

Letter to the editor – Haslemere Herald, April 5th 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

For over a year your readers have followed the incredible story of jousting between Haslemere and Surrey County Council, in which communities, churches, schools and businesses in the town have had to fight to be heard in the corridors of County Hall in distant Kingston-upon-Thames. My own involvement has been in both challenging ill-thought out parking proposals and galvanizing community interest, in order to protect the unique vitality of Haslemere. Our success in defeating plans for pay-and-display across the town has shown me what can be achieved through genuinely non-political collaboration.

There should be no doubt that the interests of Haslemere should come first for our next County Councillor and that is why I have decided to stand as an Independent candidate for Haslemere in the upcoming elections on May 2nd.

My priorities, if elected, would be:

- (a) to listen to the concerns and needs of the community
- (b) to give Haslemere the voice it deserves in Surrey, and
- (c) to stand up for the principle of open and meaningful engagement between the people of Haslemere and local government at all levels.

In a nutshell, Haslemere First!

I've been told it is a bold decision to stand as an Independent in Haslemere, a true Tory stronghold with 100% Conservative representation at Town, Borough and County levels. But as the mother of three young daughters, who truly cares about the present and future wellbeing of Haslemere, I feel inspired to stand. As an Independent Councillor, I would certainly put Haslemere first.

Yours faithfully,

Nikki Barton
Independent Candidate
nikkibarton@haslemerefirst.com

Surrey County Council Elections
Thursday 2nd May 2013

NIKKI BARTON

Independent



"PUTTING HASLEMERE FIRST"

Promoted by Aine Hall, of 11 Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2JP
on behalf of Nikki Barton.

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NIKKI BARTON *Independent*

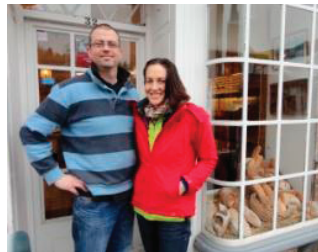
Introducing Nikki...

- Mother of 3 young daughters actively involved in Haslemere and the community.
- Married to Jerry, a lawyer who works in London and internationally.
- Former consultant in sustainable transport, having worked at the European Commission after graduating from Cambridge University.
- School governor of St. Bartholomew's School; started its 'walking bus', encouraging children to walk to school.



With 'walking bus' pupils and their friend George, Community Officer

- Child Welfare Officer, Haslemere Hockey Club .
- Haslemere Vision, organising group member.
- Active member of St Stephen's Church.
- Passionate about the town, shown by my role in stopping SCC's proposals for Pay-and-Display across Haslemere and supporting local businesses.



With James, Manager - The Granary

"When Surrey County Council came forward with their plans for parking restrictions and Pay-and-Display, I was struggling to get an opposition campaign going. None of our local councillors were doing anything proactive. Nikki's passion, energy and excellent links within the wider community were what gave it the momentum it needed. Without her, it is hard to see how we would have achieved such a great result."

Julianne Evans, President - Haslemere Chamber of Trade & Commerce (2012-13)

PUTTING HASLEMERE FIRST

"With Nikki as our County Councillor, we can be assured that the wellbeing of the people of Haslemere will always be First and Foremost in her thinking."
Ken Griffiths, Haslemere

What Nikki stands for...

TRANSPORT

- I believe Haslemere needs a **long term integrated transport vision**. We need **affordable parking solutions** that are community led because local people understand local problems best. If elected, I would ensure open and full consultation took place with all groups before decisions were made.
- As a keen cyclist I regret it is not safe enough to cycle with my children around Haslemere. I support **limiting the speed of traffic** through Haslemere and **making it safer for walking and cycling**.



EDUCATION

- As both a parent of school-age children and a governor, I am committed to **supporting all of our local schools** and the needs of both pupils and staff.

THE HASLEMERE COMMUNITY

- If elected I would give my full **support to the organisations, businesses and amenities** that make Haslemere the unique community it is.

LOCALISM IN ACTION

- I believe that **the interests of Haslemere should be represented more transparently and directly within SCC**, its committees and working groups, and I will always stand up for this principle.
- If elected, **my first priority would be to listen, so that I can be your independent voice**. To do this, I would host regular drop-in surgeries and, in turn, provide regular updates through local press and social media.



"I am supporting Nikki Barton as I believe that she will respond to Haslemere residents, Haslemere community groups and Haslemere businesses in a way that serves the community's interests and not party-political interests."
Robert Serman, Haslemere