



# Getting Waverley Working Again

The Liberal Democrat Programme of Action for our towns, villages and Borough, 2003-2007

## The LibDem Top Ten...

- 1** Increase recycling and extend the kerb-side scheme Borough-wide.
  - 2** Allow the public to speak at an open question time at Council meetings.
  - 3** Tougher policy to control mobile telephone masts.
  - 4** Local planning rule to include 50% low-cost homes on all new development sites.
  - 5** Provide youth drop-in centres and 'areas to get together' in each part of Waverley and upgrade and provide more children's play areas.
  - 6** Give more support to Day Centres for the Elderly and extend the services provided.
  - 7** Put the community first in key developments, such as East Street, Farnham and the land around the police station in Godalming.
  - 8** Encourage Town Councils to take the lead co-ordinating role in tackling late-night town centre nuisance and implementing an anti-graffiti policy
  - 9** Control and inspect repairs and maintenance on council houses and increase the supervision of contractors.
  - 10** Provide secure funding for our Citizens Advice Bureaux to gain service improvements.
  - 11** End Conservative bureaucracy, overspending and excessive management - estimated to be running at over £200,000 per year.
- ...AND ONE MORE!

**INSIDE - The Full LibDem Programme**  
**BACK - The Conservative Record 1999-2003**



# GETTING WAVERLEY WORKING AGAIN

## **RECYCLING FOR ALL**

- ◆ Extend kerbside recycling of papers, cans and glass across the Borough; and aim for kerbside 'green-waste' collections
- ◆ Support schemes for local community compost sites
- ◆ Press for a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to be opened locally so that more materials, like plastics, could be recycled
- ◆ Campaign against any further extension of landfill

## **PLANNING FOR PEOPLE**

- ◆ Put the needs of the community before commercial interests within the East Street development in Farnham and the 'Key Site' development in Godalming (land around the police station site). We have opposed the signing of a contract with Sainsbury's / Crest Nicholson for East Street, and are insisting on the inclusion of a new walk-in health centre in Godalming Town Centre
- ◆ Toughen policy to control locations and number of telecommunication (mobile phone) masts
- ◆ Protect traditional architecture in our towns and end Tory practice of trying to downgrade the protection of historic buildings like Brightwell House in Farnham
- ◆ Introduce a new local planning rule to include 50% low-cost homes in all new development sites and reduce threshold for this rule to ten dwellings

## **NEW DEAL FOR TENANTS**

- ◆ Control and inspect repairs and maintenance to council houses and properly supervise contractors to ensure that tenants get better, quicker and more cost-effective repairs
- ◆ Exploit to the full Government policy to provide more homes for rent and shared-ownership in the Borough
- ◆ Boost the major improvements and modernisation programme to ensure that all estates and houses are brought up to high standard, including for instance, the window replacement programme
- ◆ Ensure that any rent increases are kept to a minimum and that money is spent for the benefit of tenants
- ◆ Give tenants more say over how money is spent on their estates

## **TRANSPORT & PARKING**

- ◆ Introduce visitors parking permits in current controlled parking zones
- ◆ Give support to residents and local businesses to ensure that any introduction of controlled parking in Farncombe and Godalming benefits local people
- ◆ Press urgently for traffic studies within Haslemere and consultation on the option for residents parking zones in parts of the Town
- ◆ Campaign for major necessary road improvements at Wrecclesham and Hickleys Corner
- ◆ Give full support to the A3 tunnel scheme for Hindhead and urge the Highways Agency to make adequate provision for improvements to local roads in the Hindhead/Haslemere areas which stand to be affected by changed traffic flows
- ◆ Work to relieve traffic congestion in Farnham Town Centre
- ◆ Promote integrated public and community transport such as taxi services, rail/bus interchanges and improved evening services through our villages.
- ◆ Work to achieve a wider network of *Safe Routes To School* including grants for setting up local schemes such as 'walking buses'
- ◆ Invite bids for new cycle routes, particularly those that link destinations
- ◆ Press the Strategic Rail Authority, SW Trains and Surrey County Council, for safety and parking improvements at local railway stations

## **LEISURE FOR ALL**

- ◆ Provide youth facilities, such as drop-in centres, clubs or shelters ('get together areas') for all parts of Waverley
- ◆ Provide new leisure facilities for Godalming which will include sports hall activities and swimming
- ◆ Support and encourage the return of cinema and new space for live theatre to Farnham
- ◆ Recognise the role that the Maltings plays in developing a broad range of arts opportunities for Farnham and beyond and actively support its continued development for the community
- ◆ Press for improvements to Farnham Sports Centre as part of the East Street regeneration scheme
- ◆ Support local museums, arts centres and sports clubs
- ◆ Provide more children's play areas and upgrade all current play facilities to national safety standards

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## **COMMUNITY ACTION**

- ◆ Provide rolling *three year* funding for the Borough's Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) to achieve service improvement. Consider the use of three year funding for other key voluntary organisations
- ◆ Give more support to Day Centres for the Elderly and help to extend the range of services provided.

Specifically:

- ◆ Provide assistance to the Haslewey Centre in Haslemere to ensure its early opening as a vibrant and well-used centre, including, where possible, for community use beyond its day centre function
- ◆ Press for the East Street scheme to provide an improved and enlarged Gostrey Centre and recognise that the Gostrey Centre deserves support for further development irrespective of what happens within East Street.
- ◆ Give more money to community and charitable groups through Waverley's sponsorship
- ◆ Encourage town and parish councils to provide a high level of small grants to community projects and groups

## **PROTECTING OUR LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- ◆ Actively support the provision of a walk-in health centre for Godalming and use Waverley's influence to secure space within the Town Centre
- ◆ Give full support to the need for a minor injuries unit within Farnham's new community hospital
- ◆ Oppose plans for the closure of any community beds including the valuable rehabilitation service at Milford Hospital
- ◆ Encourage the development of Haslemere Hospital into a modern Locality Care Centre with the retention of all current services and beds
- ◆ Actively support the new Cranleigh Village Hospital project.
- ◆ Work closely with the Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust and encourage public participation in developing health services within the local community

## **SAFE AND TIDY STREETS**

- ◆ Expand and actively support local CCTV schemes to include areas of known anti-social behaviour and crime
- ◆ Encourage more police and community safety presence and improve response in the evenings especially in villages
- ◆ Tackle late-night town centre nuisance by enabling Town Councils to take the lead co-ordinating role amongst the agencies
- ◆ Introduce an anti-graffiti policy including a code of conduct with shop-owners and a 24-hour clear up target, again, with Town Councils taking the lead co-ordinating role

## **LOCAL SHOPS & POST OFFICES**

- ◆ Work to ensure that an adequate sub-post office network remains throughout the Borough and oppose the loss of services including red post boxes
- ◆ Increase grants to village shops
- ◆ Ensure that any parking schemes, or pedestrian safety schemes, take fully on board the need for easy access / parking near to local shops and businesses

## **SHARING POWER & RUNNING WAVERLEY**

- ◆ Allow the public to speak in open session at Council meetings including the right to make formal representations at planning meetings
- ◆ Involve local people in decisions about spending money in their area, such as Home Zones or play areas
- ◆ End the Tory practice of centralism and secrecy by devolving decisions away from Waverley's nine-member Executive Committee
- ◆ Provide full public consultation on any major scheme affecting an area. End Tory practice of offering token consultation and ignoring survey results
- ◆ Review all Waverley spending to ensure value-for-money
- ◆ Introduce a freeze on all new senior staff appointments with a panel of councillors deciding whether any vacancy should be filled

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# THE CONSERVATIVE RECORD

Why things must change at Waverley...

## The Broken Promises

In 1999 the Conservatives published a 'contract' containing 'Six Key Pledges'. They have failed on each pledge.

» The Conservatives said they would introduce at least one 'pay-on-exit' car park but they have failed

» The Conservatives promised people in Farnham that they would pay the legal costs of Mr Fletcher, the 'Tudor Pin' man; but they back-tracked within weeks of taking control

» The Conservatives said they would restrict Council Tax increases to inflation or below. This year alone Council Tax is going up by 18.9%.

» The Conservatives planned to sell off the Borough's 5,500 council houses to a private housing association. This was their flag-ship policy but it failed when tenants rejected the idea.

» The Conservatives said they would end secrecy, but secrecy has thrived; notably with the behind closed door dealings over East Street, Farnham; and recently with a secret deal for the sale of industrial premises in Cranleigh. There is speculation that secret talks are currently underway regarding the so-called 'Key Site' (land around the police station) in Godalming.

» The Conservatives said they would make public the 'overspend' on building The Herons. It took over three and a half years before any information was released and still much is shrouded in secrecy.



↑ The 'Six Key Pledges' document from 1999 that the Conservatives want to hide

In 1999 the Conservatives took control of Waverley Borough Council. In 2003 they intend to spend an extra £1.944 MILLION of tax-payers' money but much of it has been frittered away.

The Conservatives have kept much of the truth under wraps, but the Liberal Democrats have managed to estimate that at least £200,000 is being wasted every year on bureaucracy, overspending and excessive management.

## The extra costs under Conservative Control

# £1,944,000

This is the extra amount of local tax-payers' money being spent by the Conservatives.

And here are some of the examples of where money is being wasted on bureaucracy, overspending and excessive management.

» **£500,000** wasted on the failed attempt to sell off the Borough's council houses

» **£253,000** increase in the street cleaning budget - yet street cleaning is getting worse

» **£250,000** is being spent on officers reviewing services rather than delivering them

» **£300,000** on external consultants

**If the LibDems win Waverley they have plans to cut £200,000 from bureaucracy and excessive management. This money will be spent on services instead.**

**End Conservative overspending, excessive bureaucracy and inaction.**

**Get Waverley Working Again!**

**Elect a LibDem Council on May 1st.**

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