

John Muggeridge,
Conservative
District Councillor
for **Brockham,**
Betchworth
and **Buckland.**



Helyn Clack,
Conservative
County Councillor
for **Dorking Rural.**



Sir Paul Beresford,
Conservative MP
for **Mole Valley.**



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**Your local
Conservative team:
working for you,
keeping you informed.**

Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland

Autumn 2014

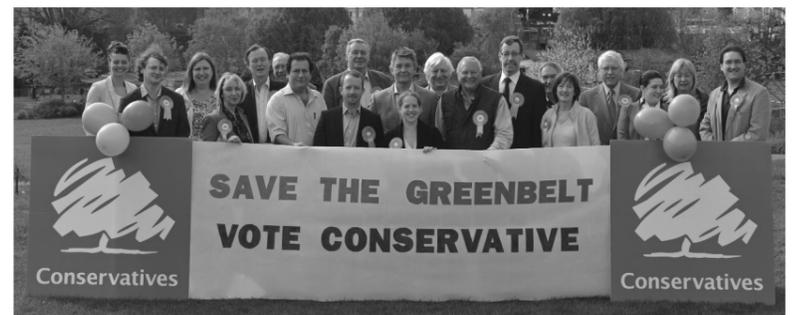
Conservatives gain ground in local elections but “Ashtead Independents” still hold key votes on the Council

In the District Council elections earlier this year, Mole Valley Conservatives made significant ground. Before the elections the Conservatives held 15 seats on the Council. We now occupy 19 seats.

However, in a 41-seat council, control comes at 21 and this means that Conservatives still have to work in coalition with the “Ashtead Independents”. This is a small, minority interest party of councillors from the north of the District who continue to enjoy the balance of power in Mole Valley, in the same way as the Liberal Democrats at national level. With a handful of votes from an area with very little in common with our rural area, these councillors hold sway over the entire District. They even hold the Leadership of the Council.

This is one of many reasons that we desperately need to elect more Conservative councillors, and hold the seats that we have. In May’s Euro elections the Conservatives polled almost 40% of the vote, way ahead of any other party. We would like to see this reflected in our local government as well. Then we will have the opportunity to deliver the sort of local administration that they would like to see for you and all the residents of Mole Valley.

New Council Composition			
Conservative	Lib Dem	“Ashtead Independents”	UKIP
19	15	6	1



Local Conservatives campaigning in Dorking

FLIGHT PATH PROTEST

Mole Valley District Council has argued strongly against new Gatwick flight path proposals that could result in increased aircraft noise for residents in Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland.

District Councillor, John Muggeridge says, “Thanks to the latest precision navigation systems, flights can now be concentrated along much narrower flight paths than before. This has caused unprecedented levels of noise disturbance in recent weeks, and it is damaging quality of life for all of us in these villages. If the huge changes in the use of airspace that are currently under consideration are allowed to go ahead we will suffer an increase in noise pollution that we may never be able to reverse.

“I will be continuing to campaign against these changes as well as the totally inappropriate and unnecessary expansion of Gatwick which presents such a threat to our community.”

Conservatives give residents more say in planning decisions

Conservatives on Mole Valley District Council are pressing for changes to Council policy to ensure that local residents have a greater say in planning decisions that might affect them.

Vivienne Michael, Councillor for Okewood and the Executive Member responsible for Community Engagement and Resident Services says, “My new portfolio responsibilities reflect how seriously we take the whole issue of listening to our residents and communities and, as most councillors will tell you, planning issues are often those that people feel most strongly about.

“At the moment the planning officer dealing with a new application writes a letter to those properties immediately adjacent to the site that is being proposed for development. However,

we are hearing from more and more residents living close to sites who feel that they should be given the opportunity to have their say about an application but have not been informed.

“The Conservative Group at Mole Valley wants to widen the distribution of these notifications.

“Planning proposals often have an impact far beyond immediate neighbours, for example by increasing the pressure on parking spaces in a road. They can also set a precedent for further development in a neighbourhood so we are committed to getting this right.”

As a result of pressure from the Conservatives, the draft policy will now be reviewed in more detail before being considered by the Executive later in the year.

If you have a problem or an issue which you would like our help with, please get in touch with your local Councillor John Muggeridge, on 07768867809



Conservatives

www.molevalleyconservatives.org.uk

CONSERVATIVES ENSURE LOCAL HOMES GO TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Conservative Councillors have led a review of Mole Valley's Housing Allocations policy to ensure that social housing in the District goes to local people and those most in need.

The changes mean that with few exceptions applicants for social housing must have lived or been employed in the District for at least two years. Those with income in excess of £50,000 and those under the age of 55 with their own homes or savings over £16,000 will also be excluded. Priority for social housing in rural villages will be given to those with strong connections to those villages.

Conservative Councillor and Mole Valley District Council representative at Mole Valley Housing Association, David Mir said "We are committed to listening to our residents and the changes to our policy reflect the clear messages we received when we consulted local people. The new policy will also ensure that we are making the best use of our resources and concentrating on offering help and advice to those most in need."

