



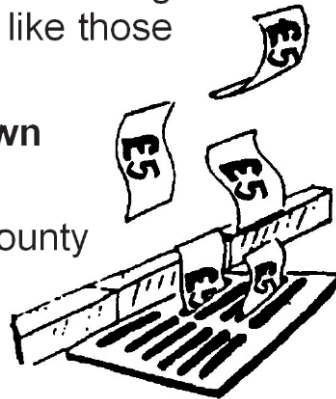
# HOTLINE

## Tories wasting YOUR MONEY!

With council tax bills about to land on the door mat and the biggest chunk of it going to the County Council, did you know that the Tory controlled council is wasting your money on projects like those opposite?

**Is this your money down the drain?**

Trudy Dean, Lib Dem County Councillor thinks so - and so do the rest of the Hotline Team.



- **At least £17 MILLION** on new Highways offices and depots. (Money not spent on road repairs!).
- **£7.6 MILLION** spent on failed Arts Project.
- **£1.2 MILLION** to pilot Kent TV-which only those with the Internet can watch
- **£0.5 MILLION** on EU-Jet and Virginia Project
- Expenditure on publicity has risen by nearly 370% in 10 years from £1.4 million to £6.6 million - **IS THIS VALUE FOR MONEY?**



### FREE BUS PASSES HITS BOROUGH BUDGET

From April 1st everyone over 60 will be entitled to a free bus pass to use on ordinary service buses off-peak from 9.30 am. This is a national scheme and passes can be used anywhere in England.

Lib Dems support this scheme in principle but there are real problems in funding. The Borough Council has to reimburse the bus companies but has no control over these costs. This means in Tonbridge and Malling that costs to the Council Tax payer will rise from £150,000 to £320,000 (or more!) depending on usage. This is money which at the moment is spent on other local services.

We believe that a national scheme should be paid for by the Government, not by local people.

The good news is that passengers will be allowed to use their passes on the Nu Venture 58 even though it is time-tabled to come through the village at 9.20 am, which is before the pass official start time of 9.30 am.

# Village News

# COMMUNITY NEWS

▼ **Private Hospital Plan for Hoath Wood.** The Parish Council is objecting to plans for a five storey hospital on ancient woodland at Hoath Wood. It feels that this breaks promises to keep the woodland areas around Kings Hill and could stop the re-linking of footpaths across the old airfield.

■ **East Malling Gardening Club:** Regular visits to gardens and meetings. All welcome. Contact David Lettington, 01732 870356 or [www.emgc.blogspot.com](http://www.emgc.blogspot.com)

■ **East Malling Backgammon Club:** Meets every Monday, Institute Hall, Mill Street, East Malling 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm. All welcome - beginners or experts. Contact Liz Simpson 01732 870356 [www.eastmallingsbackgammon.blogspot.com](http://www.eastmallingsbackgammon.blogspot.com)

■ **East Malling website:** Interesting - chance to post memories and look for information. [www.eastmallingsvillage.blogspot.com](http://www.eastmallingsvillage.blogspot.com)

▼ **The tennis courts in East Malling** are due to be moved away from the protected Holm Oak tree before the summer season. Work is being funded by a developer as a condition of planning permission. Christine says, "The surface of the courts is being damaged by the tree - moving the courts means that both the tree and the courts can continue to be enjoyed by everyone - and free of charge too."



▼ **Christine reports that the Parish Council** is objecting to plans to demolish a bungalow at 173 Mill Street and build five houses instead. The plans can be inspected at the Borough Council offices or the Parish Council Offices.



Liz Simpson and Christine Woodger look at plans



**BOROUGH COUNCIL TO CHARGE FOR RATS AND MICE** From 1st April this service will no longer be free - a charge of £40 will be made. The charges are being brought in because the Borough Council has financial problems.

Liz Simpson says, " I was not happy with the original proposals but following pressure from the Lib Dems the Council has agreed that only one charge per episode will be charged and that people will only be charged if the rats or mice originate from their property. I am still concerned that these proposals might cause problems for residents - please let me know if it does."

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



**My suggestion/idea is.....**

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**At the last election I voted Labour / Lib Dem / Tory**  
**SEND TO;** Tonbridge and Malling Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST RLSK URTE ZZYU, 250 London Road, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5AU