

Cllr Sue Smith, new Lib Dem Leader of the Council, writes

Traditionally in Woking Borough Council there have not been that many dramatic policy divisions and I hope that this will continue and that we can all continue to work together for the good of Woking residents.

In particular, I hope that the Conservatives in opposition will not disavow the policies they supported in office.

Nevertheless, when on May 4th residents elected the Liberal Democrats as the largest party of this Council – they voted for a change.

We cannot wave a magic wand and change everything – nor would we want to – what we **can** do is bring a different **attitude** to government.

An attitude of openness, transparency, accountability and genuine consultation – not deciding first and **then** consulting. And transparency includes the management structure of this Council, with Members knowing precise lines of responsibility.

There **will** however be new choices to make and we want local residents to help to make them.

One of our priorities will be to increase neighbourhood engagement with local government. We intend to introduce neighbourhood forums, meetings with partner agencies to enable local residents to influence policy; to consult with users of Council facilities where important changes are proposed, and to increase opportunities for residents to speak at meetings. We want to build on the success of initiatives which build local capacity such as the Lakeview Working Group. To this end we will task a portfolio holder to oversee and participate in extending this success to other areas like Old Woking for example.

Residents have told us that they want to see a visible difference in our town so:

We intend to clean up the Arch and the subway

We hope to reinstate Woking in Bloom – drought laws permitting!

We will take a hard line on litter and graffiti and keep our contractors up to the mark.

We will continue and extend our environmental policies by introducing doorstep collection of glass for recycling, looking to introduce a system of recycling for commercial waste, and also taking positive steps to encourage green cars and car sharing.

We want to support our communities by working more closely with the police, combining resources to make residents feel safer and we want to actively promote ways of increasing the health and well-being of our residents particularly the young.

Provision of affordable housing and adequate accommodation for existing tenants with growing families as well as the homeless must remain this Council's first priority.

And in all that we do we will insist on value for money and an awareness of the need to preserve a fair balance between taxation and services. We hope that the current review of local government finance will give us fairer taxation options, and free us from the increasingly onerous demands of central government (normally without the funding to match).

Liberal Democrats are by instinct decentralist we think local government should be just that – local.



FOCUS on Horsell & Woodham

Summer 2006

www.wokinglibdems.org.uk

Thank You for voting Liberal Democrat in the Borough Council elections

Thank you to everyone who voted for Liberal Democrat candidates in the Woking Borough Council elections in Horsell West. We won both seats, holding one and gaining one from the Conservatives. The turnout was over 51%, high for a local election. Liberal Democrats now hold all three seats in the ward for the first time since 1998. Liberal Democrats also won seats in Knaphill and Mount Hermon East to become the largest party on Woking Borough Council with 18 seats, against 15 Conservatives and 3 Labour, and will now take the administration.



● Your Liberal Democrat Cllrs John Doran, Richard Sanderson, Gareth Davies and Ann-Marie Barker will continue to work hard for our village

The result in Horsell West was as follows:-

Richard Sanderson	1,297
(Lib Dem - Elected until 2010)	
Gareth Davies	1,242
(Lib Dem- Elected until 2007)	
Conservative	1,163
Conservative	1,027
UKIP	172
UKIP	107
Labour	119
Labour	88
UK Community Issues	79
Turnout	51.5%

Your three ward councillors are now represented on all the committees of the Council. Richard Sanderson is on the Executive, Ann-Marie Barker on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Committee and Gareth Davies on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Standards Committee and the Planning Committee.

Richard Sanderson says "Now that I have been re-elected, I intend to make sure that the Village facilities project is pushed forward with a firm time-table. Gareth, Ann-Marie and I together with our County councillor John Doran want to sort out the parking situation around Arthurs Bridge Road and put pressure on the County Council to do something about speeding in Horsell. We also keen to address the problem of vandalism."

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Have YOUR Say - Tell Us What Concerns YOU

Your Horsell Councillors would like to know if there are local issues that concern you? Can we help solve a local problem? Would you like to know more about the Lib Dems?

Write to Woking Liberal Democrats,
FREEPOST WQ21, Woking. GU21 4BR.

Name:

Address:.....

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

- 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.

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Shock at Highway Overcharging

Horsell Lib Dem County Councillor John Doran is shocked by a report highlighting the appalling service from one of Surrey's highways contractors, Carillion. The report details overcharging for roadworks over the last two years. The Conservative run County Council tried to keep the report under wraps.

John Doran said "We are extremely glad now that this subject has come to light, although feel it is a pity it couldn't have been made public as we had asked. It is typical of this Tory administration that they would rather keep these issues secret than tell Surrey's residents how they're spending their money!

"Carillion is one of two contractors for Surrey's highways and we are also calling on the Council Executive to reassure us and the public that this is an isolated situation. The dreadful state of the county's roads is a subject we have campaigned on for a very long time."

Cllr. Gareth Davies writes...

