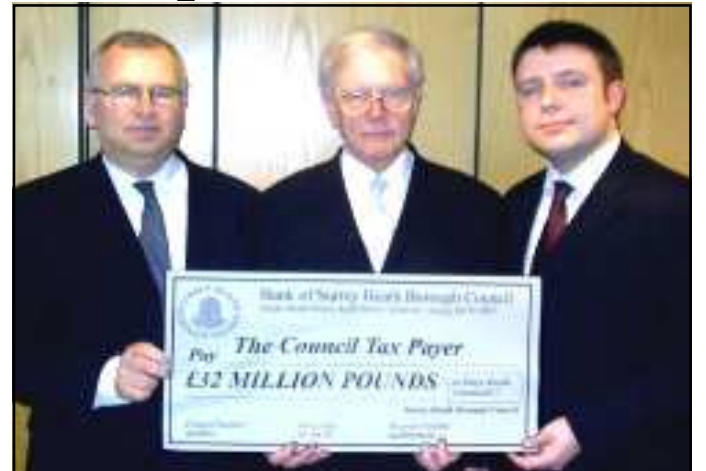


Cllr Meurig Williams, Rosalyn Harper and Leader of the Liberal Democrats Charles Kennedy MP on a recent visit to Surrey Heath

Meurig has worked at professional level in information technology and human resources. In 2003 he took early retirement from a major bank and joined a local charity as an adviser, working with disabled people across Surrey.

Rosalyn Harper, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Liberal Democrats welcomed Meurig's selection and told Focus **"With Meurig, the residents of Lightwater have the chance to elect a determined campaigner. Meurig cares about protecting and improving local services but also getting value for money and making local government accountable - he will get the best out of Surrey County Council for local people"**.

Beware More Tory Tax Rises!



Councillors John Faulkner, David Whitcroft and Duncan Clark with the £32 million of public money sitting in Surrey Heath Borough Council's Bank account!

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.

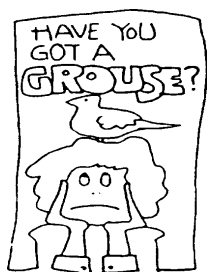
Councillor John Faulkner, Lib Dem Finance spokesman, has proposed alternative budget strategies at Surrey Heath Borough Council for the last 5 years (which would have resulted in much lower council tax being needed by the borough council). He has challenged the county administration in Kingston to explain 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.

Boundary Changes!

Focus would like to inform residents that the Electoral Commission has made changes to the way Surrey County Council elects some of its Councillors. Part of Lightwater will now no longer be included within the Windlesham County Division, which includes Bagshot and Windlesham as well. Instead the Briar Estate and a few other areas will be included in the Chobham, West End and Bisley Division. This change was made by the Electoral Commission to ensure that all Councillors represented the same number of residents, therefore ensuring fair representation. However it is a bit confusing if you live in Lightwater!

Please help me with:



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My address:

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e-mail:

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 - 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
- £50 £25 £10 £5 £(other)

Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats. A donation of £5 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled (). The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think will be of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

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