



# Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 40; September 2010

## Welcoming Note

Welcome to the September 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 September issue.

## A word from the Chair

### By-Election and Beyond



For the next month Capel, Leigh & Newdigate will be the centre of attention for Mole Valley Conservatives. One of the Councillors has decided to stand down as he has changed his career path. We would like to thank Philip Warren and wish him well in the future. The party has been very fortunate to find an outstanding candidate to fight the seat. I trust all of you will be prepared to offer your support to Corinna Osborne-Patterson, not only on October 21<sup>st</sup>, but in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

On the broader front we recently had the TUC Congress where the ideas of yesterday were put forward. To stop future cuts the TUC is advocating strikes and the proposed action was endorsed by Ms Harman, no doubt influenced by her new husband! The Congress was probably not informed that in the public sector the average worker earns 12% more than their peer group in the private sector and receives a better pension – why should they feel above being part of the rationalisation programme. From 1997 to 2010 over 1,300,000 “jobs” were created in the public sector – so why not reduce by less than 50%?

On October 20<sup>th</sup> we will receive details of the Financial Review. Let us hope that the uniformed members of the armed forces are not decimated – if we are left to depend on America for support it would not be wise, such peripheral expenditures such as the Arts, the BBC, Sport – particularly the Olympics are only available to us as a free society, guaranteed by our defences. The ever increasing amounts demanded by Europe are also an unnecessary burden at the current time.

As I write this Mr. Clegg is trying to keep his followers on the correct path, at times the Liberals prove that they are the party of high taxation, some of their member are anti-business and very strange bed fellows to have in a coalition. Why should good university students have to pay for those who choose to do marginal degree courses? Still it is better than having Labour in power.

This newsletter will be the last to be edited by Zoë Sherbrooke before she takes Maternity leave – We wish her well.

**Mr Colin Crispin**  
**Chairman, Mole Valley Conservative Association**



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Issue 40; September 2010

## News from the House of Commons

### Helping small businesses



Mark Prisk MP, the Minister of State for Business & Enterprise has highlighted the actions to date of the Coalition Government in seeking to help small and medium-sized businesses.

I hope some of the following points will be useful to you in understanding how the new Government will – hopefully positively - impact upon you or your small business.

### Simpler taxes, lower tax rates

- A reduction in the small profits rate to 20%, instead of Labour's planned increase to 22%, from April 2011.
- An increase in the entrepreneurs' relief life time limit for Capital Gains Tax from £2 million to £5 million, effective immediately.
- The threshold for employer National Insurance Contributions will rise by £21, above indexation. This will increase the number of employees for whom employers pay no NICs by 650,000.
- A review of small business taxation to create a simpler, more predictable tax regime.

### Less red tape, fewer regulators

- A new system of regulation control whereby Ministers must first show how they will reduce the existing burden of regulation before bringing forward new regulations.
- A review of all the regulations that the last Government had scheduled over the coming year.
- Regulations will cease to be law after seven years unless Parliament has confirmed they are still necessary and proportionate, or they were explicitly set to have a longer timeframe.
- A review of all employment law and unnecessary Health & Safety regulations.
- Tackling 'gold-plating' of EU regulations and ensuring that new proposals for EU regulation are costed at an early stage, to try to ensure that UK business is no longer put at a disadvantage with its competitors.

### Helping new firms start

- Enabling social tenants to start their own business at home, by removing unnecessary regulations and controls.
- A 3 year scheme whereby new businesses starting up in selected regions will not have to pay the first £5,000 of class 1 NICs due in the first 12 months of employment. This will apply for each of the first 10 employees hired within the first year of trading.

### Improving access to finance

- The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) will be increased by £200 million to support £700 million of additional lending until 31 March 2011.
- A Growth Capital Fund is being created to support established businesses wanting to invest for the future.
- The June Budget announced a Green Paper considering a broad range of finance options for businesses of different sizes.

**Sir Paul Beresford**

**Member of Parliament for Mole Valley**



# Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 40; September 2010

## Report from Guildford Borough Council

### Costly Lib Dem Initiative



The latest Liberal Democrat initiative to waste money is to give every Guildford Borough Councillor £500 to “pump prime and support projects in their ward”.

