



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 49; June 2011

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

Membership



June has been a flurry of activity in the office as we start to get a grip on the issues that face us over the coming year. We have taken advantage of our candidates and councillors delivering out newsletters after the local elections to target new members for the Association. Nationally, membership has fallen over the last couple of years. Reasons seem to be disappointment in the Conservatives forming a coalition with the Liberal Democrats and being unable to deliver the manifesto written for the 2010 general election; disillusionment with politics generally as the scandal over MP expenses lingers on; and of course the time it has taken to turn around the economy, deal with the bloated waste in the public sector and the ongoing state of the European Union.

We shall have to see whether our local membership drive is successful but without our members we do not have the ability to provide the political campaigning we need to speed us to overall victory in the next few years. In spite of the fact that the general election is several years away, we still face local elections every year in Mole Valley.

Next year will see another round of Mole Valley Council elections, London Mayoral elections on our doorstep, possible Police Commissioner elections in the 2013 County Elections; the 2014 European Elections and 2015 General Elections.

Please help us to win by encouraging your friends and colleagues to join us. Our social occasions are delightful and we are lucky to attract senior political figures to our events which give our members and supporters an opportunity to question and advise. Members will also be able to get regular



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newsletters from the party both nationally and from the EU to keep us involved in decision making. People need to get involved if they want things to change.

Councillor Helyn Clack
Chairman, Mole Valley Conservative Association
June 2011

News from the House of Commons Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims (Amendment) Bill



As I have stated in previous editions of this newsletter I have been pushing my Private Members Bill through the Parliamentary stages of a bill. Last week, on Wednesday 22nd June, my bill reached Committee Stage.

Below are extracts from my speech that I made to the Committee which outline the reasoning behind my bill:

“Thank you Mr Gray. It will be a great pleasure to serve under your Chairmanship. There is, I believe, general support for this tiny Bill but a strong desire to be succinct if not exceptionally prompt in which I am sure you can help.

I also want to draw the Committees attention to the Member of Wythenshawe & Sale East. He was the minister who steered the Act I aim to amend through its Parliamentary stages. In fact during the Committee Stage, consideration was given to add serious physical harm, much as my intention. I hope the Hon Member will agree with my interpretation of the discussion on this issue that he responded to in Committee, being that the desirability to include serious physical harm was accepted but as Section 5 was a rather revolutionary approach a “Suck it and see” approach was desired. I hope the committee will excuse me using Australasian slang. Often crude, but also generally, descriptively, accurate. In fact it would be fair to say that Section 5 has worked well but there is a considerable call for the extension as proposed today.

The current Section 5 applies to the death of a child or vulnerable adult and is best demonstrated by the Baby Peter case that so shocked us all. Essentially, when accused the mother said it was not me it was him, and he said it was not me it was her. Section 5 allowed the prosecution of both. As we all know they were found guilty of causing or allowing the death of Baby Peter and sentenced to the maximum of 14 years. A key to the success of the prosecution case was that the pathologist was able to point to a cause of death.



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This brings me to one of the reasons for my desire for the extension to cover serious physical harm. I understand if - as is not too infrequent - an actual cause of death cannot be specified then section 5 cannot be utilized.

Additionally if Baby P had been seriously physically harmed but survived - even if in a vegetative state - section 5 would not apply. My attention was drawn to this problem by Metropolitan Police Office Detective Chief Inspector Dave Marshall. He is generally accepted in the UK as an expert in the area of child abuse and child murder. Dave Marshall is recently retired and is now teaching police officers on the detection and prosecution of these types of cases. I recently attended a UK police course lecture by Dave Marshall. He cited a number of cases but the one that stuck in my mind was the death of a 3 month old child. If I recall correctly the wee baby had both legs broken, one broken arm and 15 breaks in the ribs. Each of the two adults associated with this wee mite blamed the other but section 5 could not be applied as the baby survived – just. This case is not that unusual. Mr Gray may be interested in that I understand second hand from the Wiltshire Chief Constable that his force has had 2 cases in the last 2 months relating to young vulnerable adults where the parents could not be convicted but would be in the future if this bill becomes an Act.

