

Con  
49%

Surrey Heath Local  
Election Results  
2001

Lib  
Dem  
34%

Lab 16%

Labour are out of the race here in Surrey Heath.  
Only the Liberal Democrats can beat the  
Conservatives here.

ALSO  
IN THIS  
ISSUE



Rosalyn  
Harper  
Wins  
Selection



Kids  
Football  
Under  
Threat

# Lib Dems Storm To VICTORY

**Local Liberal Democrats are celebrating the election of Bob Smith as the new Councillor for the Parkside ward of Surrey Heath Borough Council.**

Following the resignation of a Conservative Councillor a by-election was held in late December. The Lib Dems enjoyed a 16.2% swing from the Conservatives to gain the seat with a majority of 112.

Councillor Bob Smith said, "I am very grateful to those residents that supported me. This result marks a further milestone in the progress of the Liberal Democrats in Surrey Heath. People want a real change and they know that only the Lib Dems can deliver this."

The Lib Dems fought a positive campaign focusing on issues like our environment, leisure provision for young people and giving local people a real say at what goes on in our community. Labour could not even find a candidate!

Lib Dem leader Cllr David Whitcroft commented, "This result is a clear indicator of the way things are likely to go at the next Borough Council elections in May. Then, Surrey Heath, you will see some REAL change!"

### Parkside By-Election

Bob Smith  
Lib Dem 609 (+22%)  
Conservative 497 (-11%)

Lib Dem GAIN from  
Conservative. 16% swing from  
Con to Lib Dem.



● Lib Dems celebrate their Parkside by-election seat. Lib Dem Bob Smith (far right) gained the seat with a huge swing. A similar result across Surrey Heath in May, would sweep the Lib Dems into power.

Tories in  
Crisis  
*What The  
Papers Say*

"Former Tory minister warns: We risk falling behind the Lib Dems"

Evening Standard

"The YouGov poll found 51% thought it quite or very likely that the Lib Dems will overtake the Tories as the main opposition party in the next five years."

The Times

"almost every poll now suggests that the Tories are sinking and the Liberal Democrats are catching up"

The Times

## Broken Promises Hit Local Students

In their 2001 election manifesto, Labour said on university fees - "We are against top up fees and have legislated to prevent them."

In 2003 they have done an amazing U-turn. Local students will soon be paying £3000 a year in fees. They will face debts on leaving university of over £20,000 - which they have to start paying back as soon as they earn £15,000 a year.

A decent education in this country should not depend on how much money you have, yet this is now set to become the way.

**It is a shameful day for Mr Blair and his cronies - who all attended university for free!**

## Where Is The Opposition?

Once again on this issue, it is Charles Kennedy's Lib Dems who are leading the opposition to this new education tax.

The Conservatives have little to say on this issue.

**Perhaps they are a bit embarrassed about the fact that investment in universities fell by a whopping 36% while they were in power?**

# Council Must Improve Recycling Say Lib Dems

**S**urrey Heath Liberal Democrats have launched their new environment policy following consultation through resident surveys across the Borough.

They have agreed that the Borough Council should dramatically increase its targets for recycling, and should aim to recycle 50% of its household waste by 2012. After May 2003, a Liberal Democrat controlled local Council will consult widely with residents about how this target could be met.

Lib Dem Councillor Mike Drew said, "The response to our Resident Surveys have been quite amazing. Recycling is a real issue for local residents and they want to see the Borough Council improve its service as soon as possible."

As part of a radical shake up of recycling services across the our area, Lib Dems plan to introduce a Green Box home collection service for various items such as tins and plastics. Old carrier bags will no longer litter the streets with soggy newspapers awaiting collection!

Councillor Duncan Clark said, "Local residents clearly expect the Borough Council to provide a better quality service. A Green Box home collection service would greatly improve our response to recycling and bring us up to speed with many other local councils."

Liberal Democrats are also pledging to introduce more mini recycling sites across the Borough, in consultation with local residents, in order to reduce the number of car journeys generated when people recycle. Lib Dem controlled councils already do this to good effect, and this scheme could easily be introduced here with minimal costs.



● West End Parish Councillor George Bright and Focus team member Judy Douch do their bit to help recycling in Surrey Heath.

## Green Action In Surrey Heath

- ✓ Source supplies of energy for council buildings from renewable energy providers wherever possible.
- ✓ Introduce an ethical purchasing policy to ensure that suppliers to the Council operate in an appropriate manner.
- ✓ Work in partnership with local business to promote environmentally friendly policies.
- ✓ Promote the provision of home insulation and energy saving measures.
- ✓ Promote provision of home composting schemes.

## MEP Calls For Action In Surrey

**S**urrey MEP Chris Huhne has called for fresh ideas to tackle the key problems faced by people across Surrey. He identified the lack of affordable housing, poor public transport and creaking public services as top issues.

Delivering the keynote speech at the recent Lib Dem South East Regional Conference in Eastbourne, Chris Huhne proposed three key points that would help to improve the quality of life in the region:

First, public services like health and education should be able to pay what they need to attract crucial staff. At present, south eastern vacancy rates for teachers are running at double the



Chris Huhne MEP

rate of the North West because of Britain's one-size-fits-all pay structure. Many local hospitals rely too much on agency nurses because they cannot attract full timers.

Secondly, there has to be a major effort to improve public transport. Bus services have fallen across

the UK by contrast with the continent, congestion and commuting times are the worst of any EU country, and we travel less by train than anyone else. Trains are also far more expensive in Britain.

Thirdly, the shortage of affordable homes should be tackled at source by encouraging the release of brownfield sites in urban areas, and ensuring adequate access for housing use.

Chris suggested that business rates could be levied on sites at the same rate whether they were developed or not, thus encouraging owners to develop or sell to someone who will.



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

## Contact Your Local Lib Dem Team

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Tel 01252 835224

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Cllr Bob Smith

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Surrey, GU16 5BR.

# Skate Park Campaign

**Local Liberal Democrats are calling on the Council to provide a Skate Park in Camberley.** This follows analysis of responses to Lib Dem Residents' Surveys that have been sent to tens of thousands of homes across the our area.

A new Skateboard and BMX Park outside the Recreation Centre in Farnborough opened recently. Local residents are wondering why there isn't a similar facility for youth in Surrey Heath.

The Farnborough park is regarded as an excellent model. It is centrally located and is good for the expert and not so expert boarder. Centrally located and accessible, creating no difficulties with neighbouring homes, and near a facility open long hours to provide assistance in case of accidents or serious disturbances.

Recently elected Parkside Councillor Bob Smith, said: "The Farnborough Skate Park has already proved its popularity with

the local kids. They come here every day, whatever the weather. We need facilities in Surrey Heath like this to give them an alternative to computer games."

Lib Dems in Surrey Heath are already considering the funding implications of a Skate Park in the Camberley area..

Farnborough has shown that funds can be attracted from a number of sources to help establish such facilities, and sums available from planning gain could well be utilised.

Councillor Alan Whittart said, "We call on the Council to show the necessary leadership and willpower to establish and push forward this project in 2003. The demand is demonstrably there. The Council needs to do more than listen to youth groups - it needs to act on what it is being told".

To find out more about the Lib Dem campaign, please get in touch using the details opposite.



● Councillor Bob Smith is campaigning for a skate park like this to be built in the Camberley area. "Our area needs more and better youth facilities" says Bob.



● Local Lib Dems Alan Whittart, Cathie Whitcroft and Cindy Ferguson are campaigning to keep the cost of local football pitches down.

## Kids Football Under Threat

**Surrey Heath Conservatives are seeking to drastically increase charges for the hire of a football pitch at your local Borough Rec.**

The Conservative Council has plans in motion to increase charges for pitch hire for kids' games by 42% and a whopping 60% for the hire of a changing room!

Lib Dem Councillor Alan Whittart said, "This plan is simply bonkers! As a Council we should encourage youngsters to get involved in sport. This plan will simply mean more local clubs will go and

play their games outside the Borough - which is a disgrace."

Local Lib Dems have pledged to fight the price rises. They are also committed to reversing the price rise if they win control of the Council in May.

Lib Dem Leader David Whitcroft said, "This rise is completely unnecessary - there is no sensible financial reason for charging so much extra. The Conservatives seem intent on increasing charges for services such as this just because they can - while being blind to the effect increased costs will have on local clubs, parents and children alike."

