

## Lib Dem NHS Watch launched

The Lib Dems have set up this site to listen to the views and concerns of NHS staff, patients and members of the public to help us paint a true picture of the National Health Service.

[www.LibDemNHSWatch.com](http://www.LibDemNHSWatch.com)

## Surrey residents facing £50m. 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.

## 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.

So often governments have been proved wrong, we must be able to prove our governments wrong through the ballot box, not frustrate people so much that they turn to violence.

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



# FOCUS on Mount Hermon East

Winter 2005/06

[www.wokinglibdems.org.uk](http://www.wokinglibdems.org.uk)

## Lib Dems stop parking fiasco

Local campaigner Norman Johns working with Lib Dem Group Leader Cllr Sue Smith, has stopped Tory-controlled Surrey County Council ignoring the needs of local residents and shopkeepers on Oriental Parade.

The County Council had wanted to reduce the number of parking spaces by 5 outside the shops on Oriental Parade and install a cycle lane in front of the shops.

Lib Dem Cllr Philip Goldenberg led the opposition to the shopping parade proposals at the October Local Transport Committee and said, "They would be enormously damaging to the economic viability of these important local shops".

The Committee did approve proposals to improve access to and from the railway station for cyclists, and also to improve pedestrian crossings on the south side of the station. Norman Johns, a keen cyclist who had lobbied for these improvements on behalf of the Cyclists Forum and local residents, says, "Woking needs to encourage people to cycle or walk to the station rather than rely on their cars, and these proposals will help."



● Local campaigner Norman Johns at the Oriental Parade Post Office. Thanks to the Lib Dems a parking fiasco was avoided.

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Published and promoted by T. Kremers on behalf of the Liberal Democrats at 28 Waldens Park Rd, Woking.

## Have YOUR Say - Tell Us What Concerns YOU

Lib Dem campaigner Norman Johns 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 Woking Lib Dems?

Write to Norman 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:.....



0871 990 5940

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● Norman Johns supports recycling initiatives

## Wheeled Bins

By the time you read this most of you will have taken delivery of your bins. The new system has seen the recycling rate across Woking Borough up from 19% to around 38%, an indication that residents are taking the matter seriously.

This will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Following the pilot scheme Lib Dems Councillors insisted on an element of flexibility being introduced as 'one size doesn't fit all'. Norman Johns welcomes the wheeled bins as a big step forward for recycling. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Woking Borough Council on 01483-755855 and ask for the wheelie bin team.

## See and be seen on the Old Woking Road

The removal of tree cover by Surrey County Council on the Old Woking Road, means that all road users are a little safer, thanks to campaigner Norman Johns. His actions led to the work on the stretch between Maybury Hill and White Rose Lane where there is still no footpath.

A formal complaint he made against Surrey County Council came about when they failed to carry out the short term measures agreed in January 2005. These items included clearing the overhanging trees to allow daylight through and would ensure that the street lights could effectively illuminate the road.

Readers may recall that the local SCC committee voted against a footpath on the 400 yard stretch of the Old Woking Road back in January 2005. Despite the Council's spokespersons recent statement that "The remedial works were completed in April this year". There still remains the short length of footpath between Hockering Road and Maybury Hill. This path has a narrow section which prevents those using Wheelchairs or those with children in push chairs from getting to the local shop.

Has anyone heard of a County Town where there are major roads with out footpaths asked Mr Johns, my campaign to represent the 1,000 petition supporters continues.

### Proposed waste plant: Lib Dems insist on public hearings



● Planet Earth - We must start to clear up our own mess

Liberal Democrats have insisted on full public scrutiny of any formal proposal for a new Waste Plant.

At the moment, Borough Officers are working up a possible proposal. If they come forward with a specific proposal, this will then be subjected to a review by independent experts, and this review will be published.

