

LOCAL PEOPLE BACK CAMPAIGN FOR A&E

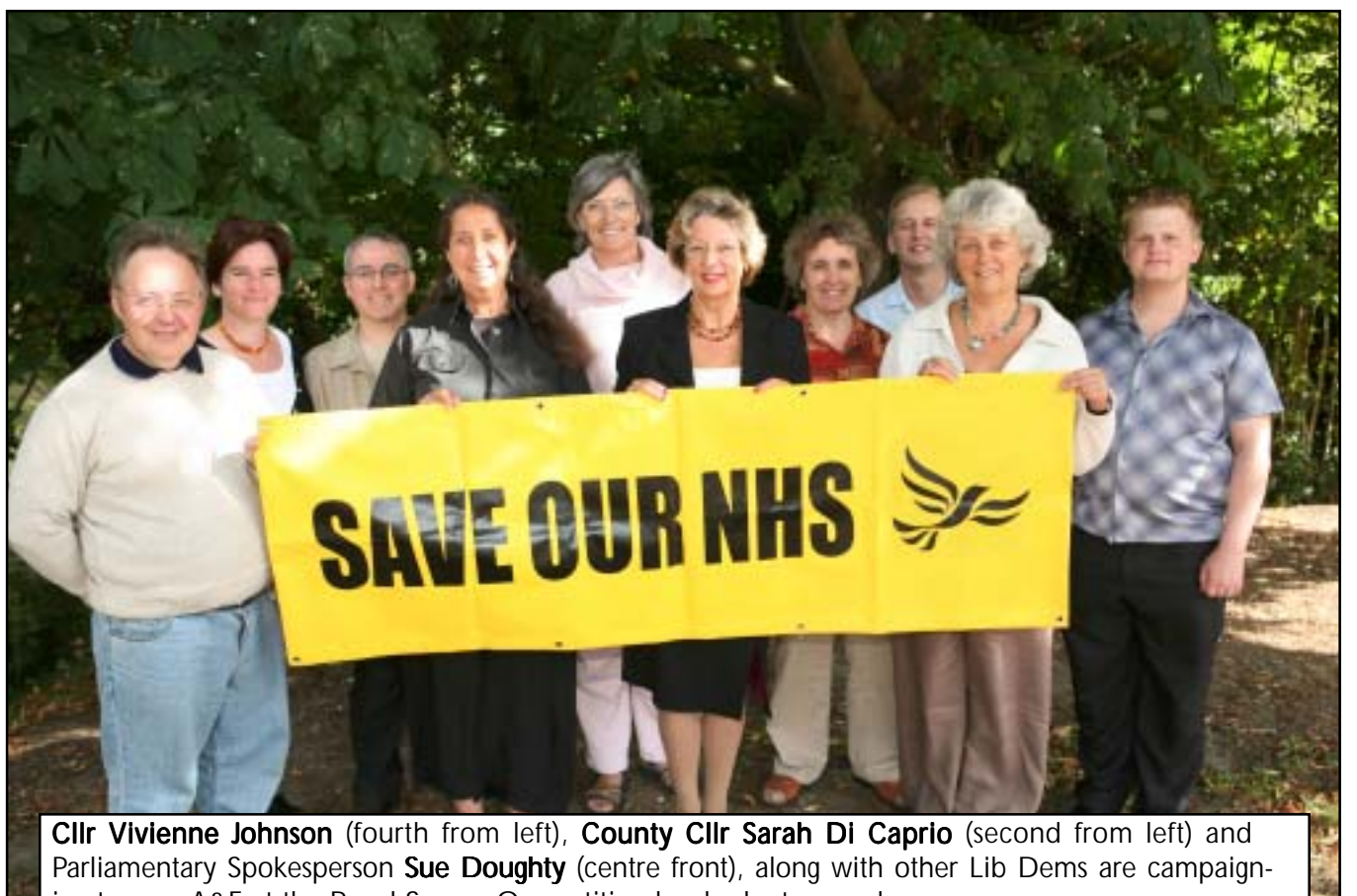
Thousands of local people have signed a Lib Dem petition as the battle intensifies to save A&E at the Royal Surrey.

The department could be under threat due to the massive debts that the Government has lumbered the NHS with.

Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** said, "Local people are rallying round our campaign to avoid these savage cuts. We have received thousands of signatures already."

Cllr Vivienne Johnson added, "I just can not believe what a mess the Government has got the NHS into. West Surrey is losing two community hospitals and it's unthinkable that A&E could close as well."

Sue Doughty has also written to Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt about the local NHS. You can sign our petition online, at: <http://campaigns.libdems.org.uk/guildfordnhs>



Cllr Vivienne Johnson (fourth from left), **County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio** (second from left) and Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sue Doughty** (centre front), along with other Lib Dems are campaigning to save A&E at the Royal Surrey. Our petition has had a tremendous response.

New cameras to help fight crime

Guildford Borough will soon benefit from new CCTV cameras.

The Liberal Democrats proposed a number of new sites for CCTV in light of residents' fears about violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Conservatives twice rejected the plans before they eventually passed them at a full council meeting.

Vivienne said, "CCTV has been uniquely responsible for increasing public safety. One of the cameras will be nearby at the corner of London Rd and York Rd and should help people feel safer going into the town centre.

"We must now extend the cameras to other places to help protect the public."



Sue Doughty discussing crime with a local police officer. The Lib Dems successfully campaigned for more CCTV cameras in Guildford to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parking verdict?

The extension to the Controlled Parking Zone has bedded in well, according to most residents.

Some roads within the zone have had less demand than expected, with frequent under-use of all day as well as four hour spaces.

Cllr Vivienne Johnson and **County Cllr Sarah Di Caprio** will keep pressing for a date for the next review, to resolve the predicted problems that have transferred to St Omer Road and the lower part of Tangier Road

Sarah said, "The knock-on effect of the CPZ into St Omer and Tangier Roads was to be expected but otherwise we're pleased that no major difficulties have arisen.

"A review must be held soon though, and both Vivienne and I will continue to raise the subject, if not for the whole CPZ then for some outstanding issues like Saturday parking."

News In Brief

Tyting Farm Saved

Local people are delighted to learn that after a long campaign, Tyting Farm has been saved for public use.

The Council had been planning to sell the site off but backed down, after pressure from local residents and the Lib Dems.

The Council has agreed to a 50 year lease at a peppercorn rent to a bid from the Surrey Wildlife Trust and a charity, the Halow Trust.

Vivienne said, "Congratulations to local residents who did a great deal to secure this outcome. Tyting Farm is a valuable local green space and I am delighted it has been saved for public use."

Civic Hall latest

Guildford will finally be getting a new Civic Hall after years of Tory dithering were brought to an end.

The new-build project in London Road will cost £20 million+. Plans for a move to the University campus were rejected after a survey carried out by the Lib Dems found less than 2% support.

Vivienne told *Focus*, "It has taken far too long but I am glad we are getting our Civic back. It is just a shame that there will always be a sneaking suspicion that taxpayers are forking out millions more than they needed to."

Tories ignore protests

Once again ignoring public opposition, the Conservatives have agreed to panic proposals to get around the ban on new housing being built within 5 km of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) such as Whitmoor Common.

The Tories claim the new SPA Avoidance Strategy will protect rare ground-nesting birds, by spending over £1million of planning-gain money on 'improvements' to council-owned countryside, including Riverside Park, to attract people away from the SPAs.

Liberal Democrat councillors argued that the Strategy will not work, and the £1 million would be better spent on benefits to the community such as green space easily accessible to new housing.

Vivienne said "This Strategy is deeply flawed. I don't believe people will get in their car to struggle through traffic to walk their dogs in Riverside Park. The Tories should listen to the public, and think again."

Lib Dem recycling scheme expanded at last!



Sarah Di Caprio and Vivienne Johnson are delighted that the whole of Guildford will see kerbside collection of plastics. After years of Lib Dem pressure, the Council finally backed down and are rolling out the scheme borough-wide. However, the Lib Dems are concerned at how much plastic will still go into landfill each week (on floor) compared to how much can be recycled (held by Vivienne). Only plastic bottles are part of the new scheme, not pots or tubs.

BOOK SALE

Saturday 25 November

St Joseph's Church Hall, York Rd

Free entry - refreshments - thousands of second hand books, CDs, vinyls and tapes

Please contact Alan or Maija Lawrence on 01483 503701 if you have any spare books, tapes or CDs. We will collect from you.

Planning Update

The appeal for an 8,000 capacity stadium on Stoke Park next to Spectrum was roundly rejected after what turned out to be a five day enquiry.

The Inspector agreed with virtually all the Council's reasons for refusal – apart from not considering there would be undue noise and disturbance! Many thanks to residents who turned up in force to voice their concerns, which undoubtedly helped the Council's case.

The moratorium on new residential planning applications has provided a welcome respite from pressures for new development.

There have been some important appeal decisions since the last *Focus* publication. Significantly for Christchurch ward, Inspectors attached high importance to the local character in dismissing two appeals in the ward.

Recently there was a welcome decision against the appeal for a mast in Epsom Road, near Gateways, and a Highways objection to one about 50 yards away, near Aldersey Road. But further proposals for masts around the ward are inevitable.

In the face of refusal by the council to analyse planning appeal decisions, **Vivienne** carried out her own analysis of those where the Committee rejected plans that the council officers would have approved. About 80% of Planning Inspectors had supported the Committee's decisions and looked favourably upon maintaining an area's character.

There are indications that Guildford's planning officers have listened and are giving greater weight to the Residential Design Guide. **Vivienne** noted, "I could find no fault with the case officer's recommendation on the latest plans for 115 Epsom Road. I was less happy with proposals for a house at the top of Aldersey Road, but was delighted that the Committee agreed that the defined character in the Design Guide could be applied to extensions."

Did you know?

Guildford's Conservative MP has missed over a third of her meetings on Parliament's Health Select Committee.

With health services in Guildford under threat from Government cuts, she has the **worst** attendance record of all the committee members who have been in place since May 2005.

Contact your local Lib Dem team

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Meet your Lib Dem councillor: If you have an issue that you would like help with, we hold a surgery at Millmead on the first Thursday of every month from 6.30pm. Ring 306000 to book an appointment with a Borough or County Councillor.

Help us to campaign for the local area!

Do you want to help the Liberal Democrats? Return this slip to:
Liberal Democrats, Freepost, SCE 15741, Guildford, GU1 7BR.

I can deliver some leaflets in my area

Name

I can display a poster at election time

Address

I can help with clerical work

Tel

I can make a donation of £___ to help pay for *Focus*

Email

(A donation of £6+ entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join or already belong, tick here)

The Liberal Democrats may wish to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we think are of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.