

# Grave concerns

'Proposal will  
cause nothing  
but stress to  
the bereaved'



**BEREAVED people in Royston will have to bury their dead relatives almost 20 miles away - because of cost-cutting.**

A move approved by Cabinet members of Conservative-controlled North Herts District Council will see burials in the future taking place at a new cemetery in Letchworth.

A report to the Cabinet said the cemetery in Royston will reach its capacity in about 10 years.

There are no current plans to seek another site in Royston to create a new burial ground.

But the report does say: "While there is a duty on the

district council to provide for the burial of the dead this does not exclude devolution to town or parish councils or even private organisations that could deliver the service on the district's behalf."

Labour councillors are opposing the move.

Royston Labour Party spokesman Les Baker said: "The proposal is the worst of cuts and an insult to the bereaved.

"It is a proposal which will cause nothing but stress to those wishing to have relatives buried locally.

"This could mean an end to relatives in one family being buried together which will obviously be upsetting to all those concerned," he said.

# Why we voted against rise

## Labour group rejects allowances increase

**THE Labour group on North Herts District Council voted against an increase in councillors allowances.**

But the Tories supported the rise which will cost Council Tax payers more than £325,000 next year.

The Labour group stressed that in the current economic climate it would be a mistake to accept such an increase in their council allowances.

But 24 Tory councillors voted **YES** to the rise.

Labour group leader Cllr Deepak Sangha said: "For many years our councillors' allowances have been allowed to fall behind most other councils and, as the independent panel

recognised, increases are long overdue.

"However, an increase in councillors' basic allowance of 18.5 per cent and even higher increases in the ruling Cabinet's allowances is just unacceptable this year.

"It would be a slap in the face for all those public sector workers who are losing their jobs, or having their pay frozen, and to many people who will lose benefits in the government's recent plans.

"It would seem incredible to the public at a time when the government and councils are cutting services, and also when politicians do not enjoy much trust."

## Lust for power leads to Liberal Democrats demise

**THE latest opinion polls are showing increased support for the Labour party - and the demise of the Liberal Democrats.**

In the latest ICM/Guardian poll the result revealed 53 per cent of people who voted Liberal Democrat in the General Election will not be supporting the party in the future.

Labour party spokesman Les Baker said: "The poll shows that the Liberal

Democrats are rapidly losing support.

"They have been unable to deliver on election promises such as halting a rise in VAT and to prevent an increase in tuition fees.

"The Liberal Democrats are becoming a party where the lust for power is more important than keeping promises."

The ICM/Guardian poll gave Labour 38 per cent of the vote and the Conservatives 36 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats on just 14 per cent.



To get in touch with the **Royston Labour Party** you can contact the branch secretary Vaughan West on e-mail at [vaughan.west@ntlworld.com](mailto:vaughan.west@ntlworld.com) or visit the North East Hertfordshire Labour Party website at [nehertslabour.org.uk](http://nehertslabour.org.uk) or e-mail [secretary@nehertslabour.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nehertslabour.org.uk)