

FOCUS

**Reigate Redhill &
Merstham
Winter 2001**



Tories Get It Very Wrong!

So, William Hague's Tory controlled Surrey County Council has now admitted to an almighty blunder in their financial justification of the need for incineration in Surrey.

When SCC were looking into the best way of dealing with Surrey's future waste, after much 'research' and expense, it came up with a figure of nearly 250,000 tons per year to be disposed of. This figure was used to justify a contract, which has already been signed with SITA, for two new incinerators.

The decision to incinerate was chosen, rather than motivate some Tory controlled Surrey districts to recycle more. Consideration should have been given to the ongoing costs to the environment of the increased traffic pollution, congestion and traffic danger from the hundreds of extra daily lorry journeys that would be needed.

Unfortunately for Tories and fortunately for the rest of us, there has recently been so much public interest and awareness that they have now been forced to publish what they say is a more accurate figure, approximately 25,000 tons.

How could they have got it so wrong?

Maybe SCC needs the incinerators for some other reason. Who's to say that they will not take in rubbish from Greater London or Essex, which have their own land-fill problems?

We could end up having rubbish brought to us from all over the South East for incineration, leaving the toxic ash to be dumped in the local countryside. Is Redhill to be the dustbin of Surrey?

If other Borough Councils start recycling soon, Surrey's overall performance will improve. There will be no need for this area to take waste from other parts of Surrey. These revised figures no longer justify the capital costs of building the proposed incinerators.

Neighbouring Liberal Democrat Council, Sutton recycles 44% of its household waste, which is more than 4 times Surrey's average! Local Liberal Democrats would encourage people to recycle more, by giving them practical help to do so and making it more convenient.

Tory leader William Hague plans to tax the old and sick by bringing in increased private healthcare at the expense of the NHS. This will cost older people and those who are ill far more than younger people - who need the NHS less.

By contrast the Lib Dems' plans would give the NHS the proper funding it needs - paid for by a fair tax system.

A Better Deal for Local Transport

Arriva, the local bus company has announced that it plans virtually to eliminate local bus services. Conservative controlled Surrey County Council is failing to save our bus routes.

Liberal Democrats would introduce frequent small, hopper busses providing a reliable service between town centres; residential areas; stations; the hospital and other local amenities.

A Better Deal for Students

Liberal Democrat Leader, Charles Kennedy, has taken a tour of UK Universities to highlight his concerns that poorer students are discouraged from attending higher education because of tuition fees. Scottish Liberal Democrats were instrumental in getting tuition fees abolished in Scotland. Welsh Liberal Democrats are well on the way to achieving the same for Welsh students. Charles Kennedy has said that "the writing is on the wall and its time the government realised what it is doing".

Liberal Democrats remain committed if necessary to raise 1p on income tax, to pay for a better education system.

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A Better Deal for Key Workers

Building land is in short supply leading to escalating house prices. Many residents who provide our key local services now find it difficult to afford the cost of living in this area. Where are local teachers, nurses, bus drivers and refuse collectors that we all depend on, supposed to live? The local Tory run administration does not understand the need for affordable housing.

Local Liberal Democrat Councillors proposed that an area of Council owned land should be used for key worker housing. Unfortunately this was voted down by Tory Councillors.

A Better Deal for Pensioners

Pensioner poverty is a real issue here. Last winter saw the greatest death toll for pensioners since 1976. That's why Liberal Democrats are demanding extra money for the eldest, most at risk.

Liberal Democrats have promised an extra £5 for all pensioners, £10 for over 75's and £15 for the over 80's.

We will continue to fight for a fair deal for pensioners until this Labour Government listens.

A Better Deal for The Vulnerable

William Hague's Tories are failing the most vulnerable people in our community. Conservative run Surrey County Council continues to ignore the vulnerable by putting up charges for care, at the same time as cutting services.

Liberal Democrats will fight to keep home care assistants so that people can continue to live in their own

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MINI-SURVEY

Please number the boxes below, to prioritise these local issues. (1 being your top priority).

A Better Deal for Local Transport

A Better Deal for Students

A Better Deal for Key Workers

A Better Deal for Pensioners

A Better Deal for the Vulnerable
(Please enter any other important issue).

A Better Deal for

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