

**Dr Anne Lee, Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson for Woking asks: "are you proud to be British?"**

**DO WE TAKE OUR LIBERTY FOR GRANTED?**

In the frightening world of terrorism we want to be safe. We do not want people in our midst who might kill, but neither do we want a police state. How much liberty should we give up? There are three aspects of this liberty currently under debate: identity cards, the offence of 'glorifying terrorism' and detention without trial.

Sometimes people ask me "Surely law-abiding people like me have nothing to fear from ID cards?" In this world where Tescos and Sainsburys probably know more about us than our mothers do, ID cards are not the innocent arbiters they might seem. At the moment our credit cards only give or deny access to tills or cash machines. ID cards could 'control' access to much more. We cannot always assume a benign government, indeed if we give them absolute powers we are unlikely to have a benign government.

There is an equally slippery slope when it comes to glorifying terrorism. Do you remember when Nelson Mandela was ritually vilified because many thought he was 'subversive'? How times change. How ironic that members of the Church of England fear that the proposed crime of 'glorifying terrorism' could be applied to those preaching the gospel of Christ. How close are we getting to giving our government the same powers that were unleashed on the students in Tiananmen Square?

So often governments have been proved wrong, we must be able to prove our governments wrong through the ballot box rather than frustrate people so much that they turn to violence.

The third major onslaught on our liberty is to increase the amount of time we can be detained without charge. The right to be charged with a crime if we are detained for more than a few hours has been with us since the Magna Carta. Of course crimes must be investigated, but the lure of indefinite detention, of bringing Guantanamo Bay to the UK, would encourage corruption not solve it.

So: if Liberal Democrats are fighting to keep as many of our civil liberties as possible what else can we do to keep ourselves safe? We must make every citizen feel that they are part of this country, that our country's success is their success.

Yes, we need effective security and we need better passport control. But we also need much more than that: we need to make sure that everyone who lives here feels proud to be British. A police state cannot achieve that.



● Dr Anne Lee

**Have YOUR Say - Tell Us What Concerns YOU**

Local councillor Anne Roberts and the Lib Dems would like to know if there are local issues that concern you? Can we help solve a local problem? Would you like to help us?

Write to Anne Roberts at Woking Liberal Democrats, **FREEPOST WQ21**, Woking. GU21 4BR.

- I can help to deliver FOCUS
- I'd like to join the Lib Dems
- I would like to help the Lib Dems somehow, please could someone phone me to discuss it.

Name: .....

Address:.....

Phone:.....Email:.....



Anne Roberts 403292

**Crime and Vandalism**

The recent spate of vandalism in which a number of cars were set on fire, has shocked the village. Whilst police have arrested suspects, the problems persist - particularly at night. Local councillor, Anne Roberts, has received a three page summary from a resident of 24 incidents relating to damage to cars, the theft of property, money and a caravan. Anne has passed this to Woking's Borough Inspector Dave Mason who is investigating these matters.

Lib Dem campaigner, Sue Kittelsen is calling for the local police station to be reopened and for Surrey County Council to provide youth activities in the evenings on a regular basis. Neighbourhood watch schemes are also an invaluable tool in countering vandalism using a small CCTV camera. If you would like to start up a scheme in your road, please contact Anne on 01932 403292 for details.



● Cllr Anne Roberts and local campaigner Sue Kittelsen outside Byfleet Police Station. The Lib Dems want to see the police station open.

**New Developments in Byfleet**

Councillor Anne Roberts, who is on the borough's planning committee, has been working hard with residents to ensure that their concerns are clearly heard in Woking in respect of developments in the village. Neighbours have been reassured that tanks to prevent flooding will be built under the affordable homes complex in Oyster Lane.

The development behind the Derisley building has been approved and there has been an application for an additional dwelling at King's Head Lane. Anne will keep in touch with residents regarding any further application for building in Winern Glebe and will be monitoring the situation on the Clock House after it is vacated.

**Tories refuse to keep residents informed**

Residents are concerned that licensing applications need only be shown on a small notice in a pub window and in a public notice, usually in very small type, in the back of the local paper.

Lib Dem Councillors asked for councillors and local residents be told about licensing applications but the Tory Executive are only prepared to inform councillors - they don't see any need to tell local people about a potential disturbance to their peace until the early hours!

## Hart Road, Schools and Trees

LibDem campaigner, Sue Kittelsen, tabled a question at a joint Borough and County meeting in conjunction with the planned parking improvements and was advised that there would be removal of trees in some parts of Hart Road. Sue is talking to residents who would like the greenery in their street to be retained.

