



FOCUS

September 2005

Parkside Liberal Democrats

www.surreyheathlibdems.org.uk

CAN IT GET WORSE?

The catalogue of bad news from Surrey Heath Borough Council just goes on and on.

- Major projects delayed and over budget
 - Land West of Park Street
 - Arena Leisure Centre Management Contract
 - Contact Centre
- Staff morale at the Council is at an all-time low
- Planning and Housing Departments are under-performing with increasingly severe impacts on local residents
- Annual savings of an incredible £750,000 per year are now needed to stem a gaping black hole in the Council's finances

The Audit Commission judged Surrey Heath the worst in Surrey as a result of its lack of vision and performance management. With every passing month we see the dismal effects of over twenty years of Conservative domination in Surrey Heath. Inept management, complacency and arrogance have led to a refusal to recognise the growing problems, and an increasing tendency not to bother with the views and concerns of residents.

Lib Dems will continue to scrutinize the decisions of this Council. We will challenge decisions taken without proper recognition of the effect on staff at the Council or residents in our communities. And where we have to, we will bring unrelenting pressure to bear to change those decisions.

Please contact us if we can help you – or if you can help us!

LAMPOSTS

*The County Council are about to embark on the replacement of all lamp columns in the County (all 47,000 of them). If there are any of historic or character interest in the Borough we need to try and identify these and arrange for their protection. Please contact **Jenny Richard** on 01276 707213 (or Cllr Bob Smith) if you have any suggestions.*



Tomlinscote Sports Centre

Lib Dems have been highly critical of SHBC's handling of the Tomlinscote Sports Centre issue. A facility highly valued by the local residents in Frimley (with up to 80,000 visits a year) was to be lost to the community to save the Council some £40,000.

Lib Dems "called in" the Executive decision, but - remarkably - the recommendation to reconsider was turned down on the casting vote of committee chairman and Frimley Councillor, Ian Sams!

However, pressure from residents has now forced a reversal, and the Council will now have to meet its contractual commitments to Tomlinscote school to manage the community access to the facilities for at least two years. During this time, the centre will not be run together with the Arena Leisure Centre, but as a separate facility. As a consequence the cost to the Council - at least in the short term - is likely to increase!

Lib Dems - working all the year round!