



Tory Council's Finance Fiasco!

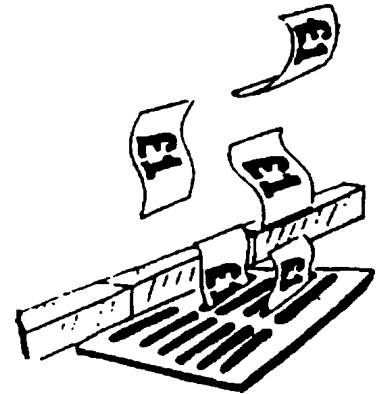
Your Liberal Democrat Councillors have slammed Conservative controlled Surrey Heath Borough Council for financial incompetence. They are seeking urgent answers to why the Council is almost £1million over budget.

At a recent Council meeting, it was revealed that the Council was in the red for the 2005-06 financial year by nearly £1 million, leaving its reserves dangerously depleted. The council's 'current account' was more than £1.8 million in April 2004, but by April 2006 it is estimated that it will be reduced to £332,000.

Councillor Bryan Ward told Focus *"This is a shocking state of affairs. There would appear to be no financial control being exercised by the Conservative administration. Increased spending on staff costs relating to changes in staffing are to blame"*.

Cllr Duncan Clark, Deputy Leader of the opposition Liberal Democrat group commented *"For staffing costs to be as far out of control as they are is outrageous and the implications of the problem are massive. In my view we should be considering some very serious steps indeed to establish what has gone wrong with the control procedures in this council."*

Cllr John Faulkner continued *"I would like to know why we have reached this point now without being made aware of this situation. Who was aware that the wheels had come off this Conservative budget? This finance fiasco is due to poor Conservative management - as simple as that!"*



New Licensing Laws Gag Residents and Councillors



Liberal Democrat Councillors have condemned the Labour Government's new Licensing laws which limit the part local residents can play in determining new applications.

Government regulations mean that only residents within 100 metres of an establishment are allowed to submit their views formally. Local councillors are also barred from representing their residents at hearings concerning applications from establishments from within their own ward. So much for increased local accountability!

A Greener Bagshot!

The new Conservative leader says he wants to get some green credentials so as to “march the Conservatives onto Liberal Democrat ground”.

While this is flattering, we wonder if the residents of Bagshot want as much greenery as the Conservative County Council seems to think we should have!

While hiking our council tax, they've AXED the number of times the green spaces are cut every year – so you get less service for more money! Many residents have said it's turned what used to be pleasant grassed areas into ugly, weed filled eyesores, a magnet for litter and dog dirt. Your Conservative County Councillor has been asked to help, but it's all stayed just the same. By contrast local Liberal Democrats managed to get a litter-covered verge clipped and tidied, as this turned out to belong to the local Housing Association who were quick to respond and get the work done.

Pictured opposite - Councillor Meurig Williams highlights the poor service residents of Bagshot are getting.



Londonlink Cut - Bagshot Cut Off?



Councillor Bryan Ward told Focus “Bagshot may still have a train service, but the Londonlink provided a different type of service. Many Bagshot residents have told me of the problems they now face following the termination of this service, with parts of London which were easy to reach before and now are not.”

Councillor Meurig Williams continued “People find they can no longer get to hospitals or visit their family. No doubt because of their self imposed £50 million budget crisis, Conservative Surrey County Council won't subsidise this service. Your Tory County Councillor didn't even reply to a letter from the parish council about it.

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors have been contacted by many residents following the termination by Green Line of the popular Londonlink coach service.

And we're still waiting for Labour's John Prescott to deliver his much trumpeted “integrated transport policy”.

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