



CHAMPION

Spring 2007

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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF SURREY HEATH CONSTITUENCY - INCLUDING ASH SOUTH, ASH VALE, ASH WHARF AND TONGHAM



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SURREY GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME page 3

MP gives first aid as A&E faces cuts

Gove rallies local support to fight hospital threats

SURREY Heath MP Michael Gove has been leading the campaign to prevent any closure of the accident and emergency units on which local people rely. The Government is considering plans to reduce the number of units in our part of Surrey,

and Michael has been campaigning to ensure that there is no loss of service at Frimley Park, St Peter's or The Royal Surrey.

Local councillors and campaigners have been working with Michael to rally support for the NHS, and more than 10,000 signatures have been collected for a petition demanding that the cuts be stopped.

Michael said: "NHS funding for Surrey Heath is much lower than in other parts of the country, and that has led health bureaucrats to contemplate closures. I don't believe it's right that local people should suffer as a result of service reductions.

"Prompt access to the right services can make the difference between life and death, or between a full recovery and an impaired quality of life."

As a strong supporter of Frimley Park, Michael is confident that the hospital's position should be secure after the campaigning effort, but he believes there is no room for complacency.

"I know first-hand how great the staff are at Frimley Park, but until the Government decides to drop its plans for cuts in our area we have to make sure our voice is heard.

"We know that if the A&E at St Peter's goes that will be a devastating blow to people in Windesham and Chobham.

"And if there are reductions in the service at either St Peter's or The Royal Surrey then that will mean more pressure on the already stretched staff and resources at Frimley Park."

Parking misery

Increased pressure on Frimley Park has meant more parking misery for local people. Michael has been working with Surrey County Council, the MoD and the management team at Frimley Park to respond to local councillors' and residents' concerns.

Michael said: "I know how frustrating the parking situation around the hospital is for residents in Frimley and Parkside. I've been discussing with residents, and the relevant authorities, how we can relieve the pressure on the roads and I plan to keep the pressure on to ensure that proposed solutions respect the needs of people who have had to put up with a lot."

A FINE BODY OF WORK

CAMBERLEY NEWS & MAIL



JUDGE FOR YOURSELF: Michael Gove visits The Watchetts Junior School in Frimley. The Surrey Heath MP has been campaigning to make road safety the number one priority around schools

in the constituency. Teachers, pupils and parents from local schools have been telling Michael what they think about the dangers of speeding cars.

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Gove urges action on flooding at Ash forum

FROM Ash Green through to Chobham, flooding has brought distress and damage to local residents over the past few months. Michael Gove has been knocking heads together recently to ensure that the authorities are up to the mark in the future.

Michael organised a flood forum in Ash a few weeks ago to enable residents to put their concerns direct to representatives of Guildford Borough Council, Thames Water, the MoD, Network Rail and Surrey County Council.

The organisations represented reported back on the steps they had taken to help to clear blocked drains and culverts as well as preparing for the future. Ash Parish Councillors Nigel Manning and Pat Scott as well as Borough Councillors Marsha Moseley, Doug Richards, Stuart Carter and Nick Sutcliffe were on hand to explain the action they had been taking.

Guildford Borough Council said that the Government did not require any one organisation to co-ordinate all anti-flooding measures, but that they had taken on the role themselves and had been auditing each incident of flood damage and forming an action plan for the future.

Speaking afterwards, Michael said: "Some of the damage incurred by residents is heart-breaking and I sympathise with the difficulties people have faced.

"The Government does not have a system in place to deal with floods like those we've had so the local councils and I have been organising get-togethers to make sure everything possible can be done."

Flood forums have also taken place across Surrey Heath, and Surrey Heath Borough Council has appointed a new specialist engineer to deal with key drainage issues.

Michael is also due to meet representatives of the Environment Agency, the Government body that looks after our rivers, to ensure they do their bit."