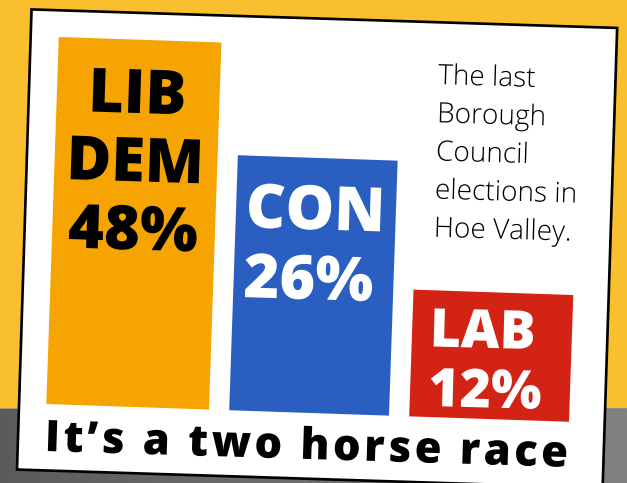


FOCUS

From Deborah Hughes and the Hoe Valley Lib Dems



Save Woking Police Station

Lib Dem Deborah Hughes questions decision to close Woking Police Station



Local Lib Dems have launched a campaign to keep Woking's Police Station open following Surrey's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner's recent announcement that he wants to close it.

The Police say they can cut costs by completely closing their stations in Reigate and Woking, and moving to a newer HQ from Mount Browne in Guildford. Police staff currently in Woking's Police Station would move to Guildford Police Station and Woking Borough Council's Civic Offices.

Deborah Hughes has questioned the decision to close the Police Station without any consultation, and immediately after putting up the Police's share of our Council Tax by 5.3%.

Deborah Hughes, one of the Lib Dem Councillors for Hoe Valley, said, "The Lib Dems and I are very disappointed that Woking looks set to lose its Police Station. A town and borough the size of Woking needs its own Police Station and a sizable Police presence locally. Residents are already concerned at the reduction in visibility of the Police within Woking and this closure will not reassure them against an increasing background of crime in the area."

On May 3rd, residents have a chance to send a message to the Conservatives that they don't want more cuts to key local services and they don't want to lose Woking's Police Station by voting for change and voting for the Lib Dems.

Concern over future of Children's Centre



The local Lib Dems have raised concerns over the future of Children's Centres in Surrey.

Currently there are 58 centres across the county, providing services such as childcare, education and parenting courses, but Surrey County Council is currently consulting on a new model for delivering its "Early Help" services, with the aim of cutting £9.7 million.

Deborah Hughes said, "I think our Children's Centres including the one at the Old Woking Community Centre do so much for families and children which is not well publicised, and the County Council should be proud of them. They provide essential guidance and support for families with challenges and make a real difference to their lives. The Lib Dems and I will be doing all we can to ensure that we can save as much as possible of the skill and commitment of the staff and ensure that they continue to make a difference in the future."

It's the Lib Dems or Conservatives here!

Pothole bill revealed

Conservative-run Surrey County Council has admitted that it would take over three quarters of a billion pounds to repair Surrey's roads and footways to an "as new" standard. At the current rate of spending, it would take the County Council almost 50 years to complete this work.

Deborah Hughes said, "The fact that our roads and footways are in such a dreadful condition is not news to our residents who have to drive over many potholes every day. That £754 million of spending is needed to bring them up to a decent standard is quite shocking, and only highlights how the County Council has not kept up with basic repairs to our roads. The recently announced £5 million of additional funding for road repairs is only drop in the ocean. The Council needs a plan to improve our roads and footways after decades of neglect and underfunding, the filling of potholes is inadequate, and residents are losing patience at the constant breakdown of our roads."



Deborah Hughes and the Lib Dems have revealed that it would cost £0.75 billion to fix Surrey's roads and footways.

Surrey County Council agrees more support for care leavers

The Lib Dems recently succeed in getting Surrey County Council to agree a package of measures to support care leavers including taking young care leavers out off Council Tax.

As part of a new Charter unanimously agreed by the County Council, young care leavers will be exempted from Council Tax, as well as given support with continuing education, managing a household and work skills.

Lib Dem County Councillor, Will Forster said, "I am pleased that the Council unanimously supported my proposal to make life better for care leavers in Surrey. As corporate parents, as Councillors need to do everything we can to try to make the start of their transition to adult life is as smooth as possible."

Deborah Hughes added, "Aside from the other measures proposed, taking care leavers out of Council Tax will make a huge difference to their lives and give them a sound financial footing in their new life, rather than putting them in danger of falling into debt. This Charter could really help change the lives of care leavers. The Lib Dems did very well to get the County Council to agree to their motion. If re-elected in May, I will continue to my part to improve the lives of care leavers."

MP fails to stand up for Surrey



The local Lib Dem team worry about Government cuts to local council budgets.

Local Lib Dems have criticised Woking's Conservative MP after he voted in favour of the Local Government Finance Settlement which includes significant funding cuts for Surrey and Woking Councils.

The Settlement sets out the level of funding from Central Government to local authorities for the next financial year and has been heavily criticised for not providing adequate funding to councils to provide essential services.

Lib Dem Councillor Louise Morales said, "I am deeply disappointed that Woking's MP didn't speak up or vote against cuts to Council budgets."

Contact the team YOUR CHOICE ON 3rd MAY

The Hoe Valley Lib Dems want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.



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Deborah Hughes and the Lib Dems have a strong record of fighting for Hoe Valley ward. Deborah Hughes has been one of the three Councillors for Hoe Valley since 2016.



Deborah Hughes wants good quality, genuinely affordable housing. The Lib Dems want to bring Woking's many empty homes back into use and focus building on brownfield rather than Green Belt land.



Deborah Hughes and the Lib Dems want the Council to focus on key services like removing fly-tipping, repairing potholes and cleaning graffiti.

OR



The Conservatives are cutting budgets of key services such as schools, road repairs and social care. Now Tory cuts are threatening Woking's Police Station.



The Conservatives are the Government, and run Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Woking Borough Council. Isn't it time for a change?

... and Labour are a distant third in local elections and cannot win here.