

# Lib Dems Become Official Opposition

Following the recent defection of a Labour councillor, the Liberal Democrats are now the official opposition on Surrey Heath Borough Council.

Lib Dem Leader, Councillor David Whitcroft told The Observer, "If proof was needed that the Labour Party is a spent force in Surrey Heath, then this is it! They are already non-existent in the Villages of Surrey Heath and now they are under threat in Camberley too."

## No Difference Between Labour and Conservatives Locally

At a recent Council meeting, Leader of the Tories, Moira Gibson, admitted that there was little difference between the Tories and the Labour party on an ideological level locally.

Commenting on the issue, Councillor Duncan Clark said, "This proves what we have always said, that Labour and the Tories are exactly the same in Surrey Heath. If you want an innovative and reasoned alternative to Tory rule in Surrey Heath then the Lib Dems are the ones for you."

"We are the only party in Surrey Heath to consistently promote reform of the financing of the Council and to suggest innovative ways to tackle important local issues such as transport, the environment and affordable housing."



● Pictured above, Councillors Duncan Clark, David Whitcroft and John Faulkner at a recent Council meeting.



● Local Councillor Alan Whittart is encouraging local people to recycle more of their rubbish.

## Recycling Cash Welcomed

The local Council has recently been advised by the Government that its bid for funding to improve recycling facilities has been successful. The Council will receive £209,500 to fund improvements to the current recycling service.

The extra cash will enable the Council to develop new mini recycling sites and provide new types of recycling containers. Importantly this money will help purchase new machinery to help process all of the waste that residents recycle.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Alan Whittart told The Observer, "This money is very welcome in the bid to improve recycling in Surrey Heath. There is much to do - we need to increase radically the amount we recycle and reduce the amount of rubbish we produce."

"Residents currently recycle just under 25% of all waste in Surrey Heath but by 2006 this must rise to 40%. Liberal Democrats place great importance on the environment and recycling is one real way in which we can all do our bit."

## Lib Dem Councils Cost You Less

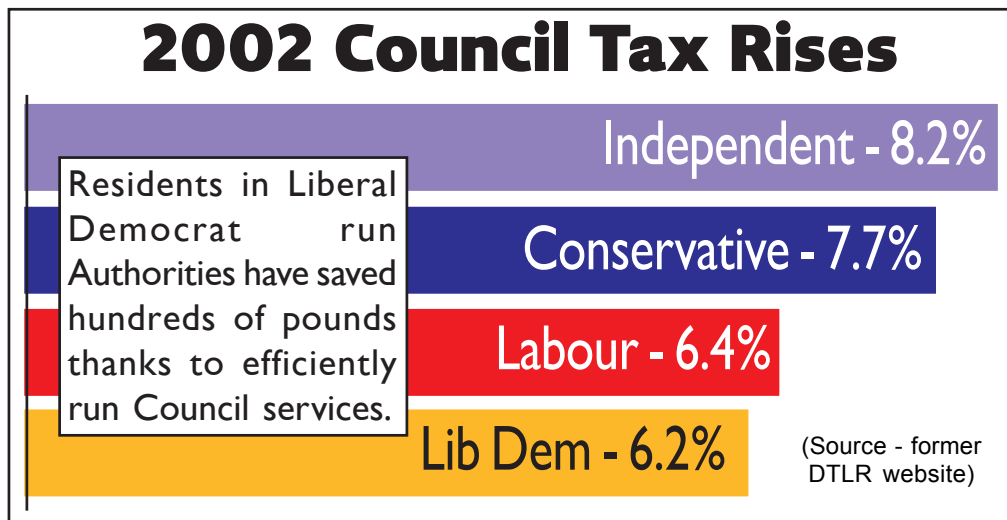
Independent analysis of this year's Council Tax rises has shown that Lib Dem Councils cost less. Once again Councils run by Lib Dems delivered smaller tax increases than Labour and Conservative Councils.

Lib Dem Councillor John Faulkner said, "After the huge tax rise inflicted on local people this year by Conservative run Surrey Heath Council, the fact that Lib Dem Councils cost less will not be a big surprise. The fact is that Lib Dem Councils up and down the country are leading the way in providing quality services at a reasonable price."

The independent analysis also showed that increases in Council Tax over the last four years by Liberal Democrat controlled councils is lower than Conservative, Labour and Independent controlled councils.

### Tory Tax Bombshell

Council Taxes in Surrey have risen sharply under the Conservative Councils. Earlier this year, Conservative Councillors in Surrey



Heath voted through a whopping 17.5% rise in Council Tax.

John Faulkner added, "This latest Tory tax bombshell is the last straw for many local people. They are no longer willing to accept huge tax rises while services get worse. Many local people will be looking for a change in next year's local elections."

Each year since 1999, Surrey Heath Lib Dems have proposed lower rises in Council Tax than the Tories. The Tories

have consistently increased your Council Tax charge above the rate of inflation and the level required to fund council services.

Lib Dem Leader Councillor David Whitcroft said, "This year Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats proposed only a 1.7% increase with no decrease in council services. This was voted down by the Conservatives - who like to tax you more than necessary!"

## Abandoned Cars

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David Hulse, Director General of the British Metals Recycling Association, said, "More than a million vehicles presently being operated illegally on our roads by unregistered users will come to the end of their lives over the next few years," he said. "The likelihood of these people paying for proper disposal is zero."

Chris Huhne agrees that forcing the last owner to pay will simply lead to more cars being dumped on the roadside. He argues that a tax should be placed on new cars instead, as people paying several thousand pounds for a car would be much more likely to be able to afford an extra £100 in scrapping and recycling costs.

Chris said, "The Government has chosen the worst possible option. We are now likely to see a huge rise in the number of abandoned cars."

This feature is supported by the European Liberal Democrat and Reformers Group

