



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 34; February 2010

Welcoming Note

Welcome to the February issue of the Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact us through the website 'Contact us' page with a subject line of 'unsubscribe'.

Our aim is to provide you with a monthly update on the work of the Conservative Association and your elected representatives. We would value your feedback or comments.

We hope you enjoy reading the February issue.

A word from the Chair

Labour – “PAYB” rather than “PAYE”



My comments in January 2009 and, more recently, last month, mentioned the problems which could arise with inflation. Whilst pondering the few hectic months ahead, I hear news that my fears were justified. UK inflation rose to 3.5% in January from 2.9%, the fastest annual pace for 14 months. It is time for sound Conservative husbandry of our country's fiscal policies and most certainly time for an election.

Before outlying our alternative proposals however, a word or two on Brown! Although his lack of sound judgement and dithering is legendary, unlike the majority of political journalists and on-line twitchers cum bloggers, his latest attempt to regain lost ground by an ill judged interview with his chum Piers should remain where it belongs; in a document file labelled personal!

Only recently our party came out with proposals which would make PAYE less of an administrative burden on employers – this is not being put forward as a gimmick but as a genuine attempt to turn the tide of red tape that threatens to engulf us all from Brussels, Westminster and a Town Hall near you.

An irony of the current mood is that the Labour Party are still wishing to maintain spending at current levels – perhaps they should be the party of “PAYB” – ‘Pay As You Borrow.’ Whereas January usually produces a welcome tax surplus, the month saw a borrowing increase of a staggering £4 billion!

President Obama recently turned to respected figure from the past to stand with him on a platform as he denounced proprietary trading. Paul Volcker has many merits but people would do well to remember that under his stewardship the one month euro-dollar deposit rate was 21.5/8% bid! Hardly surprising that inflation came down and the price of oil fell to \$US 10 a barrel.

The leviathan of state employees is spreading across most countries, in Greece 42% of people are on the state payroll. The spendthrift governments attack banks at their peril – why should banks buy central or local government instruments? The Credit Default Insurance (the instrument that brought AIG to its knees) has hit more than 400 basis points for five year Greek debt, 170 points for five year Spanish debt and 100 points for five year gilts.



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Why should banks and other investors continue to buy British Government instruments if there is no progress in actually cutting costs – which will, inevitably cause a reduction in the public sector payroll – we will have to work with two levels of management not five. The people who are released from the administrative areas in the public sector can then move to productive employment in the private sector and enable the country to once again have British staff building homes, Olympic stadia and running restaurants.

As Bob Diamond of Barclays reminds us, banks and other financial institutions are vital in buying treasury instruments – in 300 years this country created £380 billion of public debt. Under twelve years of Labour it has increased by £470 billion. Moreover, it presently stands at a staggering £850 billion – we cannot go on like this - financial Armageddon threatens!

Mr Colin Crispin
Chairman, Mole Valley Conservative Association

News from the House of Commons

Leatherhead Night Hostel Renovation and Transformation



The charity, Leatherhead Night Hostel, has commenced a renovation and transformation programme. At present it provides short-term accommodation for homeless men and women from in and around Leatherhead. Over the years these individuals have come from all backgrounds including a university professor and a senior executive of an American Bank.

The renovation and extension is to replace the present dormitory accommodation with individual ensuite bedrooms and to add teaching facilities. The latter is to enable those who arrive at the hostel to improve their circumstances so as to not require the help of the hostel or similar in the future. For example basic literacy and IT skills are to be taught.

The capital cost of the project is estimated to be £1million. Considerable funds have been raised from Mole Valley District Council, the Government's "Places for Change" programme and the charity itself. The outstanding capital is £265,000. The accommodation is being sold at a reduced cost to Raven Housing Trust which is providing £40,000 and bidding for a grant from the affordable housing programme.

I am writing to the Chief Executives of a number of Leatherhead firms seeking help. Clearly there is a need for capital but the charity is aware that many firms would rather help "in kind". This could be by providing services, at reduced or nil cost, to the building programme or the educational programme.

Sir Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley



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Issue 34; February 2010

Report from Guildford Borough Council

Housing Capital Programme



In the light of the current economic climate and the demands on the Borough's housing stock, we have committed an additional £1m to our housing capital programme. This is an annual programme, which sets out the future plans for affordable housing in the Borough and for the investment in the existing housing stock.