This proposal arose from a task group that was asked to look more widely at delegation to ward councillors. Sadly, the group decided, with the enthusiastic support of the Liberal Democrats, that it would be a good idea to allocate £24,000 to a budget to allow each of the 48 councillors to spend £500 on virtually anything they wanted to.

Apart from the cost of administering the bureaucracy that would support this scheme, the council already has a well managed scheme that, with contributions from both the County and the Primary Care Trust, administers grants for local community groups. However, the difference with that scheme is that the relevant body's aims and objectives should be in accord with the council's strategic priorities, thus ensuring that taxpayers' money applied to this scheme is allocated appropriately and not on the whim of a local councillor.

I think it is safe to say that, with the Conservative Group in control, this 'initiative' is unlikely to be adopted!

On a brighter note, Guildford, like many other local authorities, took part in the Heritage Open Days in early September. Although we are still awaiting official visitor numbers for this year, very few Boroughs around the country contribute more enthusiastically to this weekend and Guildford is one of the top five in the country for the number of attractions that are open during the weekend. Long may that continue!

**Cllr Andrew French**  
**Deputy Leader, Guildford Borough Council**

## Report from Mole Valley District Council

### Latest News from Mole Valley



#### **Shock at planning appeal decision in Gilmais, Bookham**

Bookham North's Conservative Councillors have expressed surprise at the approval, on appeal by a Government Inspector, of a controversial housing scheme at 14/16 Gilmais in the village.

The subject site has been the centre of fierce debate over whether it should have anything built on it, as it is a prime 'back garden' case. The Appeal Inspector recently granted consent for two schemes, each for one bungalow on the site. Only one consent can be built out as they are alternative uses of the same plot.

Bookham North Conservative Councillor David Walker pointed out “The Inspector has said that this building can be constructed without serious impact to the locality. Bit by bit the character of



# Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 40; September 2010

Bookham will however be lost if back gardens are always built upon; I am pleased that my Councillor colleagues recently reaffirmed that every site must be considered on its merits - and not simply approved as a suitable site per se. I hope that Inspectors will also adopt a similar rigorous approach in the future. We need to protect the local environment, whilst allowing suitable private development - and in particular we must continue to provide sites for those in need of affordable housing.”

## **Fairer home allocations set to come to Mole Valley - those in housing need to benefit**

The way social housing is allocated is set to change following a detailed review undertaken by Mole Valley District Council.

For many years, like other councils, Mole Valley has used a points based system to assess applicants for Council/Housing Association homes. Now, following consultation which showed overwhelming public support for a system based on bands rather than points, Mole Valley's ruling Executive is set to make changes designed to create a fairer and easier to understand system.

The new approach, which is commonly used elsewhere, leads to fewer queries and allows an on-line service to be offered where required, reducing costs and allowing staff to devote more time to detailed housing options advice for those in need.

The Executive will be considering the changes at its meeting on 14th September following a detailed review by the Council's Scrutiny and Audit committee which approved the proposed changes at their August meeting.

The new system will see:

- The existing points scheme replaced with an easier to understand band scheme.
- Within each band, applicants will be prioritised by the date they joined the band.
- Increased priority for those who are overcrowded and have siblings with a five year age gap where one is over 11 years old that are sharing a bedroom.
- The new system will still gives preference to those with a strong local connection to Mole Valley, as now.

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing and Customer Service, says “The recent public consultation on the proposed changes showed a very high level of support – 75% in favour – for these changes. The council wants to make the allocation of housing fairer and easier to understand and we will be reviewing the change to make sure it is working as we intend.”

## **Saving money with your money**

Whilst when most people think of the council trying to save money they may think of jobs or service reductions, Mole Valley Conservatives are backing another idea as well – to save costs associated with cash collection.

Parking fees paid at Council car parks across Mole Valley all need to be collected and safely banked, so that residents can get the benefit of the income to provide local services. Collecting the money from the machines and securely transporting it costs money. In 2009 the council entered into an agreement with other councils in Surrey to share the benefit of a better system with lower costs associated with collecting and transporting this cash. That agreement is coming to an end this year,



# Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 40; September 2010

and next week (14th September) the Executive is set to agree to a new consortium agreement being entered into.

