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Conservative
Campaigner
for Mickleham,
Westhumble
and Pixham.



Helyn Clack,
Conservative
County Councillor
for Dorking Rural.



Sir Paul Beresford,
Conservative MP
for Mole Valley.



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Mickleham, Westhumble and Pixham

Summer 2014

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

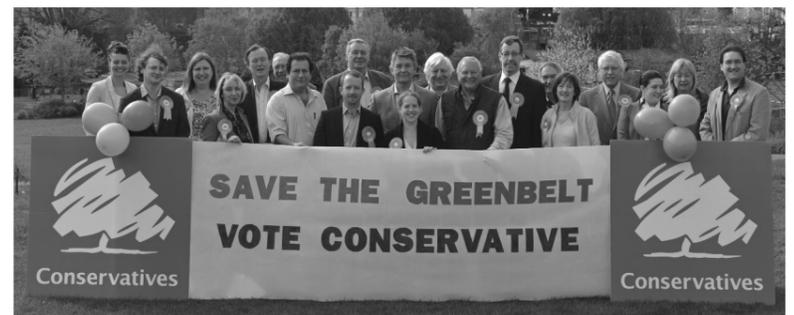
In the recent District Council elections of May, Mole Valley Conservatives made significant ground. Before the elections the Conservatives held 15 seats on the Council, and we now occupy 19 seats.

However in a 41-seat council, control comes at 21 and therefore unfortunately we still have to work in coalition with the "Ashtead Independents". This is a small minority interest party of councillors who continue to enjoy the balance of power in Mole Valley. With a handful of votes these people hold sway over our district from Bookham to Charlwood, and they even hold the leadership of the Council as well.

This is one of many reasons that we desperately need to elect more Conservative councillors. In the Euro elections of May the Conservatives polled almost 40% of the vote, far ahead of any other party. We would like to see this reflected in our local government as well, so that we have the opportunity to deliver for residents the sort of local administration that they would like to see.

This means hard-working councillors who listen to communities and deliver value for money.

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



Local Conservatives campaigning in Dorking

Conservatives push to give local residents more say in planning decisions

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

At a meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 24th June, a number of Conservative Councillors expressed concerns about the draft Statement of Community Involvement which was due to be considered by the Council's Executive on Tuesday 1st July, saying that it didn't go far enough to inform and involve local residents in the planning process.

Councillor Chris Hunt, Chair of the Development Control Committee, was one of those who expressed his concerns: "At the

moment the planning officer looking at a new application writes a "Dear Occupier" letter to those properties immediately adjacent to the site being proposed for development. Many councillors, me included, are hearing from more and more residents who live close to such sites and feel that they should be given an opportunity to have their say, but who have not been informed.

"The Conservative Group at Mole Valley wants to widen the distribution of notification of planning applications."

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.

Conservative Councillor Vivienne Michael, 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.

"As most councillors will tell you, planning issues are often those that people feel most strongly about so we are committed to getting this right.

"We need to remember that 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."

If you have a problem or an issue which you would like our help with, please get in touch with your local branch:
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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

ANOTHER STRONG YEAR FOR MOLE VALLEY

Final figures show that 2014 - 15 was another strong year for Mole Valley District Council, with areas led by Conservative Councillors seeing improvements that directly benefit residents, helping them to access the services they need whilst providing value for money and protecting the environment and character of Mole Valley.

Conservative Leader at Mole Valley, James Friend, summed up the year saying, "There have been many changes introduced this year that have come directly from us listening to residents and our communities. These include:

- New twilight parking permits which give year-round parking at the start and end of the day in our town and village car parks.
- Ensuring local people get priority for social housing.
- Changes to our recycling schemes with both textiles and small electrical items now being collected every week, just like food waste.
- Paying for Car Parking by telephone, app and internet has been successfully introduced and is proving popular with drivers across the district.
- New management at the Dorking Sports Centre with better facilities to improve our health and wellbeing.



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

- **Listening** to local constituents at his Friday surgeries.
- **Hearing** evidence from Tom Windsor, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, on police performance and how it can be improved
- **Emphasising** to the appropriate Minister the importance of tightening the laws surrounding obscene written publications
- **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
- **Celebrating** the excellent work of Nurses, alongside constituents, and with the Royal College of Nursing at the Nurses' Day reception in the House of Commons.

>>> 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.