## Lib Dems Pick Rosalyn Harper

**Surrey Heath Liberal Democrats have selected Rosalyn Harper to be their Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.**

At a packed hustings in Windlesham, Rosalyn was selected by members through a secret ballot.

Commenting upon her selection, Rosalyn said "I am delighted to have been chosen to represent the Lib Dems in Surrey Heath constituency. There is no reason why Surrey Heath can not have a Lib Dem MP - just like Guildford".

She continued, "I will ensure that the Lib Dem message reaches every corner of Surrey Heath. With a drastically reduced Conservative majority at the last election we can look forward positively to a great result at the next general election."

Rosalyn's first priority in Surrey Heath is to help the Lib Dems take control of the local Council in May. She says, "For years Surrey Heath has been run by the



● Rosalyn Harper is delighted to be the new Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson for Surrey Heath.

Conservatives at all levels. They have failed our area and local people now want a change."

## Another Big Tory Tax Rise On The Way?

**Council Tax in Tory run Surrey Heath Borough Council looks set to rocket again following comments made at recent Council meetings.**

Last year, Conservative Councillors voted through a whopping 17.5% rise in Council Tax. Lib Dem Finance Spokesman Cllr John Faulkner said, "This tax bombshell was the last straw for many residents. They are no longer willing to accept huge tax rises while services get worse."

He continued "Many local people have told me they will not be voting Conservative this May due to this issue. They see the Council sitting on big piles of cash and still putting up taxes - while blaming the Government for their own incompetence."

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



● Councillor John Faulkner says, "Local people are not getting value for their Council Tax money."

### Surrey Heath Council Tax Proposals

Con  
17.5%  
Rise!

Lib  
Dem  
1.7%  
Rise!

# Student Debt To Rocket

● Local Lib Dem Parliamentary spokesperson Rosalyn Harper (centre) with Lib Dem MPs Matthew Green, Phil Willis and David Rendel leading the campaign against student debt.

## Labour Top Up Fees To Hit Local Students

**The Labour Government has once again broken its promises to young people and universities.**

Under new Government plans, students will soon have to pay a huge £3000 a year in fees to attend university. Many students could soon be leaving university with debts of over £20,000.

Rosalyn Harper said, "Under Labour it looks like university will become for the rich, rather than the talented. Huge fees and large debts will inevitably stop students from ordinary families from going to university."

### Lib Dems Fight Charges

Charles Kennedy's Liberal Democrats have been campaigning against the introduction of top up fees and for the abolition of tuition fees for many years.

They have now pledged to step up their campaign across the country.

Rosalyn said, "This will have a huge impact on the lives of young people and our country. Where is the next generation of doctors and teachers going to come from, if thousands of young people can no longer afford to attend university?"

### Sign The Petition

Lib Dems have launched a nationwide petition against these unjust fees. You can help their campaign by signing the petition below.

**SIGN OUR PETITION NOW**

## Local MP Free Care Shocker

**Lib Dem Rosalyn Harper has slammed Tory and Labour MPs for uniting in a Parliamentary vote which has made the introduction of Free Care for the Elderly less likely.** The Tory MPs voting in the pact included Surrey Heath's MP.

Currently, thousands of old people across the England and Wales are forced

to sell their homes when they are elderly and infirm to pay nursing and care home costs.

Rosalyn said, "I am shocked that our local MP voted against this. Free care for elderly has already been introduced by the Lib Dems in Scotland. We believe that it's time English pensioners had the same deal!"

## HELP US FIGHT TO GET THE BEST FOR SURREY HEATH

To help us improve our area, we need your help to:

Deliver leaflets to your road   
\_\_\_\_\_ (insert road name)

Help with clerical work (addressing envelopes, folding etc)

Make a contribution or join the Liberal Democrats   
(£5 minimum to join, please tick this box if you don't wish to become a member )

Your name  
.....  
Your address  
.....  
.....  
.....  
Telephone  
.....  
Email  
.....

**Return to:**  
Surrey Heath Lib Dems  
FREEPOST GI 3420,  
Camberley, Surrey, GU16 5BR

## Stop the fees Petition

We, the undersigned, call on the Government to rule out Top Up Fees - now and in the future.

Name/s .....  
Email .....  
Address .....

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Surrey Heath Lib Dems, FREEPOST GI 3420, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 5BR

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