

# FOCUS on Knaphill from your Lib Dem team

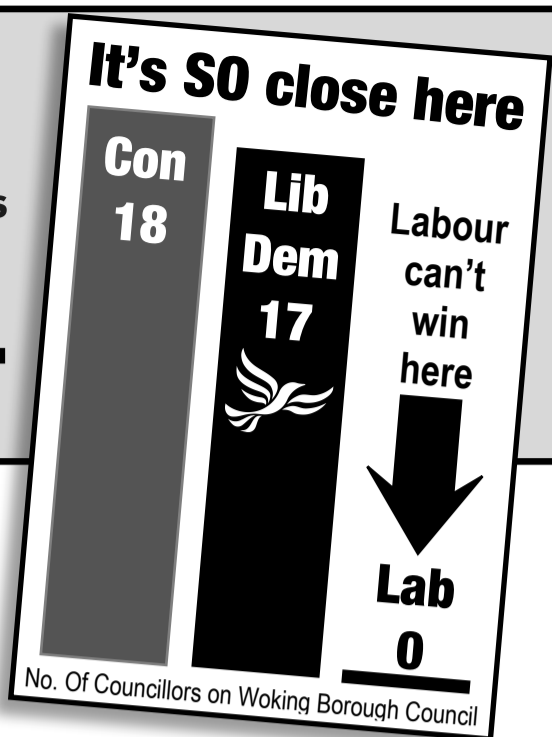


Campaigner Lisa Harding, Cllr Richard Sharp, Cllr Olly Wells and Cllr Diana Smith

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# TORY WAR ON MOTORIST CONTINUES

**Local Tories ignore guidance from the coalition government and keep the war on motorists going.**

Despite a Liberal Democrat led rejection at Woking Council of on-street parking charges increasing 40% to £1.40 per hour, the Tory led County Council has approved the increase.

Then to add insult to injury the County Council are now looking to axe free on-street parking in a number of villages across Surrey to raise another £2.5 million a year. All of this in addition to the widely opposed increase for CPZ parking permits (up to 7.5 times the current cost) and the loss of 30 minute parking in the Town Centre.

Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Woking Council, Councillor **Richard Sharp** said "Local Conservatives just seem to ignore the needs of

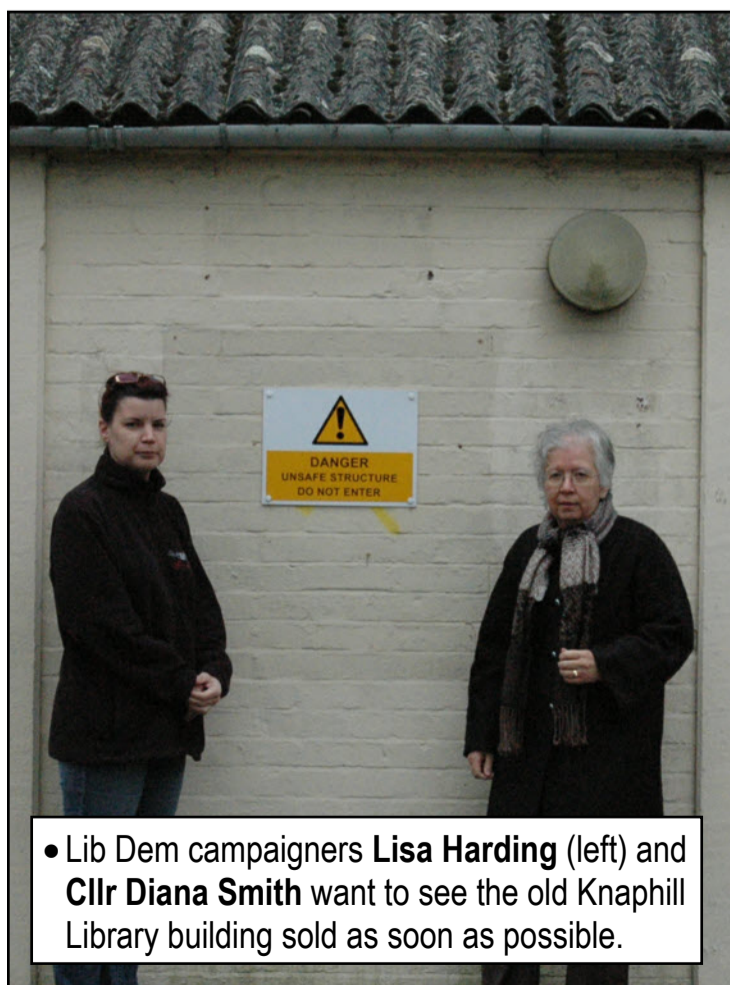
residents, caring only about raising revenue. We called for more Parent & Child spaces in the town centre and they rejected it.

"Supermarkets provide lots of Parent & Child spaces as it encourages more shoppers, something we surely need in the Town Centre. The Conservatives were more worried about losing revenue, (as Parent and Child takes up more space than a normal bay), than helping residents and our town centre."

"We are told that there is plenty of space in the car parks, (so no need to worry if Brewery Road is closed while WWF is built), but we now regularly see a dangerous queue from Lockfield Drive along Victoria Way on a Saturday. The new car park layout and barriers slows traffic and this can only put residents off shopping in Woking. When will the Conservatives take action?"