The Met Police undertook some research of allegations of intra familial grievous bodily harm to children over the 3 year period 2005 - 2008. They looked at 179 cases of such allegations in London alone. In 69 cases there was no prosecution. In the opinion of the police researchers, of the 69 cases, 39 would have been considered under Section 5 if the amendments proposed could have been applied.

As the committee will probably imagine many of the organisations concerned in child protection have been pressing for these changes for some time. I draw the Committees attention to an excellent NSPCC document of 2003 - *Which Of You did it?* Needless to say the NSPCC is and has been very supportive.”

The Minister also spoke of the government support for my bill:

“We agree that the time is right to consider extending the law, so we support, in principle, the Bill’s aim. It addresses difficult issues in a serious area—cases in which, although it is clear that the injuries suffered by a child or vulnerable adult must have been sustained at the hands of one of a limited number of members of a household, there is insufficient evidence to point to the person responsible.”

As did the opposition in the form of Andy Slaughter, Labour MP for Hammersmith:



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“The case has been well made that serious harm—grievous bodily harm—is in many cases as serious an issue in terms of the injustices done and in the effect particularly on a young child, who may be brain damaged or incapacitated for life. It is right that the provisions in the original Act are extended to cover such cases, and therefore I lend my support to the Bill.”

Thankfully following a short debate, my bill was voted through to Report Stage and Third reading which will be held on the 23rd September 2011.

Sir Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley

Report from Surrey County Council



The big news this month has to be that the County Council's Planning Committee has granted permission to build an 'eco' park at Charlton Lane in Shepperton, which will help Surrey County Council towards achieving its aim of eliminating the use of landfill, which costs Surrey taxpayers £600,000 every month in taxes alone and is damaging to the environment.

The Eco Park will deal with 40,000 tonnes of food waste and 60,000 tonnes of household rubbish a year in a more environmentally friendly way, as well as generating enough electricity to power thousands of homes.

It will feature a batch oxidation gasification facility and an anaerobic digester that will sit alongside the site's current recycling centre which will be further improved.

After the fight against a burn-incinerator at Capel in the south of the Mole Valley District, hard fought by Sir Paul Beresford and myself alongside many local residents, we hope that this plan will provide the right sustainable and environmentally friendly solution and be in a more appropriate position near to where waste arises in Surrey.

The Olympic cycling race will be tested in August in Box Hill; the new circuit is also bringing in teams from all over the world who will be practising for the event next year. National cycling clubs are also vying to try out the circuit and I am currently talking to officers at County Hall to ensure that the increase in cycling visitors will be managed without causing disturbance to local people. However, I think issues will arise and would ask members to contact me or their local County Councillor if they experience difficulties with this increase over the coming months.

Box Hill School has been one of several schools to embrace the County Councils online library facility; in fact every one of Box Hill School's pupils aged between 11 and 18 has joined the hugely



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popular online library. The innovative school is thought to be the first in the county to have all their pupils signed up to the service.

Surrey's virtual library is now the county's fourth busiest library and is used about three million times a year. It allows people to access a catalogue of books, complete transactions such as renewing or reserving books online, as well as downloading eBooks and accessing an exciting range of e-information resources.

There are more than 1,000 eBook titles available to download including books by Dick King-Smith and Charles Dickens as well as non-fiction titles such as historian Dan Cruickshank's *History of Georgian London*. There are also online information resources including the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the full range of Oxford Online Reference. Users can borrow online books and use the online information resources for free on the County Council's website as long as they have their library card number and pin.

County Councillor Helyn Clack
Member for Dorking Rural

Report from Guildford Borough Council



Guildford Borough Council has started to consult local residents on the housing numbers that the Borough can accommodate as the start of the process that will determine our local housing targets in the years to come.

One of the last acts of the last Labour government was to attempt to impose an excessive level of housing on the South East through the South East Local Plan. Guildford successfully challenged the proposed housing numbers, which would have resulted in the loss of precious green belt land for housing development between Burpham and West Clandon. However, Guildford and other local authorities around the country now have the difficult challenge of determining how many new homes that we think we can accommodate, including affordable houses, i.e. housing for rent or shared equity. The consultation is open until 8th July 2011 (having started in late May) and you can find it here - www.guildford.gov.uk/whoneedshousing.

