

FOCUS on Surrey

Autumn 2003

Issue 1



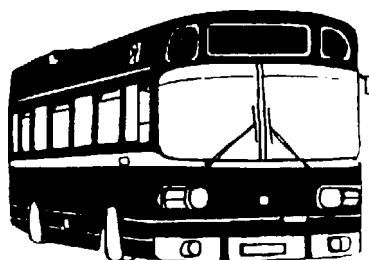
The Newsletter of the Liberal Democrats on Surrey County Council

Public Transport Cuts

Surrey County Council's Conservative administration has decided to go ahead with the cuts to bus services despite strong opposition from the Liberal Democrats and Surrey residents.

Cllr Janet Maines, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Surrey County Council, said:

"This is outrageous. I am really amazed by the arrogance displayed. The Conservatives even refused to accept the recommendation from the Council's Transportation Select Committee to delay the decision until the ongoing review of public transport in the County has reported. There never was any real intention to listen or reconsider."



"The decision to set up Area Consultative Committees to advise on the future shape of the bus network is much too little too late."

She added

"I am most worried by the suggestion that there will be further cuts to the bus network next year before any review has been completed. I do not believe that the Conservative administration on the County Council has any intention to carry out any serious consultation

either with the Districts and Boroughs or the bus companies themselves."

Key Worker Housing

The Liberal Democrats are pressing for key worker housing initiatives to tackle the shortages of key workers such as teachers, social workers and youth workers which adversely affect services to the public and increase costs to the Council, for example by increasing spending on agency staff. The shortages of key workers are worsened by the high property prices in the County.

Cllr Hazel Watson said:

"The Liberal Democrats support initiatives to tackle the shortages of key worker housing that maximise external funding and minimise the impact on the Council Tax. Initiatives being proposed by the Liberal Democrats include shared equity schemes, rental subsidy, and use of unused public sector land for key worker housing."

Youth Service

A Community Services Task group has been set up to examine the work and development of Connexions. It is worrying that 40% of Surrey's resources for young people are already committed by the Tory administration to Connexions, yet another quango, and they are aiming for 80%. To make matters worse, we still do not know details of requirements for Connexions Centres ie what is a Connexions Centre and how should it be planned? Also so many operational issues are unresolved. The Task Group hopes to report on these weaknesses.

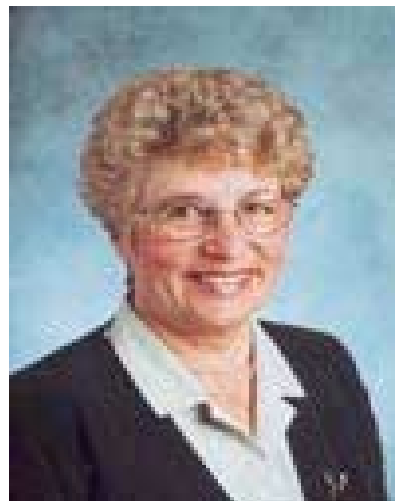
There is some good news, however. Staff recruitment is improving slowly and some interesting new projects are being developed not only on social issues such as sex and drugs but also on photography, music, canoeing and other hobbies.

We must help these projects to expand, but sorting out the Youth Service and its relationship with Connexions is a high priority before they control 80% of our youth budget. Lib Dems need to monitor their local Youth Service. Please contact Cllr Marie King-Hele on 01252 714755 if you have any comments.

Message from the Leader

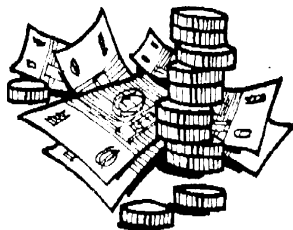
Welcome to the first edition of the Surrey County Council Liberal Democrat Group Newsletter. We want to make the Newsletter informative, readable and to stimulate debate. The aim is to spread the word across the County, particularly to those areas where we have no representation at County Hall.

We have collected e-mail addresses of activists across the County and we hope to set up a Web site. If you know of others who would like to be added to our email list, please contact us on j.maines@surreycc.gov.uk and we would welcome your comments on this our first production.



Energy Efficiency

A Liberal Democrat motion to the Council in October 2001 now seems likely to yield action and substantial savings. The savings should amount to £250,000 or £300,000 on annual spending of the order of £6.5 million just from "one-off" steps (use of right tariffs, avoiding overheating and overcooling, turning off lights). In addition to this, an energy policy is likely to be introduced which will involve new "invest to save" measures for which, as a further bonus, the Council hopes to leverage in external funds. All this because of *our* initiative.



Waste

The Surrey Local Government Association is consulting the public on Surrey's future management of waste. The consultation leaflet is available at main libraries and at borough/district offices. Views have to be in by 28 November 2003.

A number of options are presented. The Liberal Democrats support options which propose the highest rate of recycling so that the need for incineration or landfill is reduced. Please encourage the public near you to respond.

Liberal Democrat Surrey County Councillors

- Cllr Janet Maines** - Leader (Farnham North)
j.maines@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01252 711271
- Cllr Hazel Watson** - D Leader (Dorking North)
h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01306 880120
- Cllr Ian Beardsmore** (Sunbury)
ian.beardsmore@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01932 782031
- Cllr Margaret Hill** (Woking West)
m.hill@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01483 827745
- Cllr John Hobrough** (Guildford North)
j.hobrough@surrey.ac.uk Tel: 01483 538390
- Cllr Marie King-Hele** (Farnham Central)
marie.kinghele@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01252 714755
- Cllr Mary Laker** (Worplesdon)
m.laker@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01483 480963
- Cllr Maggie Martin** (The Dittons)
m.martin@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 0208 398 0308
- Cllr John Pincham** (Claygate and Hinchley Wood)
johnpincham@hotmail.com Tel: 01932 868500
- Cllr Tom Sharp** (Guildford South)
t.sharp@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01483 572669
- Cllr Chris Slyfield** (Godalming North)
chris_slyfield@hotmail.com Tel: 01483 428371
- Cllr Colin Taylor** (Epsom & Ewell South West)
colin.taylor@classicfm.net Tel: 01372 721336
- Cllr David Timms** (Dorking South)
d.timms@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01306 884017

We would like this newsletter to be an interactive tool for all those interested in countywide Surrey issues. Please let us have your comments, contact us on the above telephone numbers or by e-mail on j.maines@surreycc.gov.uk