• Local campaigner **Lisa Harding** is concerned about the impact of the Tories' increased parking charges.



• Lib Dem campaigners **Lisa Harding** (left) and **Cllr Diana Smith** want to see the old Knaphill Library building sold as soon as possible.

## Local libraries in peril

**Surrey's Conservative cabinet has decided to withdraw all mobile libraries probably from the middle of this financial year.**

**Lisa Harding** said 'This will hit older and disabled people hardest. On Surrey's own figures 88% of users are over 65, and a fifth of them say they find it difficult to get about. Will alternatives be ready in time at the cost they've allowed from the money saved? You have to doubt the Council's commitment to equalities.'

**Branch libraries are also under threat**, although Surrey's Conservative Cabinet talks about 'Community partnerships' rather than closures.

The Tories have picked out 11 of the smaller libraries, including Byfleet. Now they want community groups to take over the day-to-day running of these libraries. The County Council would provide the building, books, and other resources, but then expect them to be staffed for free, and 'harness the power of localism.'

**What about Knaphill Library?**

"I'm relieved Knaphill Library is not currently on the list to be given this 'opportunity'" said

**Diana Smith**, Liberal Democrat County Councillor for Knaphill. 'It seems to me like a cynical attempt to shift responsibility for any future closures onto residents.

'The new Knaphill Library is valued by the community and has been doing well. Borrowing books helps raise the library's rating, making it less likely that Surrey will reduce support. So do activities like the Book Groups, and mother-and-toddler Storytime and Rhymetime. I want to see residents using the library for all sorts of cultural activities, not stuck running it!'

**Meanwhile, Surrey County Council has still failed to sell the old Knaphill Library building.**

"I was happy to help arrange permission for the garden to be used for a Remembrance Service, and again at Christmas,' Diana added, 'But unfortunately the building itself is not safe for use without expensive repairs. It's an eyesore, and with the cuts in Surrey's budget this year the money from selling it is badly needed to pay for other things.'

# Youth services - reformed or harmed?



• Local Lib Dems **Olly Wells** and **Lisa Harding** are concerned by the County Council's plans for youth services.

**How can you cut the budget for Youth Services from £16 million to £11 million over four years and still hope to give an adequate service?**

This is what the County Council is trying to do in a series of reforms that will concentrate its Youth Work on the 1 in 10 young people who have been identified as needing targeted help. The project will also involve relying far more heavily on services bought from voluntary-sector organisations.

Details aren't yet clear, and the changes are spread widely through Surrey's services for young people, including the hard-hit Connexions service, Youth Justice, and Surrey's Outdoor Learning Centres.

In Knaphill it may mean that the Woking Youth Arts Centre and Lakers in Goldsworth Park are run by not-for-profit organisations, under a contract that gives a minimum level of guaranteed provision.

'Surrey's been fairly ineffective when it comes to giving young people "things to do and places to go" in Knaphill', said Councillor **Olly Wells**. 'I'm not against a shake-up. But if they can take away nearly a third of the money and potentially produce a better deal for young people, doesn't that show how badly the Tories have run things in the past?'

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I could display a poster at election time

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Please make cheques payable to the 'Liberal Democrats'. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to join.



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**Return to:**

**Knaphill Liberal Democrats,  
FREEPOST WQ21, Woking GU21 4BR.**

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# Lisa calls for more transparency

Local Lib Dem campaigner **Lisa Harding** is calling for more transparency and openness on Woking Council.

Lisa believes transparency is key to any council that truly wants to work for local people.

"It's about openness of communication. i.e. talking to people on the doorstep, social media websites and writing to people. But the biggest part of transparency is that you have to know your council and councillors are listening to you in the first place or it doesn't work!

"I want to work with local people to increase transparency and openness on the Council. I want the council to open up more channels of communication and give you more opportunities to put your views forward. Whether that's having events in the village centre or street events, it's all about giving you the chance to have your say.

"I am planning a 'Have your say' event in the area in the very near future. You'll find details on my website [www.lisaharding.mycouncillor.org](http://www.lisaharding.mycouncillor.org) as soon as the details are confirmed. It's all about giving you a voice. Do come along and let us know about any local issues affecting you."



• Lib Dem campaigner **Lisa Harding** wants to work with local people to increase transparency and openness.

# More money for Woking schools



• Lib Dem Campaigner **Lisa Harding** welcomes the government's extra support for poorer children in Surrey.

**Lib Dems in Government have secured a new £2.5 billion package to give every child a fairer start in life.**

It comes in the form of a 'pupil premium', putting an extra £430 into the school budget for every child getting free school meals. This is on top of the Direct Schools Grant and schools are free to decide how to use it.

Local campaigner **Lisa Harding** said, "The Labour government put money into deprived areas but failed children from less well off families living alongside richer people in Surrey.

The new money changes this for Woking schools and makes things better for everyone in the classroom.

The Lib Dems have also announced extra funding for childcare and extra support to help less well off students go to university.

## Your Lib Dem team



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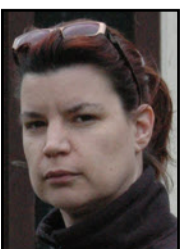
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