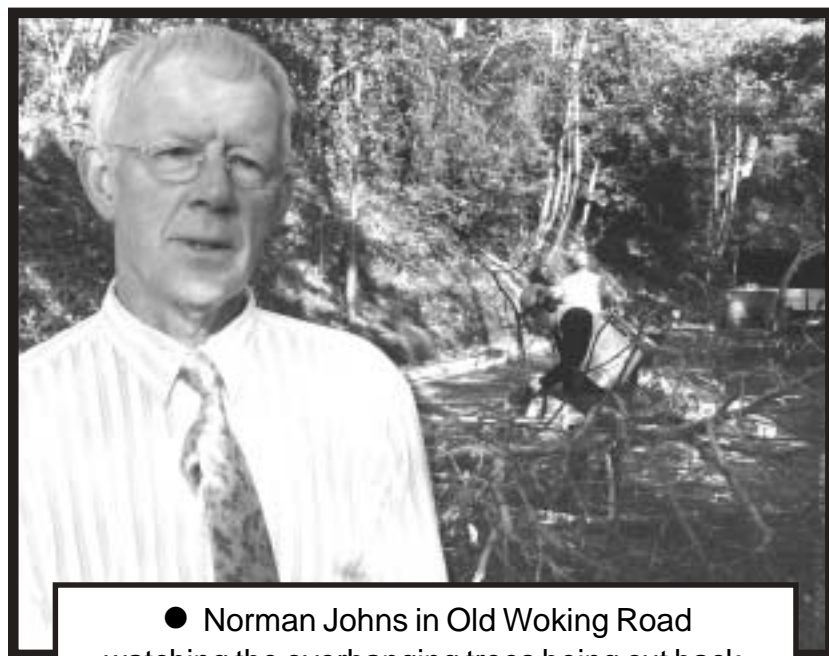
At the insistence of Liberal Democrats, there will then be a series of public hearings that will give the public and councillors a chance to scrutinise the proposals and the independent review, and to question the independent experts and officers. This has resulted in a revised timetable, and any hearings are likely to take place in June.

"It's absolutely crucial that the public have the opportunity to question the experts and officers, and that the whole process is conducted in an open and transparent way," says Cllr Sue Smith, Leader of the Lib Dem Group. "There are massive issues involved –

financial, environmental and operational – and we must ensure that any decision is only taken after all views have been taken into account."

Lib Dem Councillors who sit on the Borough's Environment Committee wants to assure everyone that they won't be voting for any proposal that does not meet the highest standards.

**Norman Johns - A strong voice to protect our environment and enhance our quality of life**



● Norman Johns in Old Woking Road watching the overhanging trees being cut back.

## Jack and Jill - "Don't go up the Hill"

Lib Dem campaigner Norman Johns has complained at the inadequate response of the Surrey County Council to the petition from Saint John The Baptist pupils to improve the Jack and Jill steps from White Rose Lane to Ashwood Road.

The SJB pupils presented a 300 signature petition to the Local Committee calling for proper steps and lighting on this key route to the school. All the Tory controlled County Council promised to do was to look at the possibility of non-slip surfaces.

Mr Johns said "This is a wholly inadequate response and will make the young people very cynical about the political process. They have followed all the correct procedures, and have been treated with contempt."

Councillor Tinney, who is one of the local County Councilors and chairs the committee has not even had the courtesy to respond to a letter from a local resident sent to her in January, requesting action.

Mr Johns calls upon Councilor Tinney to immediately attend to this issue as requested. If she does not, she is failing in her duty to local residents and SJB pupils.

The message she is sending to the pupils at the moment is "Jack and Jill should avoid going up the Hill"



● Norman Johns with teacher and pupils from St John The Baptist at the foot of the steps

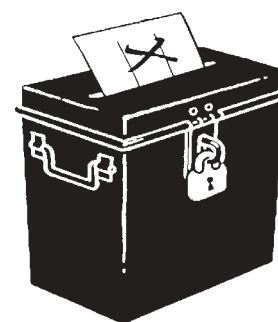
### Swan saved from slaying

Two canoeists came to the rescue of a swan in the River Wey one Sunday afternoon. Dale Knox an off-duty Police Officer and Norman Johns saw a swan in trouble below the Wisley bridge.

Norman said "As we approached the bird four youths were in the area but they fled." The pair caught the injured swan after a difficult rescue by canoe below the M25 motorway. Mr Knox phoned the Surrey Police Motorway Control Room and staff alerted the Swan Trust. Steve from the Trust came to assist the pair near Sanway Road in Byfleet and took the victim to the sanctuary at Shepperton.

"During the two hour wait," said Norman, "we both took turns to hold the strong bird. Despite being sprayed with swan "poop", we were happy to have prevented another swan slaying."

### Fight to stop election fraud



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

The Liberal Democrat Group has been instrumental in forcing the Council to take a pro-active approach in tackling electoral fraud and malpractice. Backed by the Labour Group, with the only resistance coming from the Tory Group they forced through the setting up of a 'watchdog' panel and the creation of a new electoral post to clean up the register, and 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 in Woking.

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