Guildford has also announced a new operator for its flagship Spectrum Leisure Centre, Guildford Lido and Ash Manor Sports Centre. Under the agreement, GLL/Freedom Leisure will pay the Council over £800,000 a year to manage the three centres, whereas, at best, the Council was breaking even on these centres. This is a great deal for the Council in tough economic times and gives us a guaranteed income stream for ten years from the three centres, which we will continue to own. It also gives the staff much wider career choice in the leisure industry as the company that will be



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managing the centres operates more than 100 leisure centres across the south of England. However, we are determined to ensure that all three centres continue to be managed to a standard that we can be proud of.

Cllr Andrew French
Deputy Leader, Guildford Borough Council

Report from Mole Valley District Council



On Wednesday 1st June, the Development Control Committee met and approved the application to redevelop the existing Waitrose store to increase the size of the Waitrose supermarket. Waitrose will now

be able to redevelop the current store on South Street and Crossways House as well as extend the car park at the rear of the building. The plans also include the relocation of the Mulberry Youth Centre to the former Malthouse Pub site.

Councillor Simon Ling, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, said: “The public have shown their support for this application through their representations and we are delighted that Waitrose has chosen to make this investment in the town’s future. The Council is committed to seeing Dorking as a thriving, prosperous market town and is particularly pleased at the other benefits that will arise from this investment, such as a revamped youth centre and funding to help improve traffic and the South Street seating area.”

In other news, the winning design for the new Chart Downs playground has been revealed as the Playdale Playgrounds design. The decision was reached by MVDC taking into account votes submitted via an online consultation. The playground will include new football goals with nets, new swings, a tall spiral slide, a basket swing, a bigger multi-play unit for toddlers and a new roundabout for all ages.

The construction is expected to start around the beginning of July and is scheduled for completion before the end of the summer holidays. Later on this year, MVDC will be appealing for local residents to volunteer their time to help staff to plant trees and shrubs in and around the play area.



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Feature Article

Life as an MP in Westminster



Over the years since I first became an MP in 1992 for Croydon Central and 1997 for Mole Valley, many constituents have often asked me what my day to day role is as an MP when I am up in Westminster. My primary role as an MP is to represent Mole Valley in Westminster. As I explained to a meeting with the Surrey NFU – if you raise an issue that is a Parliamentary issue and I agree with you I will take it up on your behalf. If I do not agree I will tell you.

My Westminster office is the main point of contact for constituents as I have to be up in Westminster when the House is sitting (Monday afternoon to Thursday Evening). Any work to do with constituents is called casework and unlike some MPs I see every letter and email that comes through the office and I dictate every response. Although this may take longer I want to be able to keep up to date on current issues in the constituency no matter how small. I may also not always agree with your point of view but I am always open to constituent's arguments and I will always endeavour to respond with a detailed reply as quickly as I can.

We receive a huge volume of circular emails and campaign cards, generated by single issue websites, such as 38 Degrees, and politically active websites, where constituents are encouraged to send their MPs a generic letter or email regarding an issue that concerns them. Sometimes we are completely overwhelmed by emails that can pour in at a rate of 50+ a day. I am very happy to answer these emails and letters, however, many constituents who request a response do not attach their full address and I am afraid from now on they will not get a response as my office has wasted too many hours searching for addresses; and when emails and letters are coming in at such a fast rate, there is just no time. So please, when you send me a letter or email make sure that you have put your full name and address somewhere on it so I can respond. As there is a general standing requirement to respond to one's own constituents and not those of other MPs, a written reply reduces the number of non constituents hiding behind email addresses and claiming falsely to be Mole Valley constituents.

A considerable number of constituents also require my help when dealing with problems they are having with HM Revenue and Customs, Department of Work and Pensions, Hospitals and many other departments and organisations. Please make sure when you ask for my help it is by a signed letter that states that you give permission for me to take up your case on your behalf. Without this permission, because of the Data Protection Act I will generally not get a response as the individual details will be confidential.



