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KEEPING IN TOUCH

Promoted & printed by Andrew Colborne-Baber on behalf of Guildford Conservatives both at 17A Home Farm, Loseley Park, Guildford GU3 1HS

Please give us your contact details so we can keep in touch with you about the issues affecting our area:

Name
Address
Email
Home/Mobile no

Please return to: Jennifer Jordan, 55a Ardmore Avenue, Guildford, GU2 9NJ

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- ☐ Display a poster at election time
- ☐ Deliver leaflets
- ☐ Attend social events
- ☐ Join the local Party
- ☐ Vote by post
- ☐ Stand for Council

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MERROW ISSUES

From your Merrow Borough Councillors David Carpenter, Graham Ellwood & Jennifer Jordan

GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL FREEZES COUNCIL TAX FOR SECOND YEAR



Despite tough economic times and the grant cuts from central government, Guildford Borough Council has agreed a budget featuring further investment across the borough and a freeze in council tax.

Councillor Jennifer Jordan says: "This is a challenging time for everyone. The government has cut our grant by 13% and we face cost pressures including increased energy bills. Fortunately we've been planning for this and have been developing plans for a number of years to provide better value for money for taxpayers in Guildford." GBC will freeze the Borough portion of the council tax bill next year while continuing to provide support for local voluntary organisations.

GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL ACHIEVES AAA CREDIT RATING

Guildford Borough Council has become the first district council to achieve a triple A credit rating

Guildford now joins the few councils in the UK that have asked for this assessment and the first to achieve a AAA Stable credit rating from international ratings agency Moody's Investors Service.

This means that GBC is judged to have the highest standards of financial management and budget control and represent a very low level of credit risk, allowing GBC to have access to the lowest rates of borrowing, providing a better deal for the taxpayer if funds are needed to be raised.

In their assessment Moody's praised the Council's "sound financial performance" and the fact that "it has maintained strong governance and management as well as a good liquidity position relative to its operating responsibilities". Other strengths included a broad diversification of sources of income, a "solid track record in maintaining budgets within limits and "a solid cash and investment position".

CLlr Graham Ellwood says: "We are delighted with this excellent credit score. It underpins our belief that strong fiscal management is key and demonstrates that our financial policies are working well."



MERROW PLANNING UPDATE

Having successfully fought against the plans of Dominos Pizza to open in Merrow Heights Cllr Ellwood has also fought successfully against the opening of an Indian restaurant in the same development. The restaurant is currently appealing to the Planning Inspector and Cllr Ellwood continues to oppose this inappropriate development which would have an adverse effect on the lives of residents living above.

MERROW DEPOT UPDATE

Councillors Graham Ellwood and Jennifer Jordan have attended quarterly meetings with residents living near the Merrow Highways depot to address their concerns regarding unacceptable noise levels. Working with Anne Milton MP who chairs these meetings, great progress has been made in reducing noise levels

GROVE ROAD DEVELOPMENT

If residents of Longmead and Grove Road suffer any extreme noise or other disruption due to the development on the site of Thornchace School, please let us know and we will contact the developers on your behalf. The new development is to be called Down's View.

COUNCILLORS DONATE PANTOMIME TICKETS TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

Every year Councillors are given a number of tickets to donate to children in their ward in order for them to see a pantomime at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. These tickets are given to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go to the theatre.

NEW BUS STATION AND REGENERATION PROPOSED FOR GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE



proposed, would include commercial, leisure, retail and residential buildings with wider improvements suggested for the river frontage.

Cllr Graham Ellwood says: "This is a great opportunity to aid the local economy at this time and improve Guildford's competitiveness. The new site will allow the North Street redevelopment to become viable again and enable work to start again on regenerating the area."

Please let Graham know if you have any comments or questions about the proposal on 01483 506845 or graham.ellwood@guildford.gov.uk



ST. PIUS CHURCH HALL

Following the granting of a licence for the use of the hall for social gatherings, we should like to know of any unnecessary disturbance you have suffered, so that we can contact the church authorities on your behalf. As we have received no correspondence about this we hope that this means, no news is good news.



County Issues

Surrey County Councillor Graham Ellwood

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Burpham & Merrow
[Guildford East Division]

Spring 2012

No.001

Road Resurfacing

The new road contract with May Gurney is proving successful with a larger number of pot-holes filled and more stretches of road resurfaced to a higher standard for our money. This is very good news and gradually we are addressing the poor state of the roads across Surrey. With the help of prioritisation from Councillor Ellwood, the Highways Dept. have now finished full surface treatments to Trodds Lane in Merrow and the stretch of Merrow Lane in Burpham adjacent to the London Road. He is now pressing for funds for Highways to be able to similarly repair the other roads in Merrow and Burpham that are most in need of attention. Cllr Ellwood says: "I shall continue to fight to improve all of the roads in our area." Councillor Ellwood is delighted with the improvement seen in road gritting following the appointment of May Gurney and the resultant ease of travelling on our roads during the cold spell earlier in the year."



On-Street Parking Charges Challenge Success

During the Summer Guildford Local Committee, of which Cllr Ellwood is Vice-Chairman, did not accept the SCC proposed areas of additional On-Street Parking. Since Guildford's stand this summer, Surrey County Council has withdrawn the Countywide programme and left the decisions to be made by the Local Committees, where local knowledge can bring about better results for residents.

New Parking proposals for Parade

Following resident concerns over parking at the shopping parades all day, Cllr Ellwood has proposed parking restrictions which will go for public consultation in the next round of on street parking reviews. This is in order to ease parking in the shopping parades in Merrow and Burpham and to enable shoppers to more easily find a space.

New VAS sign for Merrow

Cllr Ellwood has funded two Vehicle Activated Signs, reminding drivers to slow down to 30mph, out of his Local Allowance, one for Trodds Lane in Merrow and one for Burpham Lane in Burpham. He is very grateful to the volunteers who will be maintaining these valuable pieces of safety equipment.

Cllr Ellwood provides funding for Carers & Disability Challengers

Councillor Ellwood has funded from his SCC Allowance, via Burpham Carers, some special days of relaxation for full time carers who do not qualify for the usual State Benefits. For the charity

Disability Challengers he has helped with funding for disabled children to spend days at Disability Challengers in the Summer Holidays. Some further funding has also been provided by him to help Disability Challengers with their Christmas Party for disabled children

Funding for St. Peters

Cllr Ellwood has obtained a grant from Surrey County Council for St Peter's School towards environmentally friendly heating and air cooling at their new Sixth Form Centre. In addition, he has made grants from his Local Allowance towards environmentally friendly lighting in the sixth form centre and, most recently, new all weather playground shelters to protect students from both rain and sunburn. For George Abbot school in Burpham Councillor Ellwood provided two grit bins and a spreader from his local allowance. In addition he has funded three grit bins for Merrow Residents Association. All were used to great effect during the cold spell earlier this year

