



Left, Life Saver Giorgio Baglioni. Right, Jonathan Lord MP.

MP backs call to make every child a lifesaver

WOKING MP Jonathan Lord went back to first aid basics last week as he undertook CPR training as part of a campaign to make it compulsorily in schools.

How to treat choking, bleeding and burns was also on the agenda at the session attended by six south east MPs on October 27, which is part of the St John Ambulance initiative, Every Child a Lifesaver.

The campaign, which also has the backing of the British Heart Foundation and the

British Red Cross, is supporting the Emergency First Aid Education Bill.

If passed, the legislation will require secondary schools to give young people the skills and confidence to deal with a range of medical emergencies, including cardiac arrests, heart attacks, asthma attacks and seizures.

Mr Lord said: "I was delighted to attend the parliamentary reception in support of the Every Child a Lifesaver campaign.

"It is incredibly important

that children are equipped with the right skills to enable them to act in a medical emergency and it was particularly inspiring to meet young people at the event who have needed those skills in the past.

"They really brought home to me the need for first aid education to be available to all young people and it seems to me that the best way to achieve this is through schools.

"For this reason, I am happy to support this valuable campaign."

By Eleanor Davis

WEST END residents are being urged to make their opposition known to a repeat application for 85 homes in the village.

A proposal to build on land north of Bedlam Bridge Road is out to public consultation until November 25 and puts forward plans for new access to the site, car parking, landscaping and an open space.

According to campaigners the application by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd is essentially a repeat of one they made last year, which was rejected by Surrey Heath Borough Council and is currently sub-

ject to an appeal process.

The council rejected that proposal on the basis that it wanted to concentrate development previously developed land in the western part of the borough.

Guy Consterdine, secretary of the West End Action Group, told the *Woking Advertiser*: "We have examined the old and new proposals and the access road and the location.

"We haven't spotted any changes," he said.

"We will urge the borough council to object it, not only on the grounds of being able to meet housing targets without using reserve land, but on the full effect on this rural

character and the infrastructure not being there."

Mr Consterdine said schools and a health centre in the area were already at full capacity.

"We will be saying please object it but please address those additional grounds," he said.

"We have also sent out an email to tell our supporters urging everyone who does object to write again to the borough council with their objections because we don't want Taylor Wimpey to be able to say there's not much opposition this time."

Mr Consterdine said the action group predicted the developers were attempting

to fast-track the plans in the hope that an appeal for another application for 84 homes on Kings Road, submitted by William Lacey Group Ltd, is granted on similar grounds.

"It's a free go or second application without having to pay for it," he said.

The group expect an inspector's report on the King's Road application to be published before Christmas.

"In this circumstance where there's another very relevant appeal, a developer who has been refused can re-submit," he added.

"This means that if the inspector of the King's Road application decides that can

go ahead, Taylor Wimpey would already have an application in front of the borough council in expectation of getting approval on the basis of the other application and get it more quickly than their own public inquiry.

"In other words it's a device for getting approval more quickly."

The site to the east of the village would be accessed via a junction off Beldam Bridge Road, which the applicants state has 'been agreed in principle' with Surrey County Council officers.

The 14.73 hectare site comprises an area previously used as a tree nursery and lies within 5km of the Zone of

Pigeon racer says birds under 'constant attack'

A PIGEON fancier from Send has been left devastated by constant hawk attacks on his bird loft.

Peter Harwood has been a fancier since the age of 10 but has been plagued by hawks over recent months, resulting in the loss of seven pigeons and leaving many of them too scared to fly.

Mr Harwood, who is chairman of Guildford Racing Pigeon Club, said that on some days there can be as many as five predatory birds circling his garden, waiting for the pigeons to be released so they can feed on them.

He said: "The situation has become a nightmare. Pigeon racing is my passion and it has been since I was a young boy, however I cannot cope with these almost constant attacks. Seeing my pigeons being eaten alive is truly heartbreaking. I spend a lot of time caring for these birds so seeing them attacked and killed is horrendous."

According to Pigeon Racing UK & Ireland, the

number of attacks on racing pigeons by sparrowhawks and peregrine falcons are increasing and could see the pastime extinct by 2030.

Mr Harwood said: "If this historic pastime is to continue in the UK, something needs to be done. Pigeon racing has a rich heritage, including the use of pigeons in both world wars, yet today it is on the brink of extinction."

A petition calling on the government to change laws to protect pigeons has been signed by 1,653 people so far.

Lee Fribbins, Pigeon Racing UK and Ireland, said: "It is important that the tradition of pigeon racing is kept alive in the UK. This is why it is so important to have the cooperation of other people, helping us to track any pigeons which may have gone missing or are deceased."

"We want to encourage more people to take up the hobby, whilst lobbying for the protection of our birds to safeguard the tradition for future generations."



Picture: Darren Pepe WK156472_003

Peter Harwood, chairman of Guildford Racing Pigeon Club, with one of his pigeons, Brendan Boy.

County's MPs vote against tampon tax removal

MEMBERS of Parliament for every constituency in Surrey voted against the removal of a 5% tax on women's sanitary products.

In a debate on Monday October 26, 11 MPs from the county voted against amendments to the Government Finance Bill. Sam Gyimah for

East Surrey, Chris Grayling for Epsom and Ewell, Dominic Raab for Esher and Walton, Anne Milton for Guildford, Sir Paul Beresford for Mole Valley, Crispin Blunt for Reigate, Philip Hammond for Runnymede and Weybridge, Jeremy Hunt for South West Surrey, Kwasi Kwarteng for Spelthorne, Michael Gove for Surrey Heath and Jonathan Lord for Woking all voted against.

The amendments to the bill included pushing for the removal of VAT through negotiations with the European Union and having a report stating how this could be achieved within 12 months.

Jonathan Lord, Woking MP said the bill would not have enabled the VAT change but the government will be in talks with the EU.

He said: "I think it is an

absolutely ridiculous tax that is unfair to women. The sooner we get rid of it the better.

"Unfortunately whilst we remain members of the EU and the EU can take the decision to dictate that 5% is the lowest possible rate of VAT including sanitary products, we are stuck with it.

"However what we did get is ministers did promise to talk to the powers that be and the EU about this issue to see

whether there could be some sort of movement in the future.

"But at the present time that appears unlikely and the EU has been approached about this."

Public opinion and debate has surrounded much of the news around the Government Finance Bill amendments.

This week, a petition on the change.org website had

reached more than 266,000 signatures, with the message: "We need to know why the government still taxes sanitary products on luxurious grounds, but not helicopters, the maintenance of our private jets, or crocodile steaks."

"If you value the functioning of those who menstruate at least as much as you enjoy your flying crocodile Fridays then sign our petition and join our campaign."

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