

What *the* papers say

“Council may gamble £100k”

Camberley News, 22.7.04

“Humiliation for the Tories”

Camberley Mail, 31.8.04

Liberal Democrats are celebrating a historic vote which saw Surrey Heath Borough Council Tories losing a vote for the first time in council history. The vote concerned a Lib Dem motion designed to put a stop to the decision made by the Council's Standards Committee to sue the Standards Board for England, after it reported that eight serving Tory Councillors had brought their office or authority into disrepute. Cllr David Whitcroft told Focus, ***“This vote will stop the Tories pursuing a judicial review and will save the council taxpayers in Surrey Heath the huge legal fees which otherwise would have been wasted.”*** The Council also passed a motion criticising the Conservative Council Leader, for supporting the expenditure required to seek legal advice about going to the High Court.



World Wide We Will!

The Register of Interests for Surrey Heath Lib Dem Councillors has been published on our Surrey Heath website. This followed a decision by Tory Councillors on Surrey Heath's Standards Committee, who refused to back a Lib Dem initiative to put this information for all Councillors up on the Council's own website! The Register of Interests is a list of the financial (and other) interests of all councillors, and is by law available for inspection by any member of the public. Lib Dem Councillor Duncan Clark told Focus: *“This is a farcical position. Every resident has the right to see this register. We believe in openness on this and similar matters, and have therefore decided to publish this information on our own website.”* Visit us at www.surreyheathlibdems.org.uk

Tackling Anti Social Behaviour



Cllrs Alan Whittart and Cathie Whitcroft have welcomed new powers granted to local police to tackle anti social behaviour at Frimley Green recreation ground.

Under the new powers, police can ‘move on’ individuals or groups who may be causing a nuisance or annoyance in the vicinity.

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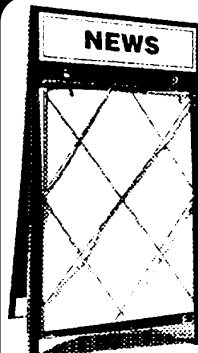
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“A bit late now, Mr Howard!”

Michael Howard - who is under huge pressure as his leadership fails to have any real impact on the dire state of the Tory Party - says **NOW** that he would not have supported Tony Blair's Iraq war if he had known that there were no Weapons of Mass Destruction. ***This is another case of classic Tory Opportunism.*** Liberal Democrat policy **BEFORE** the war was not to support the invasion of Iraq without UN authority, and to give the arms inspectors a chance to do their job. This is a view we have not changed since. ***It was wrong to go to war without UN backing.***



“Admit you got it wrong, Prime Minister!”
The invasion of Iraq was unnecessary and the case for war was fatally flawed, says Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy.



Above left: Rosalyn Harper with Charles Kennedy at the London Anti War March in 2003. Right: President Bush and Tony Blair smiling, but still no WMDs!



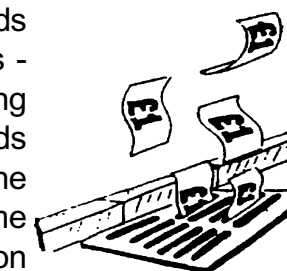
‘Sleaze’. Is it all in the past?

Conservative MP Nick Hawkins does not seem to think so

Nick Hawkins launched a stinging attack in the House of Commons on his own Surrey Heath Tory Constituency Party, in which he claimed the party had demanded money from him in exchange for providing the sort of support services which most constituency parties would provide for nothing. He also told the House of Commons that the dispute between him and his local party ***‘revolves around power, money, ambitions, jealousy and greed of a tiny handful of people.’*** He attacked one constituency official in particular, claiming that, ***‘Ever since [Mr Hawkin's selection as Surrey Heath Candidate] the Official has sought to undermine me because he saw me as a threat to his money making activities.’***

...and then there are the strange events at Surrey Heath Borough Council...

...where the Tory Leader of the Council - in response to a number of Standards Board Of England reports which were critical of some Tory Councillors - endorsed the spending of £13,500 of Council Tax payers' money on obtaining a Barrister's Opinion on the matter. Tory members of the Council's Standards Committee then recommended that the Council seek a Judicial Review of the Standards Board reports—at a possible cost to Council Tax payers of some £100,000! This madness was only stopped by the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council calling an Extraordinary Council Meeting at which they out-voted the Tory Group over the issue. There is absolutely nothing wrong with Councillors challenging the Standards Board if they wish—but let them use their own money or that of their Political Party to do it, NOT PUBLIC FUNDS!



The Lib Dems could have saved the Council Tax payer £100K!