

**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, Wallis Wood and Forest Green**

**January 2015**

## Gatwick expansion “a disaster for the environment” say Conservative MPs

Residents in many parts of Okewood, Ockley, Wallis Wood and Forest Green have recently experienced a significant increase in noise from Gatwick Airport as a result of changes to departure routes. In many parts of Mole Valley people are experiencing aircraft noise for the first time.

Vivienne Michael, Okewood’s local councillor and a member of Mole Valley District Council’s Aviation Working Group, says “Under the new northern departure routes flights are taking wider turns and many are now flying outside the permitted corridor known as a Noise Preferential Route (NPR). In addition, the latest navigation systems concentrate planes into a much narrower corridor so, if you live near this, you will be getting many more flights overhead. There has been little or no consultation on these changes and there is no evidence whatsoever that they are necessary. MVDC’s Aviation Working Group has written to the CAA in the strongest terms to express concern about the impact that the increase in noise is having on people’s lives and I intend to continue to lobby the CAA, DfT and Gatwick Airport for their reversal.”



Local MP, Sir Paul Beresford, a founding member of the group of MPs opposed to Gatwick expansion, says that the noise will inevitably increase even further should a second runway get the go ahead. Sir Paul is urging all Mole Valley residents to respond to the Airports Commission consultation which is inviting comments on three options for a new runway in the South East, one of which is at Gatwick. “I am acutely aware of how complicated and opaque this consultation is,” says Sir Paul “and there is not a lot of time as the consultation closes on February 3rd, but there are many problems that residents should highlight. Gatwick claim that the new runway will deliver over 120,000 new jobs but filling those jobs will bring many new people into the area. It has been estimated that over 40,000 new houses will be needed, with all that this implies for our roads, schools and other infrastructure. Inevitably all of this will affect our rural area increasing the risk of flooding and the threat to our countryside and Green Belt.”

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sir Paul Beresford, Cllr Michael and Peter Barclay from the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) will be speaking at a Public Meeting called by Abinger and Ockley Parish Councils at

**7.30PM on  
THURSDAY 22nd  
JANUARY at  
Oakwood Hill Village  
Hall**

*Vivienne and Sir Paul at  
a recent GACC meeting*



### Working in our community ....

In recent months Okewood’s local Councillor, Vivienne Michael, has been busy:

**Meeting** Parish Councillors, Southern Water and Surrey County Council (SCC) to tackle the flooding problems in Ockley so that we are better prepared for any severe weather this winter

**Challenging** SCC about the safety of new road surfaces for horses and their riders

**Lobbying** SCC Highways for information and prompt action on local road repairs including the serious subsidence that is causing concern in Weare Street

**Liaising** with SCC Trading Standards to put an end to the misleading auctions of plots of land south of Ockley

**Working** to install lifesaving packages and defibrillators in our villages so that people receive help faster in an emergency

**Supporting** applications for District Council grants from Oakwood Hill Cricket Club and our Village Halls at Wallis Wood and Oakwood Hill

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)



# Conservatives

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

# Taking action on cycling

Following the adoption of Surrey County Council's Cycling Strategy, Mole Valley District Council's Executive has agreed its own cycling plan to ensure that the very local issues our communities experience with the growing level of cycling are addressed.

Speaking at the Executive meeting, local Councillor, Vivienne Michael said "There are many worthwhile proposals in the Plan, such as improving cycling training or encouraging commuting by bicycle, but the promotion of sport and leisure events is causing great concern in rural areas. Unregulated weekend events in particular are causing real problems in my Ward where lanes are often narrow with no pavements. These roads are used by horses, families with young children and elderly people whose safety needs to be paramount.

"I am also concerned about the effect on local businesses. We have evidence of serious losses as a result of one recent major cycling event and, although the pro-cycling lobby argue that there are just one or two events a year, losses to rural businesses, many of which are on the edge anyway, cannot and should not be dismissed so easily. I have pressed for more emphasis on these issues and I am pleased to see that these aspects of the Plan have been strengthened with commitments to publishing evidence of the costs and benefits to businesses and residents as well as improving information and communication. We will also be campaigning for changes in national regulations."

Vivienne has obtained a public commitment from the 2015 Prudential RideLondon event organisers to meet with local businesses to address their concerns. Commenting later, she said, "I will be holding them to that pledge over the coming months."



## Setting the agenda in Mole Valley

Local Conservatives do not have the Leadership of MVDC or a majority vote in Council decision-making but this has not stopped them setting the agenda on key local issues.

Conservative Group Leader, James Friend, says, "We are fighting hard at Pippbrook for the things that residents tell us matter most to them. In recent months we have stood up and fought for Parish Councils and Residents' Associations to keep their right to call in decisions made by planning officers and ensured that the Council agreed an austerity refurbishment option for the Council offices, stopping the bulldozers knocking down Pippbrook. Vivienne Michael, Okewood's local councillor and our Executive Member for Community Engagement and Resident Services, has delivered changes to the Council's Housing Allocations policy to ensure that social housing goes to local people and those most in need. She has also increased the Council's supply of Emergency accommodation for homeless families and pushed the housing team to minimise the time homeless families spend in Bed & Breakfast.

"Vivienne is currently exploring ways in which planning applications can be publicised more widely and effectively to local residents."

**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)

## LISTENING TO YOU

As MVDC's Executive Member for Community Engagement & Resident Services, local councillor, Vivienne Michael, is committed to ensuring that the Council's priorities reflect the needs and wishes of local people.

Vivienne says, "All local authorities are experiencing changing and challenging times and Mole Valley District Council is no different. That's why, in developing the Council's new four-year strategy, I wanted to give as many people as possible the opportunity to tell us, not just which services they valued the most, but how they want us to exert our influence more widely, for example in relation to health and wellbeing.

"Our consultation showed very clearly that preserving the very special character of the environment we have here in Mole Valley is a high priority for our residents. With house prices around 75% more expensive than the England average, people also gave a high priority to having more affordable housing, especially in our rural villages.

"This year, we expect to complete over 100 affordable homes across the District but it is vital that we continue to identify appropriate sites. In an area such as Mole Valley, getting the balance right between this and protecting the environment is challenging but I can assure residents that local Conservatives are committed to ensuring that it is local people who decide where development should and shouldn't go."

## Our promises to you and your family

Our long-term economic plan for the past four years has been about saving our country from the mess left by Labour and restoring financial stability. The UK economy is now forecast to grow faster than any other major advanced economy. Our plan for the next five years is about you and your family and helping you get on. This is what our plan means for you:

- Access to a GP seven days a week by 2020
- No deficit by 2018 through savings not tax rises
- An increase in the tax-free personal allowance
- Fewer people paying tax at 40p in the pound
- Keeping Corporation Tax low, encouraging more jobs
- 3 million more apprenticeships
- Benefits cap linked to average wages
- English Votes for English Laws
- An In-Out Referendum on Europe

All this is only possible because we're taking the difficult decisions to reduce the deficit and build a stronger, healthier economy for the long term. Remember, you can't fund the NHS without a healthy economy.

