

**This election is about choosing the best Councillor for St John's**

# FOCUS

## **Rob Leach: Fighting for our area**



**Woking Council election on Thursday 2nd May - photo ID needed to vote**

## **ROB LEACH WANTS THE PUBLIC TO BE INVOLVED IN COUNCIL DECISIONS**



**Rob Leach wants residents to be more involved in the future development of Woking Town Centre.**

Lib Dem candidate Rob Leach wants to give residents the chance to be more involved in decisions made by Woking Borough Council.

With high-rise flats springing up in Woking town centre and more being planned, Rob Leach and the Lib Dems want residents to have a greater say in the future development of the town centre and the Council's planning decisions.

Currently, 3 tower blocks are under construction as part of the Victoria Square development. There are also plans for several other skyscrapers in Woking, including a 39 storey building in the High Street, a 34 storey block on Church Street East next to Barclay's Bank and a 33 storey block on the BHS shop site.

Rob Leach said, "Yes, there is a huge need for housing, but should it all be flats? Is the infrastructure adequate? School places, doctors' and dentists' surgeries and seats on trains for commuters all

have to be provided. Under the Conservative-run Council there is no elected person with specific responsibility for Woking town centre. If elected I will push for a senior Councillor to be given responsibility for town centre matters.

If the Council had a Councillor responsible for the town centre, Councillors and residents would be able to hold them accountable for what is happening in our town. As a Councillor, Rob Leach would be able to lobby them with any concerns and ideas that residents may have. The Lib Dems want businesses, voluntary groups, schools and residents to have a say in how the town centre is developed.

Rob Leach added, "In St John's, I would adopt the same principle. I would hold regular surgeries in the village to listen to your ideas, your views and your problems and to help where I can. Lib Dems are the natural party of local government. We listen to residents. We intervene."

## **DEMAND BETTER THAN BREXIT**

For nearly three years the Lib Dems have been fighting consistently for an exit from Brexit. They want the people, not the politicians, to have the final say on Theresa May's unpopular Brexit deal, with the option to stay in the European Union.

On 14th March, MPs voted on whether to give the people the final say on Brexit. Despite being the official opposition, over 200 Labour MPs failed to back a People's Vote.

On 23rd March, many Woking residents were amongst the million people who marched to Parliament Square to demand a People's Vote on the Brexit deal.

Lib Dem County Councillor Will Forster said, "Brexit is a national embarrassment and will be a disaster for Britain, whether it is delivered by Theresa May's Tories or Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party. It will be bad for jobs, the environment, the economy and the NHS. The Lib Dems demand better for Britain."

Will Forster added, "Woking's MP, Jonathan Lord, should be representing the majority of local people that want to remain in the EU. Woking is a pro-European area, yet our MP is out of step with us on the major issue of our time."

Please vote Lib Dem on 2nd May to send a clear message about Brexit. This could be your last chance to vote before Brexit happens.

## **It's the Lib Dems or Conservatives here!**

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# BACKING WOKING CITIZENS ADVICE

The Lib Dems have called on the Conservatives running Woking Borough Council to reverse their cuts to Woking's Citizens Advice service.

Rob Leach said, "Citizens Advice do a fantastic job supporting local people. They work closely with Woking Council to help those who need advice and guidance on a wide range of finance and housing issues. Yet they are now having to do all that work with less funding. The importance of supporting voluntary groups cannot be underestimated. Woking Council's cost-cutting is short-sighted. We are determined to ensure that voluntary groups are supported."



Rob Leach wants to reverse the Tory Council's cuts to Citizens Advice.

# ST JOHN'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE TO BE CLOSED



Rob Leach opposes the closure of the Children's Centre.

The Conservatives running Surrey County Council have decided to close 31 Children's Centres including the one in St John's.

Rob Leach said, "I am very disappointed to learn that the Conservative run County Council is planning to close the St John's Children's Centre."

Rob Leach added, "This is going to disadvantage poorer families trying to make ends meet and will harm children's development in our community. It is important for young children to learn how to interact and socialize. The absence of a Children's Centre can only harm this process."

## What we're fighting for in St John's ward

### ✓ Transport and parking

Rob Leach and Lib Dems want to freeze car parking charges to attract shoppers and support local businesses. We will seek to find sites for "Park and Ride" or "Park and Stride". We will work with the County Council to try to get more local and cheaper bus services. We will make cycling safer by investing in cycle lanes.

### ✓ Homes that meet local needs

Rob Leach and the Lib Dems will limit future new buildings in the town centre to 15 storeys. Woking Council is failing to meet its target of building 102 new affordable homes a year. As a result around 150 families are in B&Bs and temporary accommodation, some in Slough. The Lib Dems will house these families properly.

### ✓ Protecting the local environment

Rob Leach and the Lib Dems will make it easier for you to recycle. We got the Council to introduce on-the-spot fines for litter dropping. We will encourage local businesses to go plastic free, look at better ways to re-use or dispose of bulky waste and plant more wild flowers on Council land.

# It's Rob Leach or the Conservatives here

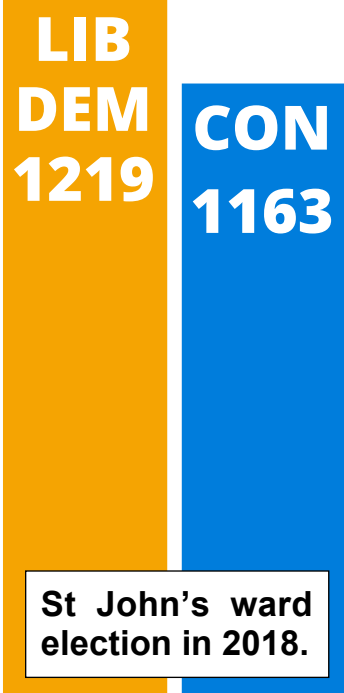
## Local champion Rob Leach

- ✓ Rob Leach has a proven track record for our area. He is a former Councillor for Goldsworth East.
- ✓ The Lib Dems have a strong record of service to St John's residents. Rob Leach is keen to join Councillor Ken Howard so that, as a team, they can have an even stronger voice on Woking Council.
- ✓ Rob Leach and the Lib Dems keep in touch with and help local people all year round. They don't just show up at election time.

OR

## Tory Brexit mess and service cuts

- ✗ The Conservatives have made a complete mess of Brexit. They have damaged our economy and caused uncertainty for Europeans living in the UK.
- ✗ Conservative-run Surrey County Council is closing 5 out of 7 Children's Centres in Woking. Yet Council Tax is going up above inflation.
- ✗ The Conservatives are in Government, and run Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Woking Borough Council. We need a change from Tory dominance.



Labour are out of the race in St John's. Last time, they finished a poor third. The Lib Dems only beat the Tories by 56 votes last time.

St John's ward election in 2018.

It's so close here!