

Castle “caught fire”

As member of the Kent and Medway Fire Authority I was invited to observe Kent and Surrey fire services training exercise in tackling a fire in a big historical building. Hever Castle was picked with permission from the Castle’s Trust Chief Executive.

About 15 pumps plus support vehicles, including a Mobile Control Vehicle with the latest technology in communication, attended the site.

Personnel from the fire services and Hever Castle were involved; the latter were involved in the exercise of salvaging those unreplacable artefacts. I am pleased to say the exercise was a success and it was an experience I will remember for a very long time to come. The money from the training budget was well spent.



From your County Councillor George Koowaree



Dear Residents

A warm welcome to all new residents to the division. Please call me if I can be of any help with council matters. My telephone number is 01233 634760 or e-mail me george.koowaree@kent.gov.uk

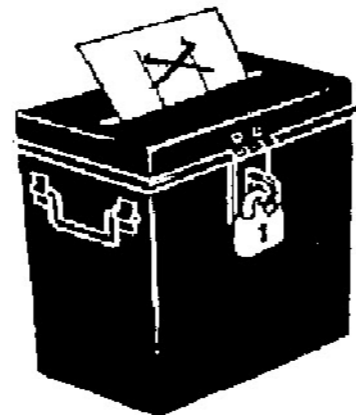
St. Stephen Resource centre Provisions for people with Learning Disability



The government Strategy is for a new concept of providing care away from resource centres like the one in St. Stephen’s Walk in South Ashford. Kent Adult Social Services is looking for ways of providing alternative support to users and carers. Consultations have taken place with users of the resource centre and their carers, also with staff. *As a member of*

KASS Policy Committee I attended 2 of these meetings and I will make sure that proper and adequate alternative provisions are in place before the centre is closed. The noticed pinned on the lamp post was necessary to get Government funding called PFI when the time comes to develop the site for flats for people with learning disability.

Please let the Liberal Democrat team know if you need a postal vote and please do register to vote - it’s your democratic right, so do use it. KCC and the European elections are on the same day – June 4th.



What does a County Councillor do?



George discussing an issue

We make decisions on a wide range of services that affect the people of Kent especially Education, Care Services and Highways. We approve County budget and set up Kent County Council Tax, give planning permission and set up Strategies, and the Constitution of the Council. I am the spokesperson for the Liberal Democrat Group for Kent Adult Social Services (KASS) Directorate, the annual budget of which is £400m. I sit on the Planning Committee, and I am a member of the School Transport Appeal Panel. I also deal with issues raised by you, and communicate with you by regular newsletters or knocking on your doors as often as I can.

Also as KCC member I sit on Kent and Medway Fire Authority.

A B C of BUSES I was told by the bus company the letters represent the roughly the routes taken by the buses. Even roughly I can’t make out these letters! Ten new buses have been added, partly funded by KCC especially the extended hours from the railway station, a move in the right direction. Where the buses stop in Bank Street is still causing confusion. I am hoping it will be sorted out soon. We are beginning to get used to the 2-way system, but to make it work drivers must keep to 20 mph; **interactive signs at the entrance to the shared area will be put in place soon.**

Waste water pipes through North Willesborough



4Delivery, contractor company for Southern Water, early this year will disrupt the lives of the people of Hunter Avenue, Hunter Road, Earls Avenue and Cradlebridge Drive when they start laying wastewater pipes to Canterbury Road treatment works. The temporary depots to service the work will now be in Hunter Avenue recreation ground, the Boulevard and at the end of Cradlebridge Drive where the company does not need planning permission because it's near the place of work. Let George or Brian Norris

know of any problems. Working hours will be between 07.30 and 6.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 1.30 Saturday. Completion expected late spring 2010.

Please contact me or any of the Councillors if you want to raise an issue. My Email is george.koowaree@kent.gov.uk

Helpers needed for leaflet delivery. If you can Spare 1 hour per month to deliver in your road or roads please contact any of us.

Thank you



Kent Adult Services



Changes in delivering the services will sooner or later affect all of us over 18. These changes are partly Government led, partly KCC. New technologies such as *Telehealth* where people can be monitored without going to the surgery e.g. B.P, diabetes. The equipment is simple and connection is by telephone lines. *Telecare* provides support to people in their homes by various sensors around the home, and trained operators are alerted within seconds of an accident or emergency.

Direct payment Once someone has been assessed and a package has been agreed, that individual can, if he or she wishes, take the money and buy the care themselves, but monitored by Adult Services staff. For more information phone *KCC contact centre tel 08458 247247 Minicom 08458 247908 and Care Navigator contact Caroline Reeves on 01233 665535 mobile 07734833495*

Liberal Democrat Councillors
George Koowaree,
David Bradberry
and Brian Norris
looking at the work in Norman Road for the new footway and Toucan Crossing at the Traffic Lights. The cost of the project is £50,000 and it is KCC's responsibility. It will certainly be safer now to walk to B&Q and to cross Norman Road.



Potholes! You see them here, you see them there and you see them everywhere!! It's a disgrace that investment in roads maintenance in the past has been so inadequate that now our roads and pavements are unsafe. It will cost £100s of millions to bring them to a safe standard. KCC is spending £16 million on new Highways offices while our roads and pavements are crumbling.

Norman Ward Residents Group. This new group for residents of Norman Ward meets regularly in Christchurch Hall. The last one was on the 2nd March. Please contact George Koowaree or David Bradberry for more information if you wish to be part of the Group. It's new and all residents of Norman Ward are welcome. Come and listen to what others have to say about issues affecting the residents.

Your Liberal Democrat councillors on Ashford Borough Council are:
David Bradberry 661799 *Norman ward*, Brian Norris 631349 *Aylesford Green ward*, Sue Heaton 643527 *Highfield ward*, Bob Davidson 642324 and George Koowaree 634760 *North Willesborough*, Bob Packham 611089 and Bob Cowley 633491 *Victoria Ward*, Rita Hawes 627117 *Boughton Aluph Ward*.

I am also your Kent County Councillor

Liberal Democrats working for you all year round