

YOU ASKED FOR IT...

As promised the Liberal Democrats on Maidstone Borough Council have put together a package which retains a weekly collection of rubbish AND dramatically increases recycling.

The decision made by the Tories last Spring to introduce a fortnightly collection of kitchen waste caused an uproar. The local press and Liberal Democrat postbags were inundated with letters of protest. The Liberal Democrats promised, if they took control, to do their best to retain weekly collections of waste without losing the enhanced recycling which everybody wants...

... AND THE LIB DEMS HAVE DONE IT!

At the full Council meeting on 26th September the Tory plans were binned! Against strong opposition from the Conservatives, the funding package put forward by the Liberal Democrats was agreed and the new scheme will be phased in from February '08.

The Lib. Dem. plan was put together after a rigorous examination of budgets in order to drive down costs. It secures a weekly collection of waste and at the same time dramatically increases recycling. It was supported by the Lib.Dems, the Independents and one of the four Labour Councillors. After a lively debate it went through by 25 votes to 18.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - KEEPING THEIR PROMISES!



SPRINGWOOD ESTATE



Part of the Springwood Estate

Springwood Estate has for some time been the subject of many incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). As an example, a lot of problems have been reported regarding missiles being thrown from the roof of the pavilion into neighbouring gardens, at properties and people in the vicinity. Peter and Julia campaigned with the help of residents to get the pavilion demolished and this has now been done.

Peter and Julia have worked hard to build up a good relationship with the agencies involved which include the Police, Russet Homes, and the Co-operative. In conjunction with officers from the Council and the Police,

Springwood was prioritised to become a "PACT" area (Police And Communities Together).

An "action day" was held with a follow up meeting where the issues raised were discussed. The main concerns reported were ASB (including under-age drinking), speeding and criminal damage. These were closely followed by drugs, graffiti/litter and lack of a police presence.

The purpose of making this estate a PACT area, is to encourage all affected bodies to work with the police to resolve their issues. At the moment, the crimes that are reported are just the tip of the iceberg.

ALL CRIMES MUST BE REPORTED. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, NOTHING WILL BE RESOLVED.

MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL HITS THE HEADLINES



The recent C.diff outbreak in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals has caused a huge national outcry. In all, there were 1,176 cases in the area, 738 of them in Maidstone, and 90 people died. **This is a disgrace!**

In the House of Commons Norman Lamb, Lib Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Health, expressed his deepest sympathy to the families affected and asked some important questions:-

- To what extent are our hospitals over-full and did this play a part in causing the spread of infection?
- The failure to maintain the highest standards of infection control amounts to grave misconduct – so why did the chief Executive and other senior staff responsible for the outbreak leave their posts with huge financial packages?
- Will there be compensation for the families who have suffered tragic loss?
- Why was urgent action not taken as soon as evidence to the Health Commission told it that something was badly wrong?

The people of Maidstone deserve to have answers to these questions – and to have them quickly.



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YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

Please don't park on grass verges – you could be prosecuted. And please keep your front garden hedges and shrubs cut back. If you don't, the Council might cut them for you and send you the bill!

HEATH WARD FOCUS TEAM

Alan Cocks 761004
Dorothy Weedon 756104

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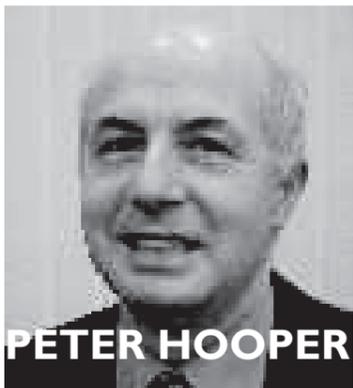
If you wish to use your own children's seats, we are happy to store them until your return.

OAKWOOD CAMPUS

Cllrs Dan Daley and Julia Batt met with police representatives, officers from Maidstone Borough Council and the head teachers of all the secondary schools on the Oakwood Campus, to discuss the increasing amount of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) on and around the campus. Residents have reported a noticeable reduction in ASB this term. Another meeting is planned for the end of November to see if this is being maintained. If you are the victim of any sort of ASB, please report it to the police immediately to get a crime number.

Oakwood Grammar School has taken up the offer from Maidstone Borough Council to have a member of staff visit the school and talk about litter. This was followed up by a very successful litter pick carried out by the students.

YOUR LOCAL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS



PETER HOOPER

Peter has been one of your Heath Ward Councillors for the past 20 years.

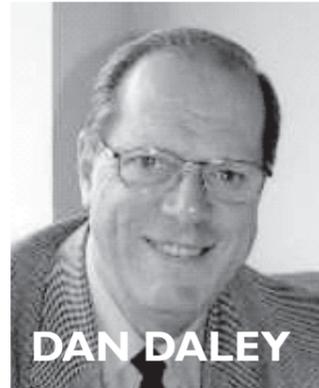
He is Chair of Governors at West Borough



JULIA BATT

Julia is the new girl on the block having been elected last May (2006).

Julia is a full-time mother of three young children, and is treasurer



DAN DALEY

Dan represents you on Kent County Council and has done for the past 6 years.

Dan has a great love of nature and does all he can to protect

Primary School.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys supporting Charlton Athletics FC.

(Ed's note... Someone has to!)

Peter can be reached on 729302 or by emailing peterghooper@yahoo.co.uk

of her children's school PTA.

She has recently begun a blog covering her council work and more;

www.juliabatt.co.uk

To get in touch, call 721432 or email juliabatt@maidstone.gov.uk

the most beautiful and precious parts of our natural heritage. His other hobbies include photography, history, music and art (in all its forms!)

Dan can be reached on 672459 or via email; dandaley@maidstone.gov.uk.