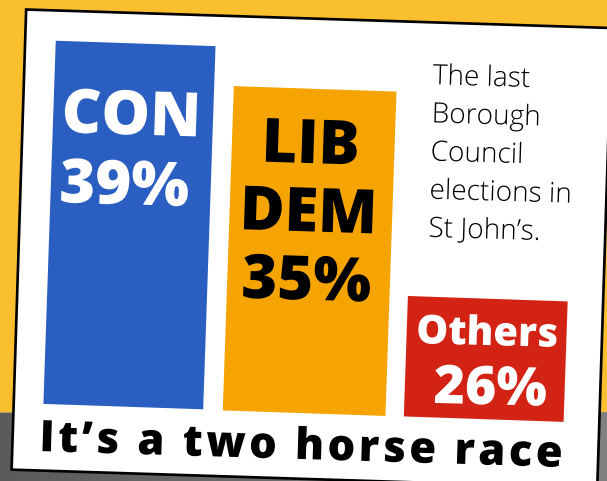


FOCUS

From Ken Howard and the St John's Lib Dems



Save Woking Police Station

Ken Howard campaigns to save Woking Police Station from closure



On May 3rd, residents have a chance to send a message to the Conservatives that they don't want any more cuts to key local services.

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 at 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.

Lib Dem Councillor for St John's, Ken Howard 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. I know many local residents are concerned about crime already, and Woking losing its Police Station will hardly help keep people safe from crime and anti-social behaviour."

Ken Howard added, "The Tories' decision to close Woking Police Station was taken without any consultation and after they have put up the Police's share of our Council Tax by 5.3%."

Concern over future of Children's Centre



Councillor Ken Howard and the 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.

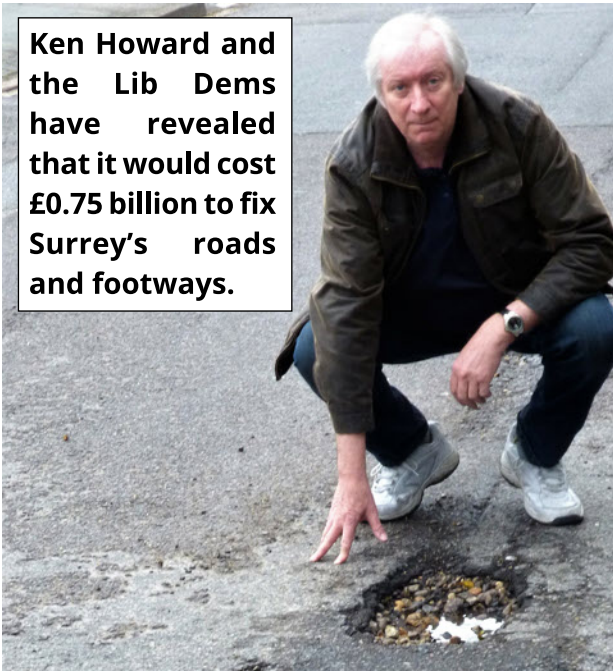
Ken Howard said, "I think our Children's Centres including the one in St John's do so much for families and children which is not well publicised, and the County Council should be proud of them. They provide essential guidance and support for families with challenges and make a real difference to their 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.

Ken Howard 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 the inadequacy of the County Council's recently announced £5 million of additional funding for road repairs, which is a drop in the ocean. The Council needs a plan to improve our roads and footways after decades of neglect and underfunding by the Tory administration at County Hall."



Surrey County Council agrees more support for care leavers

The Lib Dems recently succeeded 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, we Councillors need to do everything we can to try to make the start of their transition to adult life is as smooth as possible."

Ken Howard 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 play my part to improve the lives of care leavers."

More jets over Woking?



Councillor Ken Howard has previously campaigned to limit the number for flights and aircraft noise in from Farnborough and Fair Oaks airports. He is now concerned about the threat from the proposed third runway at Heathrow.

Ken Howard said, "Not only will there be more flights but the flightpaths will almost certainly be changed to have a big impact on Woking residents as well as the inevitable increase in traffic on local roads and on the M25 which is already passed capacity at peak times."



Councillor Howard added, "I do not want my local residents to be stuck in traffic jams and unable hear themselves think thanks to the deafening noise of the planes roaring overhead. That is why the Lib Dems and I are strongly opposed to another runway at Heathrow."

Contact the team YOUR CHOICE ON 3rd MAY

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







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Ken Howard and the Lib Dems have a strong record of fighting for St John's. Ken Howard has been a Councillor in Woking since 2000.



Ken Howard 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 land.



Ken Howard 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.