If you feel strongly on this matter, please contact her on 01932 345172. It is thought that the improvements are part of Surrey County Council plans to amalgamate the threatened Manor School with St Mary's. Sue and Anne are supporting teachers and parents of the Manor School to keep the primary school open.



- Lib Dem campaigner Sue Kittelsen in Hart Road. Sue wants as many trees retained as possible.



### Amenities Group Christmas Lights

The Amenities Group wish to thank West Estate developers and local traders for their generosity in providing funds for the Christmas Lights on Plough Green. The lights will be switched on in conjunction with the Village Hall ceremony at 6 pm on Thursday, 24 November.

### Fight to stop election fraud

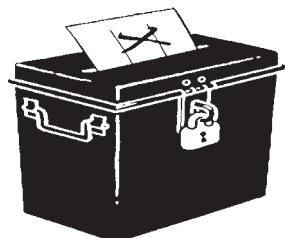
The Liberal Democrat Group has been instrumental in forcing the Council to take a proactive approach in tackling electoral fraud and malpractice. With resistance from the Tory Group but backed by Labour, they managed to force through the setting up of a 'watchdog' panel and the creation of a new electoral post to clean up the register and to police postal vote applications. Cllrs Sue Smith and Philip Goldenberg, Lib Dem Leader and Deputy Leader, serve on this panel and are insisting on many changes to the present arrangements across Woking.

The Conservatives are now in agreement but objected strongly to initial plans to carry out a review.

### Clean Up Byfleet Day

Cubs, brownies, mums, dads and school children are invited to gather on Plough Green at 10.30 am on Saturday 14 January in conjunction with Byfleet Amenities Group's incentive to increase awareness in young people in keeping their village clean and tidy. Serco, who clean our streets, trim hedges and supply summer and winter planting will provide equipment.

Please turn up in warm clothing and if possible with plastic gloves to tackle litter near the take-aways and encourage residents to pick up paper which blows into their gardens. For further information please contact Anne on 01932 403292.



- Liberal Democrat Councillors have acted to ensure the integrity of the democratic process

## Recycling: How's Your Bin?

The overall percentage in recycling items has increased across Woking Borough from 19% to around 38%, an indication that residents are taking the matter seriously. Please recycle as many clean plastic bottles, metals tins and cardboard as possible thus saving on household and land fill rubbish. Please ensure that personal information is shredded before placing it in your recycling bin.

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Cllr Anne Roberts on 01932-403292.



## Local Lib Dems - A strong voice to protect our environment and enhance our quality of life

### Can you help Byfleet Care?

Do you have a car and can spare an hour or two every now and again to help someone in the village who needs transport to the doctor or to do some shopping? If so please contact Alan Mercer on 01932 355503 who would be pleased to hear from you.

### Waste plant proposed

There has been a lot of interest in the waste plant being proposed for Woking. Most people seem to agree that we should clear up our own mess and, as far as is practical, whatever can't be recycled should be processed locally and energy should be recovered from it.

With a looming Landfill Tax of £120 per tonne and the average dwelling producing 0.8 tonne/year there could be a severe Council Tax hit for those authorities that ignore the problem.

Whatever site is proposed is bound to be a focus of opposition and people will naturally have fears over the environmental impact. Councillor Anne Roberts who is on the Environment Committee wants to assure everyone that she won't be voting for any proposal that doesn't meet the highest standards.

### COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Councillor Anne Roberts will be at the Village Hall between 7.30 and 8.30 pm on Thursday, 22 December and Friday, 20 January.

### St Mary's Centre

After Woking Borough Council's Executive decision to develop the site last year, no plans have been put forward and residents are left up in the air. Negotiations are ongoing. Anne and Sue are supporting residents who want to keep the facilities under the same roof and retain the building in which so many of them had their schooling.

There will be a number of special events over the festive season, please phone the centre on 01483 743877 for details.

### Surrey residents facing £50 million of budget cuts

Surrey County Council Tories have hired a team of 18 expensive outside consultants, working full time with 27 staff, to look for £50 million of budget cuts to be in place for the year 2006/7. Staff are bracing themselves for changes, which may include redundancies.

This comes on top of this year's review, when 10% efficiency savings across the board were asked for. Conservative leader of Surrey CC promised to achieve this "without any impact on front line services." Instead, important support work has been cut back: for example, Woking won't have its own Local Transport Director anymore – one post will cover Woking, Runnymede and Surrey Heath. Appointments are being frozen. Other savings are not so much cuts as ways of reducing increases in future spending.