Lib Dems force action on empty houses

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats in Parliament have got the Government to give Councils new council tax powers to encourage people to rent out or sell their empty homes, in order to help with the housing crisis. The longer a property is left empty, the more council tax will have to be paid.

Local Parking action

Local Lib Dem Cllr Penny Rivers’ email bag is full of problems with road surfaces, parking and overgrown paths and roads, many of which she has successfully resolved. However, surprisingly, no roads at all in her ward, Godalming North, were chosen for inclusion on the Winter Maintenance list! Cllr. Rivers is challenging this on behalf of local residents.

If parking is bad in your area, please do contact one of the Lib Dem Councillors listed here and let us know.

Cllr Penny Rivers
Email: penny.rivers@surreycc.gov.uk
Facebook: CouncillorPenny

Cllr Paul Follows
Email: paul_follows@waverlibdems.org.uk
Facebook: PaulFollowsGodalming

Cllr Ollie Purkiss
Email: ollie@waverlibdems.org.uk
Facebook: OlliePurkissGodalming

Working with local parents to save Godalming school

Liberal Democrats believe that a proper education for every child is one of the most important things our society can do. In the General Election campaign and the recent by-elections we pledged to defend our local schools against Conservative cuts - and that's exactly what we did in Godalming with Green Oak School.

Local Liberal Democrat Councillors Penny Rivers, Paul Follows and Ollie Purkiss, worked closely with the Green Oak Parents Teachers Association to successfully fight the decision to close the school, from the moment it was announced. We took the argument to the Tory-controlled Surrey County Council, to the Diocese, and even went with parents to the Department for Education to make our case.

Deeds, not words make the difference. We worked to find viable solutions and took action. Green Oak is now staying open and has recently received a positive OFSTED report - a fantastic recognition of the hard work of the teaching staff and a validation of our campaign to keep the school open. A huge achievement for the local community.

We will always fight cuts to education in Waverley because we believe that all children have the right to a proper education and that teachers should get the resources and support they need to deliver it.
May saw a by-election in Farnham's Castle Ward for a seat on Waverley Borough and Farnham Town Councils. The Lib Dem candidate Jo Aylwin is well known in the town for her championing of the Bishop's Meadow Trust and the 'Otter Way' community art initiative. She has also been campaigning for a 20 mph speed limit outside the local primary school. The seat was previously held by a councillor elected on the 'Farnham Residents' platform who had resigned following his decision to relocate.

CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION, BETTER AIR QUALITY & MORE HOUSING

Jo campaigned on more affordable housing, ensuring there are more facilities when new houses are built, and protecting local schools. The Lib Dems came within 16 votes of capturing the Borough Council seat and were the only party to increase its share of the vote since the last election.

This follows the Liberal Democrat win in Central and Ockford last December, where Cllr Paul Follows won both the Waverley Borough and Godalming Town Council by-elections. This bodes well for the local council elections next May, and again shows that the Lib Dems offer a real alternative to a Tory-run Waverley Council, as they are fighting for local people across the Borough.

Tory Councillors give themselves a pay rise

Tory councillors at County Hall are delivering £196m in cuts to services. Meanwhile their new investment portfolio, worth over £300m (with 65% invested outside Surrey) has delivered a meagre return of just 1% in another sign of the Tory mismanagement of Council finances. This has been reinvested rather than used to support cash-starved county council services as agreed. Yet, this did not stop Surrey's Conservative Councillors awarding themselves a pay rise.