

YOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS ACTIONS AND SUCCESSES

Portland Drive flats - A new roof is to be provided to replace the old flat roof that has caused many problems due to leakage. PVC windows are to be installed and, later next year, it is planned to redecorate the stairways and external areas, which will be a welcome improvement on the current state.

Brook Road, Merstham houses - After consultation with tenants, about half of the older properties are presently being refurbished and the remainder will be dealt with in 1994. It remains our aim for all Council properties to have central heating installed and PVC windows fitted.

Taking Cycling Seriously - Barry has asked both the Borough and County Councils to provide travelling areas for cyclists and the response has been very positive.

Help Shop - Jane is delighted that the County and Borough Councils together with the East Surrey Health Authority are to open a 'Help Shop' in Station Road, Redhill. This will make it easier for local people to get help and information about Council services, even on Saturdays. Liberal Democrat Councillors have been pressing for 5 years to have local Neighbourhood offices and the 'Help Shop' is a step in the right direction. It is hoped to open up similar facilities in areas such as Merstham.

Transformers in Frenches Road - British Rail built these monstrosities earlier this year and Barry has been urging BR to provide some screening. They have recently agreed to provide a 2M high close boarded fence along the length of these electrical substations which will help to reduce the visual impact, instead of the previously planned chain link fence which would not have helped.

Improved Housing Security - Frank has welcomed the Borough Council's decision to provide free installation of spy holes and security chains for elderly residents in Council properties and he is seeking to ensure that new housing developments are built with enhanced safety requirements in mind. These include safety lighting, automatic dead-latches on doors, high rear fences, cul-de-sacs to improve observation, smoke detectors and intruder alarms.

Better Lighting - Barry has contacted the Council on many occasions to report lights, belisha beacons or pedestrian bollards that were out of action. He has successfully urged that older bulb type lights are replaced with the more effective sodium lighting. He is trying to have better lighting installed at Shepherds Hill in Merstham.

Nursery Schools - This subject is one of the priorities for the 29 strong Liberal Democrat group on Surrey County Council. Whilst the Council's funds are heavily restricted by the Government, we are trying to use existing monies to provide more children with nursery education, initially in schools such as Furzefield in Merstham where Muriel is a Governor, There is spare accommodation available and all the Governors are keen to provide this vital facility. However, close liaison is needed with local playschools where a nursery class is to be opened.

☆ **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** ☆
FROM YOUR FOCUS TEAM

If you have any comments, please contact one of the **FOCUS** team or fill in the slip below

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MERSTHAM, REDHILL and EARLSWOOD

FOCUS

Winter 1993



BRITISH RAIL

British Rail has agreed not to let any new businesses move into the Hooley Lane Goods Yard, Earlswood without consultation with Planning Officers at the Town Hall! The offer was made to a meeting of your local Ward Councillors, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Council Officers and employees of British Rail's Property Board. Jane comments "Whilst we should be happy about this concession from British Rail, we must not forget that the current users on the site are continuing to cause much of the traffic chaos, noise, pollution and general disturbance to the whole of Earlswood. The residents still have to wait until the New Year before the appeal on enforcement action will be heard. Until that time, residents have to endure the activities of the unlawful users of this site."

Liberal Democrats Keep on Winning

Since our last FOCUS, Liberal Democrat candidates in local by-elections around the UK have been tremendously successful. One Thursday in October saw us win 10 out of 14 contests! These successes came after the huge parliamentary by-election win for the Liberal Democrats at Christchurch. You can join the winning team - please see the back page

Planning matters

There has been lots of activity in the past few months including
Land at the junction of Frenches Road & Ladbroke Road, Redhill - 39 Flats and houses have been agreed, although there is still concern at the access to the site.

Land between Budgen Drive and the Frenches Redhill - 13 houses are to be built but the proposed children's' play area next to the pond was fortunately turned down. £19,000 has been provided by the developers for provision of children's' play equipment in the Redhill area.

10a and 24 Albury Road, South Merstham - Houses and flats respectively were agreed for these sites, which will be a big improvement on their previous industrial uses. British Rail Car Park Merstham - BR's application for an open air Sunday market was thrown out by the Council. Muriel strongly opposed the proposal in view of the noise disturbance. Buffer Depot Site Elmwood Road/Frenches Road, Redhill - The number of houses has been substantially reduced from the original 30 proposed.

Sheltered schemes at Albury Place flats and Mill Lane, South Merstham - The Borough Council agreed to remove the age restrictions on both these developments, despite local opposition and Barry will closely monitor the impact.

Former St Nicholas School site, Alpine Road - Details have now been received of the 70 houses which were given outline permission in 1992, Jane is seeking to ensure that the designs, layout and amenity area are as suitable as possible but traffic generation remains a real concern.

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