Thank you to all who supported me during the recent election. I trust that I can live up to the faith you have placed in me as your elected representative. As you know I am the new kid on the block and although I am ably supported by the more experienced Ann-Marie and Richard I have a lot to learn particularly as I was elected in a bye-election, for a period of only one year. I will focus my efforts on dealing with no more than three of the problems that, during the election period, seemed uppermost in the minds of Horsell residents.

1. Finding ways of reducing the vandalism that currently afflicts Horsell

If we are to be successful it will require a joint effort involving your local councillors, police, local schools and the support of the community.

2. **Reducing the harassment caused by speeding traffic.** The problem is evident in South Road and Brewery Road but is probably most acute in the High Street. Your borough councillors will work with county councillor John Doran to put together a package of preferred solutions that reflect local opinion and are not wildly over optimistic in budgetary terms.

3. I am also interested achieving a resolution of the planning uncertainty surrounding the bowling club, the village hall and the scout hut.

I'd like to hear your views on these and any other matters. Please contact me. My details are at the bottom of the opposite page.

Waste Plant Update

Surrey County Council has voted to adopt the Surrey Waste Plan which includes the possibility of Heather Farm and Martyr's Lane as sites for thermal treatment plants. This despite opposition from thousands of residents. Surrey Lib Dems voted en bloc against this plan but unfortunately it was passed by the Tory majority including all the local County Councillors present.

The plan is now out for consultation again and can be found on the website www.surreycc.gov.uk/wasteplan, at the library or SCC offices. This consultation is strictly about the process not about the sites! It is very important to remember this if you make a submission. If you want to make a representation at the Public Inquiry to be held next February you have to make a submission.

John Doran strongly opposed the plan. The plan has a presumption for incineration. County should keep all options open. This is a 10 year plan but we cannot foresee what clever technologies may be around in the future.

It is very important that as many people as possible write their own letters. **Submissions must be in by August 18th.**



Lib Dems welcome police changes

Your local Liberal Democrat councillors are delighted to announce that Horsell now has its own police officer and community support officer. PC Josh Parish is our Neighbourhood Officer and Dean Sturt is the Horsell PCSO. PC Parish can be contacted on 0845 125 2222 ext 5126 or at Parish2895@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Correction

An item of literature distributed earlier this year contained the statement "local LD councillors who led the opposition to the plans (for Brewery Road Car Park)". Although your local Liberal Democrat councillors consistently opposed County Hall on Brewery Road car park and John Doran played a key part in getting the new County Hall reviewed and then cancelled following his election last year we recognise that many local groups and individuals played a part in the campaign.

Lib Dems gain huge swing in 'safe' Tory seat



The Liberal Democrats have gained a stunning huge swing of 14% from the Conservatives in the Bromley Parliamentary by-election held in June.

It was Conservative party leader David Cameron's first real test of a by-election in their 17th safest seat. The result saw their majority plummet from over 13,000 at the 2005 General Election to just 633.

The result comes in a historically safe area for the Conservatives. Harold Macmillan was the MP for Bromley between 1945 and 1964 and Bromley itself has been held by the Conservatives since 1859.

Labour also had a disastrous poll as their supporters switched to back the Lib Dems. Labour had been in second place at the 2005 General Election and was pushed down to 4th place behind UKIP with just 6.6 per cent of the vote.

The result was:

Conservative	11621	40.0%	-11.1%
Lib Dem	10988	37.8%	+17.5%
UKIP	2347	8.1%	
Labour	1925	6.6%	-15.6%
Green	811	2.8%	
Other	1360		

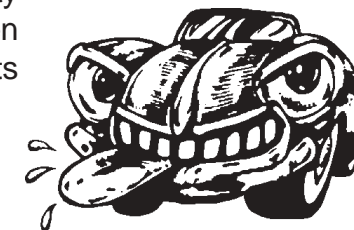
Tory Majority 633 down from 13,342
Swing Conservative to Lib Dem 14.3%

"The poor Tory showing is an embarrassment for David Cameron" - The Times

Speedwatch - Would you like to slow speeding traffic?

Lib Dem County Councillor John Doran has secured £1200 from the County Council to set up a Community Speedwatch in Horsell. This scheme has been trialled in other parts of Surrey and been very successful. The main elements of the scheme are

- Trained volunteers are equipped with a speed camera
- Sites for using the camera are agreed with the police
- Any motorist clocked as speeding will receive a letter from the police.
- Persistent offenders will be visited by the police.



Gareth Davies said "This is a very practical and inexpensive way to address the issue of speeding on Horsell roads and I hope we will have a good number of volunteers."

The first roads likely to be targeted include, High Street, Brewery Road, South Road and Woodham Lane. If you would like to volunteer please contact Gareth Davies or John Doran.

Your Liberal Democrat team for Horsell

Borough Cllr. Ann-Marie Barker	01483 768025	cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
Borough Cllr. Gareth Davies	01483 772042	cllrgareth.davies@woking.gov.uk
Borough Cllr. Richard Sanderson	01483 761184	cllrrichard.sanderson@woking.gov.uk
County Cllr. John Doran	01483 751863	john.doran@surreycc.gov.uk