In the light of the downturn in the housing market, fewer large developments are being built across the Borough. For every large development, developers are required to provide around a third of the houses as affordable housing, whether for rent or for shared equity. With development activity still quiet and a housing waiting list of almost 4,000, the Borough has doubled its contribution towards new affordable housing to £1m. This will help the Borough hit its affordable housing targets. In addition, we have increased our investment under our housing capital programme by £0.5m for our own council housing stock to help fund essential modernisation of kitchens, bathrooms and electrical installations.

For the first time in 2010, the Borough is extending car parking charges to the evening, which brings Guildford into line with its neighbour Woking and other large towns. The charge will be just £1, to avoid discouraging evening visitors, but this will raise £160k in revenue each year. Although some residents may feel this is just another tax, a lot of visitors to Guildford live outside the Borough. This charge goes towards the costs of cleaning and maintenance in our car parks and also helps to keep the council tax down for our own residents.

Cllr Andrew French
Deputy Leader, Guildford Borough Council



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Feature Article

Relief from Pot Hole Misery On Its Way to Westcott



Westcott's Conservative team of Sir Paul Beresford MP and District Councillor James Friend are delighted to announce that work is expected to commence to repair the pot hole ridden surface of the main A25 through the village by Friday 26 February 2010.

Westcott lies to the west of Dorking by about two miles and the A25 runs east-west through the village. Westcott has around 850 houses and 1,750 adults and 400 children living there.

James Friend says "Many residents have contacted me with their concerns about the state of the main road following the snow this winter. I also know that people driving to Dorking and Guildford and beyond, cite our village as the worst stretch in the county. So getting this sorted out is a priority."

With no sign of any repair work being undertaken, James contacted MP Paul Beresford who quickly got on the case. Paul says, "I've driven through the village myself and heard many stories of punctures and damage caused by the poor surface quality. I immediately got in touch with the Ian Lake, Surrey's Conservative County Councillor with cabinet responsibility for Transport. I'm delighted for Westcott residents and everyone who uses the A25 that Ian has confirmed that work will be done mid to late next week."

James added "I continue to urge Westcott residents and other drivers to slow down when passing through the village. The slower we all go, the slower the heavy lorries have to go. In turn that means better road safety for our children and other pedestrians and less damage is inflicted on the carriageway."



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News in Brief

Mole Valley Village Inn Prize



Last Wednesday the Parrot Inn, received the prestigious South East Local Food Winner award in a big ceremony at the

House of Lords. The prize was presented by the Countryside Alliance as part of their celebration of our rural communities. There were over 2500 nominations in four categories and only 12 regional winners in each category. The relatively new owners of the parrot in started farming and the Surrey Hills 17 years ago with a determination to produce fantastic meat which they sell through their farm shop and pub restaurant at the Parrot Inn in Forest Green. The whole family is involved in the pub, restaurant and local produce shop.

At the ceremony, Head Judge Michelle Nudds explained, "this pub is a great role model for our threatened British pubs. Its ethos is simple: to reconnect customers with local produce. It is done through serving produce from its own farm which is only 4 miles from the pub will stop they also support other local producers and are very strict on local provenance. There should be Parrot Inns everywhere!"

Paul Beresford, Mole Valley MP, who has championed rural village revival, was delighted to join the Parrot Inn team at the House of Lords and then at the weekend in Forest Green. He commented, "The battle to save our rural villages and our rural businesses is constant. The Mole Valley constituency has approximately 30 villages. Many have village shops, but many more have village pubs most of whom are now restaurant and pub combinations proving to be extremely

successful businesses in an unusually difficult climate. This award to the Parrot Inn I hope will remind everybody of the importance of supporting our village businesses."

Quickquid Concerns Constituents



A number of Mole Valley constituents have, over the years, complained about a variety of scams. Some Mole Valley residents have been persuaded to part with large sums of money, particularly to internet scams. Paul Beresford explained, "Although action is now being co-ordinated by police and others, the chance of prosecution and return of lost money is remote. Having had my name used by an Australian and USA property scam website I am very aware of the lengths some criminals will go to fool people in to parting with their hard earned funds."

The latest issue raised by constituents with Paul Beresford are the activities of a particular UK loans company. The company is called Quickquid and the high Annual Percentage Rate (APR) it advertises will make your eyes water – 2,356%.

Paul Beresford says, "It is amazing that such companies are allowed to offer such high-cost consumer credit and yet when I contacted the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) I was informed that the Consumer Credit Act 1974 "does not stipulate what is, and what is not, an acceptable rate of interest." However the OFT are currently carrying out a review into the supply of high cost credit which will focus on whether consumers have appropriate protection. There are many money-making scams, schemes and loan-sharks out there. Individuals must stay vigilant, read the small print and guard the more vulnerable members of society against these unscrupulous companies too."