

## Guildford Council Results suggest business as usual on Local Plan

Results of the Guildford Borough Council election posted on the Local Council website confirm the Conservatives have retained control of the Borough Council with an increased majority. The current leader of the Council, Stephen Mansbridge has also been re-elected.

The results reflect the national pattern with increased support for the Conservatives at the expense of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party. The Conservatives now have a majority of 21 over all other parties up from 18 on the previous Council. They have 35 seats (up from 33), Lib Dems currently have 9 (down from 13), Labour has 1 (down from 2). The Guildford Green Belt Guardians picked up three seats.

In Clandon and Horsley two conservative councillors were elected with Clandon resident Jenny Wicks topping the poll followed by fellow conservative Matthew Sarti in second place. Guildford Green Belt Guardian, David Reeve became our third councillor ahead of conservative Ian Symes by a margin of 17 votes. Full details of all the results can be found at <http://www.guildford.gov.uk/councilelection> .

The return of majority conservative administrations both nationally and locally implies that planning policies are unlikely to change and the business of putting the local plan together, temporarily put on hold in the run up to election, will now resume in earnest. A revised Strategic Housing Assessment was published before Christmas and this is now likely to feed into a revised Draft Local Plan which should be available for consultation this summer.