

Call for fairer funding

Liberal Democrat motion, calling for more Business Rates to stay in Mole Valley to pay for vital local services, is passed overwhelmingly.

Mole Valley's three remaining Conservative councillors looked distinctly embarrassed at a Council meeting on 18th July, after refusing to back a successful Lib Dem motion asking Ministers for a fairer funding settlement for District and Borough Councils.

Mole Valley District Council collects more than £40 million of business rates a year on behalf of the Government, but is allowed to keep just 3.1% of this to pay for local services – the second lowest settlement anywhere in England. Some more is spent in Mole Valley via Surrey County Council's funding settlement but most is redistributed to councils across the country.

Lib Dem Cabinet member for Finance, **Cllr. Bridget Kendrick** said, "Government policy has required our Lib Dem Council to make about £1.5million savings over the last two years, which it achieved without cutting services. Huge extra savings will be required next year unless Government policies change."



Lib Dem Cllrs. Bridget Kendrick, Abhiram Magesh and Raj Haque brought the motion to Council. Inset, parliamentary candidate, Helen Maguire.

"We believe in levelling-up for all communities but a fairer, more transparent funding model for local government is urgently needed. This would allow more of the hard-earned cash that local businesses have to pay in business rates to be used locally."

Parliamentary candidate, **Helen MAGUIRE**, said "I applaud the Lib Dems running Mole Valley for challenging this out-of-touch Tory government."

Printed by Election Workshop, 3 Sheffield Street, Manchester, M1 2ND. Published and promoted by George Vance on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, all at 32 Bentsbrook Park, Dorking, RH5 4JN.

To contact your local Lib Dem team...

Write to us at info@molevalleylibdems.co.uk or scan the QR code



Leatherhead North



Cllr. **Benjamin WEAR**

07817 299485

benjamin.wear@molevalleylibdems.co.uk



Cllr. **Ben WALL**

07952 061967

ben.wall@molevalleylibdems.co.uk



Cllr. **Keira VYVYAN-ROBINSON**

07939 551524

keira.vyvyan-robinson@molevalleylibdems.co.uk

Leatherhead South



Cllr. **Bridget KENDRICK**

07739 226116

bridget.kendrick@molevalleylibdems.co.uk



Gareth PARSONS

01306 881663

gareth.parsons@molevalleylibdems.co.uk



Cty. Cllr. **Hazel WATSON**

01306 880120

hva.watson@btinternet.com



Helen MAGUIRE Parliamentary Candidate

helen@helenmaguire.org



CAN YOU HELP?

Scan the QR code if you would like to help our local campaigns

The Liberal Democrats may use the information you provide, including your political opinions, to further our objectives and share it with our elected representatives. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy: libdems.org.uk/privacy. You can exercise your rights and withdraw your consent to future communications by contacting us at data.protection@libdems.org.uk or DPO, Lib Dems, 1 Vincent Square, SW1P 2PN.

FOCUS

On Leatherhead

From your local Liberal Democrat team

Autumn 2023



Liberal Democrats

A winning team

Another spectacular by-election win for the Lib Dems in July brings hope to voters taken for granted by their Tory MP here.

On July 27th, voters in Somerton & Frome elected a new Liberal Democrat MP, overturning a Conservative majority of more than 19,000.

Now, residents across Leatherhead, Ashted, Epsom & Ewell are telling us they too have had enough of being taken for granted by a succession of Conservative MPs over decades - they want a Liberal Democrat MP here to work alongside our Liberal Democrat-led District Council.

Lib Dem leader, **Sir Ed Davey**, said "The people of Somerton and Frome have spoken for the rest of the country who are fed up with Rishi Sunak's out-of-touch Conservative government."

Across Surrey's Tory heartlands, from SW Surrey, Guildford and Woking to Esher, Leatherhead, Epsom, Ewell, and into SW London, it's the Lib Dems, not Labour, who have the support to defeat local Conservative MPs.

Locally, **Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate Helen Maguire** has been working with the Leatherhead Liberal Democrat team to ensure the Town's voice is heard.

Helen said, "When canvassing in Leatherhead it's clear - voters know that only the Liberal Democrats can beat the Tories here in the next General Election and we're greatly encouraged by the level of support we've received."



Liberal Democrat Helen Maguire is the only candidate who can unite the progressive vote and beat the Conservatives here.



2019 General Election result in Epsom & Ewell

Fairer, Greener, more Caring



Better Leisure Centres

Liberal Democrat controlled Mole Valley District Council has approved a new contract with a national provider to run the Leisure Centres in both Leatherhead and Dorking for the next 15 years.

Lib Dem Cllr. Benjamin Wear, said

“Many Councils are having to close Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools because of huge increases in running costs, such as heating bills. But in Mole Valley, the Lib Dems have been able to secure a contract that will ensure continued provision and we expect improved services at both centres.”

The Council has sought to address issues that have caused residents to complain over the past few years and is confident that the new services will provide excellent facilities and value for money to our communities.

The new services will come into operation in November (Dorking) and December (Leatherhead).

Cllr. Benjamin Wear is looking forward to improved services at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

Transform Leatherhead

UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant brings colour to our Riverside.

Last year, Lib Dem-led Mole Valley District Council was successful in its bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and received a first-round award of more than £50,000 to be allocated locally by the council.

Local Lib Dem councillors then supported a Leatherhead Residents Association application for a portion of those funds to create a wildlife mural on an unloved underpass next to the Riverside. The street-art was created by local artist Daniel Strowger.

The mural promises to brighten a particularly unattractive underpass, which has been a frequent subject of anti-social graffiti. In time, it will tie-in to the Riverside redevelopment as part of Transform Leatherhead.

Cllr. Keira Vyvyan-Robinson said, “I am thrilled to see the creation of this

mural, bringing colour and vibrancy to our townscape. I hope that more artistic creations will follow, encouraging people to explore the town and our countryside.

“There will be more opportunities to bid for other funds this year, so look out for the announcement.”



Cllr. Vyvyan-Robinson is thrilled to see the latest addition to Leatherhead's community art, following the recent Kingfisher sculpture installation (inset).

Wildflower meadow

Lib Dem Cllr. Hazel Watson, has arranged for the County Council to 'tidy' the Beaverbrook Roundabout. About one third will be seeded with wildflowers and the remaining area will be left as grass to ensure adequate sight lines are maintained for traffic.

County Highways will also replace the dilapidated chevrons on the roundabout.

Rail ticket-offices

Mole Valley's Lib Dem Council has added its voice to the opposition expressed throughout the community to the proposals to close railway ticket offices, including at Leatherhead station.

The train operators' public consultation ended on 1st September and we await the results.

Supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis



Your Leatherhead councillors and Parliamentary Candidate Helen Maguire will work together to give local residents a voice in Parliament.

Times are tough for us all and many councils are being forced to cut services because of the Conservative Government's failed economic policies. But Lib Dem-controlled Mole Valley is working hard to maintain support for local families, including:

- ✓ Help for families facing eviction or homelessness
- ✓ Holiday activities for local children
- ✓ Free and accessible playgrounds and recreation grounds
- ✓ Highly praised facilities at local leisure centres, including for schools and disability groups
- ✓ Funding for community groups supporting local families.

New Boundaries, New MP... and it's going to be Liberal Democrat or Conservative here.

Following a review of parliamentary boundaries by the Boundary Commission, voters in Leatherhead, Ashted, Epsom & Ewell will get to choose a new MP at the upcoming General Election.

Only the Lib Dems, with a strong local team and an outstanding candidate in **Helen MAGUIRE**, can beat the Conservatives here.



Leatherhead Lib Dems - working hard all year round