

**Vivienne Michael,**  
**Conservative**  
**Mole Valley District**  
**Councillor**  
**for Okewood**



**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**

**Okewood, Ockley and Forest Green**

**September 2014**

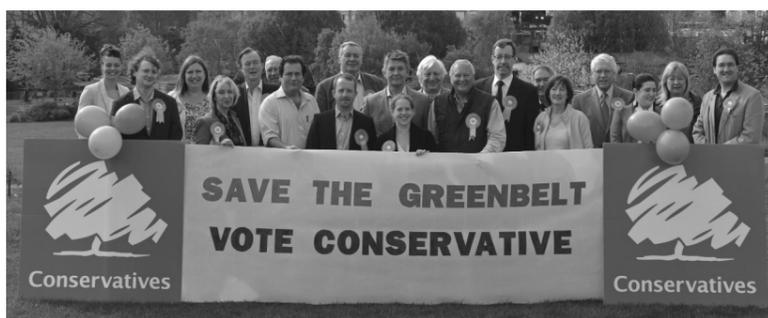
## **Conservatives gain ground in local elections but “Ashtead Independents” still hold key votes on the Council**

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 group of Councillors from the north of the District who continue to enjoy the balance of power in Mole Valley - just like the Liberal Democrats at national level. With a handful of votes from a part of Mole Valley that has 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 we would like to see for you and all the residents of Mole Valley.

<b>New Council Composition</b>			
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>"Ashtead Independents"</b>	<b>UKIP</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>



**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 Okewood Hill and Wallis Wood.**

Okewood’s District Councillor, Vivienne Michael says, “Thanks to the latest precision navigation systems, flights can now be concentrated along much narrower flight paths than before. We have seen the terrible impact this has had on neighbouring villages such as Warnham and Rusper which have suffered unprecedented levels of noise disturbance in recent months, but other villages are at risk if the huge changes in the use of airspace that are currently under consideration are allowed to go ahead.

“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 way of life.”

### **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 of the proposed development. However, we are

hearing from more and more residents living close to planning 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 you would like our help with, please get in touch with Vivienne, your local District Councillor, on 07912 387067 or email [cllr.michael@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael@molevalley.gov.uk)



[www.molevalleyconservatives.org.uk](http://www.molevalleyconservatives.org.uk)

# CONSERVATIVES ENSURE LOCAL HOMES GO TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Local Conservative District Councillor, Vivienne Michael has led a far-reaching 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 no longer be eligible. Priority for social housing in our rural villages will be given to those with strong connections to those villages.

Vivienne 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

- Over 100 new affordable homes are 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

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, providing value for money and protecting the unique environment and character of the District.

The Conservative Leader at Mole Valley, James Friend, summed up the year saying, "There have been many decisions 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
- More investment in planning enforcement
- Changes to our recycling schemes with both textiles and small electrical items now being collected every week, just like food waste
- No reduction in Council Tax support for households in difficulty
- Paying for Car Parking by telephone, app and internet
- New management at the Dorking Sports Centre offering better facilities and saving Council Taxpayers £440,000 every year.



**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 display a poster
- You can help us deliver newsletters
- You can join us canvassing
- You can support our fundraising

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 Vivienne Michael / 07912 387067 / [vivienne.michael@btinternet.com](mailto:vivienne.michael@btinternet.com)  
[www.conservatives.com/get\\_involved/join](http://www.conservatives.com/get_involved/join)

## >>>> YOUR MP HAS BEEN BUSY

- 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 laws against so-called "paedophile manuals"
- Helping to found the Gatwick Co-ordination Group to ensure effective opposition to a second runway at Gatwick
- Celebrating the excellent work of Nurses, alongside constituents and the Royal College of Nursing, at the Nurses' Day reception in the House of Commons
- Listening to local constituents at his Friday surgeries

## >>>> Flood Report

### Sir Paul meets the Environment Agency and the RSA Insurance Group

Following the flooding that affected many areas of Mole Valley last winter, Sir Paul has met with local residents, Councillors, the Environment Agency and representatives of the RSA Insurance Group to discuss how Mole Valley can be better prepared for future flooding. Local flood forums have been set up 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.

Another key discussion was around the Agency's early warning system. Sir Paul was keen to drive home the point that knowledge of and uptake for the system is far too low despite years of promotion by the Agency. He urges all Mole Valley residents to sign up to the service, which can be done via the Environment Agency's website.

After meeting the RSA, Sir Paul noted that insurance companies are using ever more sophisticated risk maps when calculating premiums which 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. Sir Paul urged the RSA to do everything possible to conclude *all* outstanding claims as soon as possible.

LABOUR AND THE LIB DEMS  
WON'T GIVE YOU A SAY

UKIP CAN'T  
GIVE YOU A SAY

**ONLY THE CONSERVATIVES CAN AND WILL  
GIVE YOU A REFERENDUM ON EUROPE**

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