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There are many issues that I am able to help constituents with such as national and parliamentary issues, or immigration, the NHS etc. However, there are certain issues where constituents would do better to write to their local Councillors or County Councillors initially, such as housing, waste collection and recycling, local planning issues, parking, street repairs, school issues and council tax. If you are unsure who your local County Councillor is or Borough Councillor you can find out on these webpage's:

For Mole Valley District Council: <http://www.mole-valley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9543>

For Guildford Borough Council: <http://www.guildford.gov.uk/yourguildford>

For Surrey County Council: <http://surreymaps.surreycc.gov.uk/gisapps/findcouncillor1.asp>

If you have already been down this route and your problem has still not been resolved or you are unsure who should be dealing with your issue please feel free to contact me through my secretary Maureen Duke in my Westminster office on 0207 219 5018.

For letters my Westminster address is: Sir Paul Beresford MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

I do hold constituent surgeries, on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Conservative Association offices in South Street, Dorking. These appointments are open to anyone who wishes to discuss issues that are affecting them or views they would like to voice. However more often than not, if it is an issue that you would like my help with, it is easier and quicker to write me a letter explaining the situation and I can get on with dealing with it that way. Obviously it is helpful if copies of any relevant documents are attached.

I understand though if your issue is very personal and you do not feel comfortable writing it down, and in this situation I would be more than happy to see you at my surgery. I am also happy to make house appointments on these days if a constituent is elderly or disabled or is unable to get to my surgery for some reason.

To make an appointment for one of my surgeries please contact William Crispin or Georgina Holland at the Dorking office on 01306 88 33 12.

The address is: Mole Valley Conservative Association, 86 South Street, Dorking, RH4 2EW.

Sir Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley



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National news in brief

Free Schools Applications on the rise.

Michael Gove gave a speech at the Policy Exchange think tank, highlighting the present success of the Free Schools Programme and releasing new figures concerning the most recent applications to the Free School Programme.

Of the 281 applications submitted in the latest round, 77 are for primary schools, 81 for secondary schools, 65 for all through schools and 4 are for 16-19 schools. Research has indicated that a significant majority of Free Schools planning to be opened are in deprived areas of the country.

New scheme to help first-time buyers.

The launch of the new FirstBuy scheme was announced today by Housing Minister Grant Shapps to assist first time buyers throughout Britain, and is expected to begin in September this year.

The FirstBuy scheme will involve 100 house-builders offering newly-built homes to first-time buyers. A 20% equity loan will be granted by the Government and the house-builders along with a 5% deposit on the home by the buyers themselves, which allow the buyers to take out a 75% mortgage on the remaining property. The loans will be repaid on the resale of the property, and the Government's share will be available for more investment into other affordable housing.

FirstBuy could help up to 15,000 people across the UK within two years, with up to £500mil being available in the UK. In addition, the construction industry will benefit,

as all the homes in question shall be newly built – supporting thousands of jobs across the UK.

New figures show drop in unemployment.

Recently published figures show that unemployment has been reduced by 88,000 and the number of working people has increased by a very similar amount, meaning that this quarter saw the biggest drop in unemployment for more than ten years.

The most significant change in employment was among young people, specifically 16-24 year-olds, as the unemployment figures dropped by 79,000 to 895,000 which is the lowest figure for two years. This fall in unemployment has adjusted the figures to lower than the level inherited from the previous Labour Government.

However, Employment Minister Chris Grayling reminded us that: “we still face a challenge to help more of the long-term unemployed into work, but last week I announced that the new Work Programme is now up and running and will provide tailored support for more people on benefits.”

Biggest home improvement programmes since WW2.

The Minister of State for Climate Change has reiterated that the Green Deal – the Government's essential energy saving plan – will not rip off customers. The plan seeks to increase the efficiency of homes across the UK to ensure they are warm and are cheap to run.

Support will involve an accessible £10,000 upfront payment to finance work on energy efficiency in the home, and is to be repaid



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through the savings on energy bills. Both businesses and homes will be able to access the Green Deal, and there will also be extra support available for the vulnerable should it be required. The legislation is currently progressing through Parliament under the energy bill.

Government determined to help UK car industry flourish.

A meeting between some of Europe's biggest car companies was held today, following an announcement by BMW to invest an additional £500 million into its UK production network in the next three years.

The meeting was principally to discuss the advanced manufacturing industry and the Government's commitment to its success, and follows the announcement by Nissan, that the next version of the best-selling Qashqai will be designed, engineered and built by British workers.

This investment equates to approximately £192 million, and will, both directly and indirectly support around 6,000 British jobs.

The Prime Minister stated: "We want to do everything we can to encourage automobile manufacturing in the UK by reducing our rates of corporate tax and setting up the Regional Growth Fund, which is assisting a number of automotive companies."

British aid to vaccinate a child every two seconds.

The Prime Minister opened London Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) conference with a pledge to help vaccinate a child in the developing world every two seconds for the next five years.

The scheme plans to help over 80 million children below the age of five across the poorest parts of the world by providing vaccines against pneumonia and cholera as part of a broad international aid effort.

David Cameron stated: "GAVI was one of the very top performers in our root-and-branch review of the agencies that deliver British aid because it demonstrates tangible results."

"Britain will play its full part and our support to GAVI will help vaccinate over 80 million children and save 1.4 million lives."

Government delivers on protecting patient dignity.

Recent research has shown that the Government has succeeded in its policy to stop hospitals keeping patients in mixed-sex accommodation, as data published in December 2010 exposed hospitals breaching mixed-sex accommodation which were consequently fined.

Since the Government's introduction of sterner rules, the number of patients unnecessarily placed in mixed-sex accommodation has plummeted by 83%.

Health Minister, Simon Burns, stated:

"Despite 13 years of promises, Labour never took action to protect patient dignity. They covered up the scandal of mixed sex accommodation and treated patients with contempt - the Coalition Government is cleaning up Labour's mess"



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Local news in brief

Mole Valley praised for impressive recycling record.

Due to its sterling recycling rates, Mole Valley has been highlighted in a national report to help Councils become more efficient concerning waste.

An industry report was published on 27th May, which examined the factors which let Councils achieve high recycling rates, and Mole Valley District Council was an example of such factors. Annually, 261.2kg of material is recycled per person in Mole Valley, placing it fifth in the country.

Biffa has congratulated residents of the district on their enthusiasm and support for recycling, and has reminded them of the £80 disposal cost for each tonne of waste which goes to a landfill.

Petition started to oppose new homes

A proposed new home on Walford Road in North Holmwood has been met with resistance from local residents. The proposed conversion of a garage into a two-bedroom home has residents of the surrounding area "in shock" and appealing to the Council, hoping they "see sense and reject the proposal."

Free internet for libraries

A new deal has been signed to supply free Wi-Fi to libraries across Surrey which will save the tax payers £1.6 million over the next seven years.

The Council has signed an agreement with Axiell to provide free Wi-Fi to the libraries, which will support nearly all the technologies in use in libraries, and is intended specifically for use by the general public.

The Council member for community services, Denise Saliagopoulous revealed that the online library and e-book service is under development for the near future.

Waitrose store to expand greatly

The Council have accepted Waitrose's bid to redevelop its store on South Street, Dorking. The store is to increase the size of its sales floor by 1,356sqm, which will require the Mulberry Youth Club to be relocated to the site of the former Malthouse pub.

The decision was made after it was agreed that Dorking is in need of more food stores, which lead to the interest of various supermarkets and developers. Among the other applicants were Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Lidl.

The decision was put to the public, and of the 4,361 respondents, 62% were in favour of Waitrose, 26% in favour of Sainsbury's, 8% supporting Morrison's with Lidl receiving just 4% of the vote.

Campaigners continue to oppose phone mast

Plans for Vodafone to build a new mast in Bookham are being opposed by local resident Elaine Miller. The latest proposal is the company's sixth attempt to build a phone mast in the area in the last five years.

She claims that the mast would be too close to houses, and it would be fine if Vodafone would work together with the Council to build them further from the residential area. The latest application is for land at the junction of Eastwick Road and Leatherhead Road, Bookham.