

# Local Lib Dems slam quarry proposals

Proposals by Conservative Surrey County Council for Eashing Farm to be excavated for sand have been strongly criticised by local Liberal Democrats.

**Sarah Di Caprio**, the new Parliamentary Spokesperson for the South West Surrey constituency and her counterpart in Guildford **Sue Doughty** have met residents to discuss the proposals. Sarah is also Spokesperson on the Environment for the Lib Dem group at Surrey County Council.

Studies commissioned by The Save Surrey Hills Action Committee (SSHAC) show that the proposed quarry would have a devastating impact on the communities in the area, and on the environment.

### Lib Dems demand answers

Questions are being asked at all levels of local government about the Eashing Farm proposals, with Lib Dem-led Waverley Borough Council protesting to the County Council and Lib Dem county councillor for Godalming North, **Chris Slyfield**, criticising the lack of information available on the Eashing Farm proposal.

Chris said, "All of a sudden, Eashing Farm seems to have crept into the Surrey Minerals Plan and we want to know why. It is not a suitable site, not least for environmental and transport reasons. Residents in my division have been asking me why is the County Council insisting on including such an unsuitable site? We must get answers NOW. Both Sarah Di Caprio and I will continue to hold the ruling Conservative administration at County Hall to account on Eashing Farm."

### Police concerned over traffic fears

Transport remains a chief concern of local residents and this appears to be shared by the police, who have assured the Lib Dems they will be raising the matter with Surrey County Council. Sarah Di Caprio reinforced the point during recent members' questions at County Hall. "Transport issues was one reason why the site was not considered suitable before – I don't see what has changed to make it suitable now, particularly if the police share our concerns," she said.

Sarah Di Caprio has praised the work of local



Concerned Liberal Democrats, Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sarah Di Caprio** and Cllr **Chris Slyfield** study the plans for the quarry.

residents. "This is not about nimbyism. There would be permanent damage to the ecology of the area with the changes in the water table. There are nationally important environmental sites at risk which must be protected."

Sarah Di Caprio has praised the work of local residents and Nigel Wilkes of SSHAC said the action committee was angry that local people were left unaware of the council's proposals, only contacted "at the last minute" for their views. "Surrey County Council has completely failed us," he said.

The sand at this site is of low value. It lies underneath Bargate Stone which will need to be blasted to get at the sand. This makes no sense when there are other workings in Surrey where the sand is much easier to get at.

**for more info see [www.sshac.org.uk](http://www.sshac.org.uk)**

## FACT BOX

- \* Many thousands of people live within a 2 mile radius of the quarry
- \* The area is defined as an 'Area of Great Landscape Value.'
- \* In excess of 200 large lorries a day could enter the site for decades to come, causing traffic congestion.
- \* The lorries will enter the A3 at a dangerous point
- \* There will be dust affecting health, visibility and air quality

# NHS CUTS HIT GODALMING

Local health services are facing further cuts, with A&E services at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford under threat.

The shock news comes just after the recent decision by Guildford & Waverley PCT to close Milford Hospital and the beds at Cranleigh Hospital.

Residents have been shocked and angered by the Government's NHS cuts in Surrey. The local health authority has announced a review of all NHS services including future A&E provision. Health bosses have said they will consult before making the changes.

**Sarah Di Caprio** said, "Many areas have seen their A&Es close after so-called consultations. The

Liberal Democrats are going to fight to make sure this doesn't happen here.

Cllr **Patrick Haveron** added, "People in Godalming will have to travel to Frimley or Chertsey if we lose the A&E in Guildford. The effect could be catastrophic for local people"

Cllr **Michael Edgington** said, "Not only would patients have to travel further afield if this were to happen, the other hospitals would then be placed under much more strain.

Cllr **Chris Slyfield** added, "The Lib Dems here in Godalming will be campaigning with our colleagues across the local area to protect our NHS"



**Sarah Di Caprio** brings Lib Dem shadow health minister **Steve Webb MP** up to date with local NHS issues.

## New scheme sees recycling rates soar

The new alternate weekly collection recycling scheme introduced by the Lib Dems has made a very encouraging start.

The first phase of the scheme, introduced over one third of the borough, saw the number of residents participating in the Borough's recycling scheme leap from **48% to 70%** in the first month of the trial.

Cllr **Paul Rivers** said, "Recycling overall has gone up by **15%** already so the effect is clearly positive - and shows that residents, like the Lib Dems, are serious about the environment."



Lib Dem Councillors **Penny** and **Paul Rivers** recycling

"The process is in three stages, with phase 1 covering a third of the borough including Cranleigh and parts of Farnham, and phase 2 - [place details] - just started. Residents for phase 3 will be notified several weeks in advance of the start date.

South West Surrey Parliamentary Spokesperson **Sarah Di Caprio** is also the Environment Spokesperson for the Lib Dems at Surrey County Council. "The Lib Dems at Waverley have ensured the borough council has an excellent record on recycling - most recently that's meant it is among the top 50% of councils nationally performing well on recycling. That's excellent news for local people."

## Help us to campaign for the local area!

Do you want to help the Liberal Democrats? Return this slip to:  
Liberal Democrats, **Freepost**, Farnham, GU9 7BR.

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|---|--------------------------|---------|
| I can deliver some leaflets in my area  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Name    |
| I can display a poster at election time   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Address |
| I can help with clerical work   | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| I can make a donation of £ _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> |         |
| (A donation of £6+ entitles you to party membership. If you do not wish to join or already belong, tick here) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tel     |
|   |                          | Email   |

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## It's so close here!

**Lib  
Dem  
28**



**Con  
26**

Make up of  
Waverley  
Borough  
Council, April  
2006

**Ind 3**

Waverley is extremely close between the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives. **Labour can not win here** - they polled only 8% in the General Election and do not have a single Waverley Borough Councillor.