

County Council Election



Already well-known amongst local residents, **MARGARET DERRETT** will be the Liberal Democrat candidate in the Surrey County Council election on 4th June.



Margaret Derrett

Margaret has lived in the borough for the last 22 years. Her late husband Bill was the county councillor for Epsom & Ewell West from 1989 to 1997.

Margaret is a teacher by profession, now retired. She used to teach English at the Epsom and Ewell High School in Ruxley Lane and then later at the Ashcombe school in Dorking.

"I will keep in touch," promises Margaret, "Once they're elected, too many county councillors just disappear into County Hall and you don't hear from them again until they want your vote at the next election. I won't be like that. I know that the job of a county councillor is to listen to local people and to keep in touch to tell them what I'm doing on their behalf."

"That's why I will make sure that I will hold regular councillor's advice surgeries and ask your opinion via the **FOCUS** newsletter, just like all the other Liberal Democrat councillors in this borough. In fact, we've already been delivering **FOCUS** in both Court and Ruxley wards for the last few years. *You will always know how to get in touch if you need me.*"

"Don't vote for anyone else until you have asked them if they will make the same promise!"

Remember this recent headline in the Epsom Guardian?

Tory-led Surrey County Council became the only "One Star" county council due to its poor services for vulnerable children.

Yet they spend millions on PR and tried to risk even more in a failed attempt to get a Judicial Review of Ofsted's findings.

Everyone knows the roads are bad, but the Tories are paying consultants to find out if the public are satisfied with them.

Yet they insist on calling Surrey an "Outstanding" authority.



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**IT'S ENGLAND'S
WORST COUNCIL**

From the Epsom Guardian 5 March 2009



Six steps to a better deal for Surrey

Surrey's Liberal Democrat county councillors and campaigners have launched their plans to improve Surrey County Council and the services that it provides to residents.

"Council tax in Surrey has doubled over the last ten years, but services are being cut yet again", says Margaret Derrett. "Still our roads remain a mess. It's just not good enough, particularly when we see just how much money our Conservative-run county council has wasted."

It's time for changes at County Hall that only the **Liberal Democrats** can provide. Their plans are comprehensive and backed by a published Manifesto – for the details see inside. Turn to the back page for the top priorities – the **"Six to Fix"**.



The Lib Dems' "Six to Fix" :-

- 1 Improve the roads and pavements.
- 2 Protect the environment.
- 3 Improve and protect public transport.
- 4 More help for disabled people, old people, vulnerable children and their carers.
- 5 More activities for young people.
- 6 Stop Surrey County Council wasting money.

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP ON SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

OUR RECORD OF ACTION AND SUCCESS 2005 – 2009

1. We put pressure on the Tories to improve the condition of the roads and pavements. This has led to money being spent on resurfacing more roads.
2. We urged the Tories to tackle the problem of flooding that affects some properties and causes hazards on some Surrey roads. We asked the Council to identify the problem areas and to improve road drainage. This resulted in money being allocated to a number of flood prevention schemes.
3. We opposed Tory proposals to cut bus services and as a consequence the cuts were shelved.
4. We led the campaign to oppose the closure of a number of youth centres. This succeeded as the Tories backed down and the youth centres were retained.
5. We opposed the cut to the number of youth workers resulting from the recruitment freeze in the youth service. As a result, the Tory administration reversed the decision and lifted the recruitment freeze which meant that youth centres could continue to maintain their opening hours for the benefit of young people.
6. We led the opposition to the Tory proposals to close a number of libraries in Surrey. The Tory administration did a U-turn and the libraries were retained.
7. We have pressed the Tories to work with Boroughs and Districts in Surrey to increase the amount of waste that is reduced, re-used and recycled. This is now happening.
8. We have consistently opposed mass burn incineration and have called for the County Council to dispose of the remaining waste in the most environmentally friendly way possible. As a result, the Council is now considering different ways of disposing of the remaining waste such as anaerobic digestion and composting.
9. We pressed Surrey County Council as a major employer and as a Council representing a significant number of UK residents to urgently take a leadership role and act to reduce Surrey's impact on climate change. As a consequence, two years later, the Tory administration has produced a strategy on climate change.
10. As the only effective opposition on Surrey County Council, we have kept up the pressure on the Tory administration to ensure that they were held accountable for their actions.