



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 37; June 2010

Welcoming Note

Welcome to the June 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 June issue.

A word from the Chair

A step in the right direction!



The new Government is setting out its stall – none more so than George Osborne and Eric Pickles.

Eric Pickles is right on target to stop unnecessary expansion of building in the green belt – which must be good for the Merrow/Clandon corridor and other zones – and also the instruction to spend less – the days of marginal spending on “luxury” items such as the arts and leisure must be balanced against the stark reality of other priorities. If the individual gives up his leisure pursuits, so must Councils make adjustments.

The projections in the newspapers of large reductions in the workforce in the public sector are not alarmist; they are realistic. Providing the cutbacks are primarily in the desk bound roles then a cutback of 500,000 is less than 50% of the increase in staff numbers in the sector since 1997.

The National Insurance proposals to encourage new businesses are excellent. I read that for the next three years, anyone who sets up a new business outside London, the South East and the Eastern regions, will be exempt from up to £5,000 of employer national insurance payments, for each of their first 10 employees hired. Why, yet again, is Surrey not included?

Like nearly all politicians, the blame for the events of 2008 is placed upon the banks when the culprits, in 1999, were Clinton and Greenspan. They had a vision of everyone owning their own house – totally laudable but not if it meant banks lending to the sub-prime sector. The danger with the new bank levy is that it will be a tax on the wholesale balance sheet size of banks and building societies. What is wholesale? and, should banks lend to the “retail” sector if the size of balance sheets is going to be a factor in the tax levy on banks? To exclude smaller banks is not a good idea. The secondary bank crisis of the 1980s was caused by small banks and the banking crisis in England was led by the morons at Northern Rock who over extended themselves.

With all sectors of the civil service and local authorities under examination, we should be grateful for the abolition of the Regional Authorities as a start and hope that the Foreign Office will not be protected from major cutbacks now that Europe duplicates most of its activities.



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The next few years will be uncomfortable for us all; be interesting to see if ultimately the Liberal Democrats in Guildford and in Mole Valley continue to try and thwart the Conservatives on whether they will work for the common good as suggested by Mr. Clegg.

Mr Colin Crispin
Chairman, Mole Valley Conservative Association

News from the House of Commons

Private Members' Bill



With the General Election now behind us and the new MPs settling into their new offices, Parliamentary business can get underway in earnest.

I have been lucky enough to be drawn in the ballot for a Private Members' Bill. Private Members' Bills are Public Bills introduced by MPs and Lords who aren't government ministers.

As with other Public Bills their purpose is to change the law as it applies to the general population. A minority of Private Members' Bills become law but, by creating publicity around an issue, they may affect legislation indirectly.

There are three ways of introducing Private Members' Bills in the House of Commons: the Ballot, the Ten Minute Rule and Presentation.

Ballot Bills have the best chance of becoming law, as they get priority for the limited amount of debating time available. The names of Members applying for a Bill are drawn in a ballot held at the beginning of the Parliamentary year.

Normally, the first seven ballot Bills get a day's debate. I was 19th to be drawn for a Private Members Bill this Parliamentary year and I am currently in the initial stages of planning a Bill. When more progress has been made I will of course let you know further details.

Sir Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley



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Report from Mole Valley District Council

Mole Valley Conservative Councillors June update



After what can be described as a 'Unique' Annual Council meeting, James Friend - the Leader of the Council – and his two Executive colleagues have been hard at work to demonstrate to residents that we have listened to them, and that we are on their side. But whatever the size of the Executive, our ability to respond to residents' concerns has, of course, been made possible by the new Government.

So, for example, when Eric Pickles wrote to all local planning authorities telling them that the top-down imposed housing targets were being abolished, Conservatives on Mole Valley were quick to use this announcement to help the local communities who were trying to protect the open character of the District, and have rescinded the previous release of green field sites – which had only been reluctantly authorised for development as the council had been forced to do so to meet the 5 year housing supply figure. Further, after the Government then told councils that back gardens no longer have to be automatically considered as Brownfield land and assumed ripe for development, we are now working on proposals to allow the consideration of schemes on their merits – after all no body wants all development only on fields, and some replacement housing schemes have been suitable and warmly welcomed. But the bland presumption in favour of development of back gardens has been removed by the Government, and we welcome the greater role of local planning committees to consider what is right for local circumstances.

But we are not just responding to the coalition Government; we have been setting the agenda locally as well: the cessation of evening car parking charges in the 2 Dorking car parks, and the soon to be introduced door to door weekly collection of food waste across the District – introduced at no cost to council tax payers thanks to successful negotiations with the operators and colleagues at County level, and which has been achieved in large part thanks to the hard work of Cllr Jean Pearson – show residents the real local benefits of having a listening local conservative council.

If you have any issues for the district council to look into – be it local services, policies, suggestions or comments - or if you want to help us deliver newsletters or get involved in local elections, please do contact one of your local conservative councillors. We will be pleased to hear from you whatever the reason.

Thank you.

Cllr Chris Hunt

Ashted Village Ward, Mole Valley District Council

Mole Valley Conservative Councillors new Communications Officer



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Report from Guildford Borough Council

Plans afoot



A major regeneration project is just starting in Guildford Town Centre, close to North Street, which is likely to bring a new supermarket and housing development on a key site.

Plans are afoot to redevelop a site containing the Bellerby Theatre, which the Guildford School of Acting has recently vacated, and to relocate the clients of North Place day centre and Victoria Court, an old sheltered housing complex. It has taken many years to assemble the site for redevelopment and it is now being earmarked for a supermarket, housing, including 35% affordable, and community use. A planning brief is now being prepared and the development is expected to take place in around 18 months' time. Meanwhile, an older persons' strategy is being developed to ensure that appropriate day centre facilities are in place and accessible in the town to replace North Place.

Meanwhile, the new entertainment venue that is replacing the Civic Hall in London Road is racing ahead. Anyone driving past the site recently will see that the structure is progressing well and indeed, the Mayor is performing a topping out ceremony on Thursday, 1 July. We are also in the process of determining who the operator will be. Two companies are in the running and both are extremely keen for the chance to run a high quality modern entertainment venue. Both companies anticipate that the facility will attract many top class acts to Guildford when it opens in late 2011.

Cllr Andrew French
Deputy Leader, Guildford Borough Council



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Feature Article



The Budget 2010

Here are the headline measures announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, in the Budget on Tuesday 22nd June 2010.

Capital Gains Tax is frozen for basic rate taxpayers and increased for higher earners. The Chancellor announced an increase in capital gains tax rate from 18 per cent to 28 per cent for higher rate and additional rate taxpayers. Basic rate taxpayers will continue to pay an 18 per cent rate on their gain.

VAT will increase to 20 per cent on January 4th 2011, but the Budget makes no changes to items that are zero-rated. The standard and higher rate of Insurance Premium Tax will also be increased to 6 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

The personal income tax allowance will be increased by £1,000. The Chancellor said this will take 880,000 of the lowest income tax payers out of the tax and benefit 23 million taxpayers by up to £170 per year.

Fuel Duty will be frozen and options for a fair fuel stabiliser and a fuel duty discount will be considered for remote rural areas. Fuel will increase by 1p in October 2010 and 0.76p in January 2011.

There is no increase to alcohol or tobacco duty and a planned increase in cider duty is reversed. The Government had pledged to increase taxes on 'problem' drinks to tackle anti-social behaviour. Instead, the Chancellor committed to a review of alcohol taxation.

Council tax will be frozen for one year in England in partnership with local authorities. The Government will clarify in due course the terms under which local authorities that commit to the freeze or reduce their council tax will be compensated. Every type of home has seen their bill double since 1997.

The Operational Allowance for armed services engaged in the most demanding of conflicts and deployed on agreed operations has doubled. On 15 June 2010, David Cameron announced that the tax free operational allowance for personnel will be doubled back dated to 6 May 2010.

A 'Triple Guarantee' will be introduced for the Basic State Pension. The Government will uprate the basic State Pension by a triple guarantee of earnings, prices or 2.5 per cent, whichever is highest from April 2011. The Consumer Price Index will be used as a measure of prices in the triple guarantee, as for other benefits and tax credits.

Child benefit will remain universal, but will be frozen for three years. Child Benefit, a universal benefit, is usually uprated annually in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI). The weekly rate of Child Benefit paid in 2010 for the only or eldest child was £20.30 and £13.40 for all other children.

Tax credit payments to families earning over £40,000 will be reduced next year. However, for lower rate taxpayers, the Government will increase the child element of the Child Tax Credit by £150 in 2010-11 and £60 in 2012-13 above indexation.



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Objective medical assessments will be introduced for all Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants. All DLA claimants will be required to undergo a medical assessment, from 2013-14, to ensure that payments are only made for as long as a claimant needs them.

Housing benefit will be reformed from April 2011 onwards, saving £1.8 billion. Caps on Housing Benefit will be £280-a-week for a one-bedroom property to £400-a-week for four-bedrooms or larger. The Government will time-limit the receipt of full Housing Benefit for claimants who can look for work, and restrict Housing Benefit for working age claimants in the social rented sector who occupy a larger property than their household size warrants.

The Health in Pregnancy Grant will be abolished, from January 2011. This will save £40 million in 2010-2011 and £150 million every year over the rest of the parliament.

A call for evidence on when the State Pension Age will rise to 66 will be launched. The State Pension Age is currently increasing for women so that it equalises with the men's age of 65 in 2020. It is then intended that the pension age for both men and women are increased to 66 in 2026.

The employer National Insurance Contributions (NIC) increase planned by the last Government for April 2011 will be largely reversed. As a result, 650,000 employees will be lifted out of this tax altogether. The increase in employee NICs will go ahead, compensated by the increase in the nil-rate personal income tax allowance. The measure will support job retention and creation.

The headline rate of corporation tax is to fall by one per cent each year for four years and the small profits rate is to fall to 20 per cent, both starting in 2011-12. This move will give the UK the lowest rate of corporation tax in the G7 and the fifth lowest rate in the G20.

Business outside of London, the South East and the East of England will receive tax relief on National Insurance Contributions. The scheme, lasting three years from September 2010, will exempt new businesses from up to £5,000 of class one National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for each of their first ten employees hired in the first year of trading.

Small business rate relief is to be temporarily increased for one year, from 1 October 2010. It is estimated that over half a million businesses across England will benefit.

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) will be abolished enabling locally-elected leaders, working with business, to lead local economic development.

Aviation tax system changes will be explored, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty to help reduce our carbon emissions.

A levy on banks' balance sheets will be introduced from 1 January 2011. There will be deductions for Tier one capital and insured retail deposits, and a lower rate for longer maturity funding.

Public sector pay will be frozen for two years, except for those earning under £21,000 per year. This will protect 1.7 million workers (28 per cent of public sector workforce) who will instead receive a flat pay rise worth £250 for each of the next two years.



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