

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors recently spent a day with Eastleigh Borough Councillors to seek ideas on how to improve recycling rates here in Surrey Heath.

Lib Dem controlled Eastleigh is one of the top-performing district councils in the country for recycling.

Currently they have a recycling rate of 35%, and they have plans to reach 40% in two years, and 50% in five. Surrey Heath has a respectable recycling level of 26%, but this has not been increasing recently. Eastleigh is a little bigger and not as prosperous as Surrey Heath, but is similar in having a mixture of urban & rural areas.

The Surrey Heath team were welcomed by Keith House, Leader of Eastleigh Council, and Louise Bloom, Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Cllr David Whitcroft told Focus "Eastleigh pioneered the system of alternate week collection of recyclables and non-recyclables. Rushmoor, Hart and Woking have followed their lead, and it is something that Surrey Heath is also investigating. It is also critical to gain the support of the local community for recycling by providing education and information."



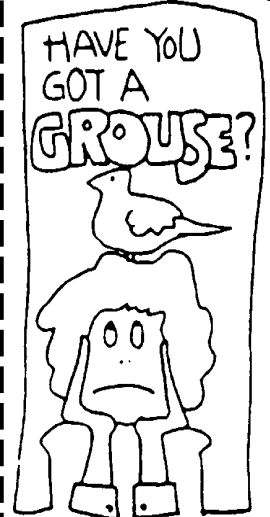
Cllr Keith House (Lib Dem Leader of Eastleigh Borough Council), Cllr David Whitcroft (Surrey Heath Liberal Democrat Group Leader), Cllr Louise Bloom (Portfolio Holder for the Environment at Eastleigh) and Cllr Judy Douch (Surrey Heath Liberal Democrat Environment Spokesperson) outside the Eastleigh Council Offices.

Cllr Judy Douch commented "The initiatives being adopted by Eastleigh are very relevant to our situation in Surrey Heath. Eastleigh's Lib Dem Council also appears to be more adept at obtaining government funding for their initiatives than our Conservative Council."

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Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team would like to hear from you....

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FOCUS

Mytchett & Deepcut

February / March 2006

Tory's Finance Fiasco!



Your Mytchett Councillors, David Whitcroft, Cindy Ferguson and Mike Drew ask where our Council tax money has all gone!

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors have slammed Conservative controlled Surrey Heath Borough Council for financial incompetence and are seeking urgent answers to why the Council is almost £1million over budget.

At a recent Council meeting it was revealed that the Council was in the red for the 2005-06 financial year by nearly £1 million, leaving its reserves dangerously depleted. The council's main reserve account was more than £1.8 million in April 2004, but by April 2006 it is estimated that it will be reduced to £332,000. **Cllr David Whitcroft**, Liberal Democrat Group Leader, told Focus "There would appear to be no financial control being exercised by the Conservative administration. Increased spending on staff costs relating to restructuring are to blame."

Cllr Cindy Ferguson agreed, saying "This finance fiasco is due to poor Conservative management - as simple as that!"

Cllr Mike Drew commented "This overspend is outrageous and the implications of the problem are massive. We should be considering some very serious steps to establish what has gone wrong with the control procedures in this Council."



www.surreyheathlibdems.org.uk

Still Not Persuaded by TAG



Following two public meetings (one organised by the Liberal Democrats), Frimley Green & Mytchett residents are united in their opposition to TAG's application to double the number of weekend aircraft movements at Farnborough Airfield.

The outcome of the two meetings was exactly the same: – every single resident was against the proposed increase!

Noise, pollution and the fear of additional variations of the existing planning permission are residents' main concerns. TAG have suggested that the regulations in these respects are the responsibility of central Government.

When challenged by residents to indicate what benefits the local community and residents would derive from increase weekend flying, TAG have stated that local hotels and car hire companies would see increased business!!

TAG have rejected the idea that they might financially compensate residents living under the flight path and suggested that instead claims should be made under the Land Compensation Act. TAG have also made it clear that wealthy individuals or groups were quite at liberty to charter Farnborough based aircraft for weekend 'jaunts' to Europe and further afield.

Local Mytchett Councillor, David Whitcroft told Focus "It has emerged that a large plane owned by Roman Abramovich, the Chelsea FC Chairman, has been refused permission to use Farnborough. I cannot understand why TAG find it necessary to try to increase weekend flying but are quite happy with the current regulations in respect of aircraft size. Maybe that will be the subject of the NEXT TAG application after this one!?"

Councillor Mike Drew commented "The TAG planning application does not have any support from residents who simply do not want the increase because of the negative impact the change will have on their lives merely for the benefit of a few people who wish to use private planes at weekends."



Rushmoor Council have yet to fix a date for the special Planning meeting which will determine TAG's application.

Don't Play Dirty - Stick at 30!

We are very happy with the Mytchett Road traffic calming scheme promoted by the County Council.

With some simple measures – especially the flashing 30mph reminder signs – it seems the objective of slowing down the traffic through the village has been achieved without resorting to the humps and bumps which motorists and the emergency services object to so very strongly!!

The scheme was the result of close cooperation between Surrey County Council Officers, local Lib Dem Councillors and local residents. It is a good example of what CAN be achieved through a genuine consultation process.



Councillors Mike Drew, Cindy Ferguson and David Whitcroft with the new speed sign on Mytchett Road.



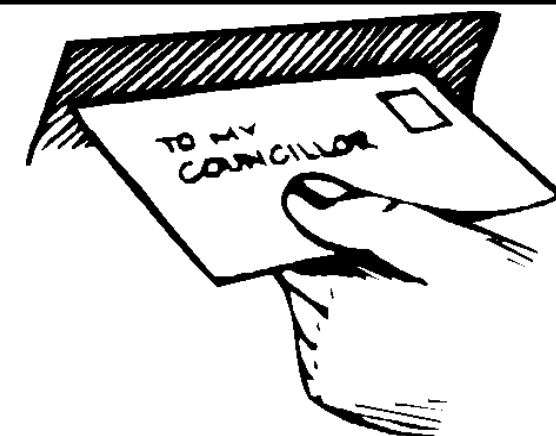
Your Liberal Democrat Councillors recently visited The Deepcut Village Centre which is situated to the rear of the Alma Dettigen housing development.

Liberal Democrats are keen to support the community facility and encourage local people to use it. Councillor Cindy Ferguson told Focus "This very attractive community facility has been open since September 2004. It is a purpose built, beautifully designed building. The facilities include a stylishly designed hall, professional conference rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, showers/ changing rooms and car parking. Fees are also very competitive."

The Deepcut Village Centre has a resident Pre-School Nursery (OFSTED approved) that runs from 8.00 am to 6 pm and at the time of going to print there are some places available. For further information contact **Donna or Ceri on 01252 838003** to book a visit.

Other regular hirers include a martial arts group, fitness classes, children's parties, community police and housing association surgeries.

To enquire about bookings, existing classes and forthcoming meetings telephone 01252 837251 or email: deepcutvillagecentre@tiscali.co.uk. The manager, Marion Osbourne, will be pleased to receive your call.



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