Cllr Ben Tatham, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets says “Car park income is a vital source of funds for the council and effectively pays for a share of all local services provided by the council. In entering into an agreement for collection, we and the other councils concerned, will be able to guarantee a larger volume of business combined for firms who collect, and so encourage more competitive pricing. It has been a success since 2009 and, we hope that it will help ensure that Mole Valley continues to deliver value for money.”

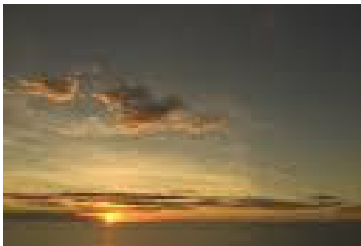
**Cllr Chris Hunt**

**Ashted Village Ward, Mole Valley District Council**

**Mole Valley Conservative Councillors new Communications Officer**

## Feature Article

### Changing the UK Time Zone



There have been a number of proposals on this issue in recent years. At present, the UK operates on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) during the winter and GMT + 1, also known as British Summer Time (BST), in the summer.

Between 1968 and 1971, the British Standard Time experiment saw the UK retain GMT + 1 throughout the year, bringing the UK into line with Central European Time (CET). Opinion polls were evenly divided on whether the experiment should continue, and when the issue came before the House of Commons, Members of Parliament voted overwhelmingly for a return to the standard arrangement.

Since the 1970s, eight Bills have re-opened the debate by seeking to move British time forward by one hour all year round – in line with British Standard Time Experiment, either permanently or for a trial period. Most recently, Rebecca Harris MP has introduced the Daylight Savings Bill in this session of Parliament.

Proponents of these measures argue that because the majority of people in the UK are most active in the evening, lighter evenings, which would result from the changes, would reduce artificial lighting demand (and hence energy consumption) and reduce road traffic accidents, as roads would be lighter for longer during the busier evenings. It is also suggested that bringing the UK into line with France and Germany – two of our largest trading partners – would deliver economic benefits.

However, it is also important to bear in mind the concerns of those who fear that darker mornings would negatively impact their livelihoods or quality of life.

Ministers have received a number of representations on this subject since May 2010 and have made clear their willingness to listen to all such representatives and to examine the evidence presented to them. David Cameron recently stated that “*we certainly will look at it*” but there are no current plans to change the existing arrangement.



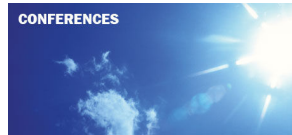
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Issue 40; September 2010

## News in brief

### Party Conference Season

Party Conference Season kicked off in Liverpool for the Liberal Democrats on 18<sup>th</sup> September.



The Labour Party chose to return to Manchester for their annual get-together on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The Conservatives will be the last to hold their Conference from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October. Hopefully some Mole Valley Members will be attending the event in Birmingham to hear David Cameron's first Conference speech as Prime Minister.

MPs will then have a few days to get ready for the House of Commons' Return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

### New Labour Leader



Ed Miliband narrowly beat his brother David to become Leader of the Labour Party.

The complex electoral system used by the party divides voting power equally between MPs and MEPs, affiliated organisations including trade unions and party members. If no candidate reaches over 50% of the first round vote, the candidate in last place is eliminated and the second preferences of their backers redistributed to the remaining contenders.

Ed won the fourth round of votes by just over 1%, with David holding a higher percentage in

the first three rounds which saw Diane Abbott, Andy Burnham and Ed Balls eliminated respectively.

After four rounds of voting Ed Miliband won with 175,519 votes, followed by his brother who secured 147,220 votes.

There was a last minute surge of support for Ed amongst trade union members and affiliated organisations.

The new Labour leader has a tough time ahead following this week's report published by the International Monetary Fund.

The report backs the coalition government on deficit reduction, saying that a "sustainable recovery" is underway. Ed Miliband has repeatedly called the government's economic approach 'dangerous.'

Mr Miliband has promised a Labour spending plan before the spending review is published on 20 October, where he will tell us how he would cut the record deficit left by Labour.