FACT BOX

- There are 100 new affordable homes expected to be built in Mole Valley this year
- There are 4,080 social housing dwellings in Mole Valley
- There were 229 changes of social housing tenant last year

What is happening about the potholes in Brockham ?

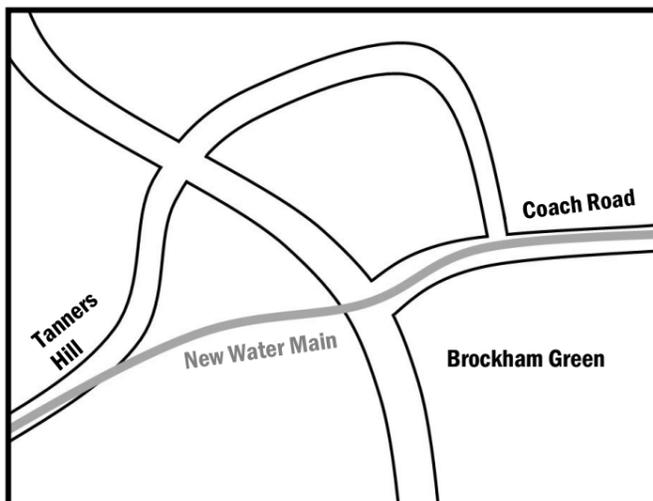
Surrey County Council's "Horizon" road repair programme is underway with roads gradually being repaired across Surrey, and the overall standard of road surfaces slowly but surely improving.

One notable exception is road along the village green in Brockham, which has become far too pitted with potholes. Residents are understandably angry about this, and Helyn Clack has been explaining why this road has yet to be repaired.

"The hold-up with the road repairs in Brockham is simply due to a new water main which will be put in during the next few months. It will run up Tanners Hill, across the green and on to the old Coach Road towards Betchworth.

"The Council simply cannot repair the road until the water main is put in, because it would mean doing the work on the road in two sections which is far less efficient and more expensive, and would waste taxpayer's money. Alternatively we would have to allow the water main installation to dig up the newly re-surfaced road which would of course be ridiculous.

"It's very frustrating for all of us but although the state of the main road through Brockham is now very poor, there are sensible reasons for why we are still waiting for it to be repaired."



We are getting ready for 2015 but we need more activists.

If you share our values and you would like to see a Conservative government, Don't leave it to others - join us and get involved.

As an Activist:

- You can host a poster
- You can help us deliver newsletters
- You can join us canvassing

As a donor:

- You can make a donation of any amount, which will make a real difference
- You can become a friend of the Party for £1
- You can become a voting member from £25

Contact us: Duncan Irvine / 07738384287 / duncan.irvine.mwp@gmail.com
www.conservatives.com/get_involved/join

>>> YOUR MP HAS BEEN WORKING ON

- Met with local constituents at his Friday surgeries.
- Heard evidence surrounding the use of technology by the Police at a meeting of the APPG for Policing
- Called for adequate funding to be made available to secure the future of Headley Court and ensure it will have a post-military role
- Speaking in the House of Commons, on the importance of strengthening law against so-called "paedophile manuals"
- Founded along with a number of other Surrey MPs, the Gatwick Coordination Group to coordinate opposition to a second runway

>>> Flood Report

Sir Paul meets Environment Agency and RSA Insurance Group

Sir Paul has been actively engaged with the recovery effort at every stage so far and recently met with the Environment Agency and representatives of the RSA Insurance Group.

On meeting with the Environment Agency Sir Paul discussed how Mole Valley can be better prepared for future flooding. Local flood forums are emerging across much of the constituency, and these play a vital role in providing local knowledge to the Agency, spreading the word about imminent flooding and identifying work which can be done to reduce the flood risk. Sir Paul was pleased to hear that the Agency itself will be running a full programme of maintenance at high risk spots – this could be anything from dredging to tree clearing to weed clearing, but always the aim will be to minimise flood risk as much as possible.

Another key discussion was around the Environment Agency's early warning system, with complaints from areas such as Leatherhead that it was slow to send out warnings or that they did not arrive at all. Sir Paul was particularly keen to drive home the point that knowledge of and uptake for the system is far too low despite years of promotion by the Environment Agency. Sir Paul urges all Mole Valley residents to sign up to the service, which can be done via the Environment Agency's website.

Sir Paul's meeting with RSA produced two key points. The first is that insurance companies are using ever more sophisticated risk maps when calculating premiums. This means that residents who live near a river or flood plain but are not themselves vulnerable should not see a rise in their premiums simply for living in the 'wrong' postcode or road.

The second point raised was that of the thirty-one claims being processed by RSA in Mole Valley (which is a typical figure matched by other major insurers), seventeen of these have now been closed and fourteen are still open, with seven due to be closed by the end of July. Sir Paul urged RSA to do everything possible to satisfactorily conclude *all* cases as soon as possible.

Sign up for flood warnings here:

<https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk>