

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – Summer 2016



Tranquil: The beautifully restored pond. **Above:** Past and present councillors admire the orchard.

THE DREAM COMES TRUE

HOLLY HILL Leisure Centre is on course for its public opening in September.

Everyone Active, who will operate the £9.5m centre, will start fitting out at the beginning of August.

A Portacabin has been set up on site to deal with membership inquiries and job opportunities.

Two new junior football pitches will be provided next to the centre, plus a new children's play area and a multi-use games area once building is complete.

This will cater for a range of ages and abilities, providing space for sports such as football, basketball and netball.

Part of the Coldeast Park site which is open to the public has a variety of habitats including a pond, woodlands, meadows and orchard which had been neglected for years.

The Council asked one of our rangers, Helen Sosnowski (pictured) and her team of volunteers, to clear the site.

Much of the orchard was an impenetrable jungle of brambles and ivy, but once clear the



trees had their first prune for years and blossomed in May.

Urgent work was also needed on the unkempt pond and overgrown path on one side of it; so in early autumn 2014 the path was widened and overhanging trees were cleared.

However, the pond needed dredging and in winter 2015 it was pumped out, cleaned and re-filled by a natural spring feed. All the wild life and fish have returned.

This winter, volunteers were hard at work clearing other parts of the site, especially the overgrown meadow which was once used to house pigs!

Locks Heath Councillor Keith Evans said: "Helen and her team of volunteers have our full admiration for all their hard work and I congratulate them on their brilliant achievement to date.

"Holly Hill Leisure Centre has been a goal that we have shared for many years. It takes a long time to acquire the land and save the necessary £9m, but the people of Fareham's Western Wards will be delighted with what we have been able to create."

Stripping bureaucrats' powers could boost local economy and enterprise

THE GOVERNMENT proposes certain powers wielded by Whitehall bureaucrats can be decided by local council leaders working with an elected mayor.

A deal has been offered to councils in South Hampshire, including Fareham, which would provide:

- Annual £30m funding for 30 years to invest in economic growth and housing including power to borrow
- Extra to funding already announced for Local Enterprise Partnership and 8 local councils; will meet estimated

£2bn costs for infrastructure in South Hampshire

- Keeping local business rates (£400m); leaving current system of government funding for local councils
- Powers over statutory plans for housing and infrastructure, ability to designate greenbelt
- Increase productivity, create more and better jobs by supporting business growth
- Control adult education and training budget, focusing on skills so people

get jobs and businesses prosper

- Deliver much-needed new homes, particularly affordable homes for local people.
- Control of dedicated transport budget, franchised bus services and local authority roads

Once in place, we hope to demonstrate our successes and negotiate for further powers for Solent region.

It does NOT mean reorganising or scrapping borough councils and creating a unitary council covering Hampshire as proposed by HCC.

England's 5th lowest district council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting

NEWS ROUND



Keith Evans thanks voters

“Winning a local election is always satisfying and I am so pleased and proud to have been re-elected as a Fareham Councillor for the Locks Heath ward.

“I am very grateful for the support I have been given. Locks Heath is an excellent part of an excellent Borough and I will do my very best to effectively represent all residents and local organisations.”

Bid to end hospital scandal

Action is under way to cut the NHS red tape that ties up progress at Fareham’s £24m Community Hospital.

The hospital has operated office hours only 5 days a week since it opened 5 years ago.

Fareham MP Suella Fernandes set up a task force comprising representatives from local NHS organisations and Friends of Fareham Community Hospital.

Health Minister Jeremy Hunt visited the hospital in January when he was told about its problems.

The Minister asked the task force to identify specific proposals to rectify the confused management.

Cash grants for play areas

Fareham Executive agreed to find funding totalling £175,000 for three play area refurbishments.

Councillors Keith Evans and Susan Bayford are pleased one of these schemes will be at Drakes Close in Locks Heath and proud that Fareham, in these difficult financial times, is still able to fund some local community improvements.

Options for the new layout, one of which is pictured below, have gone out for public consultation.



Council aids bowls club to hit ‘jackpot’

LOCKSWOOD Bowling Club started its new season with a brand new all-weather green.

Vandals damaged part of the green 5 years ago and, although the club managed to repair it temporarily, the surface had to be completely renewed this year.

Councillor Susan Bayford said it cost £70,000, but Fareham Council stepped in to help with a grant of £25,000.

“This will enable the club to continue to compete at the highest national levels,” she said.

The Lockwood Club is very successful and is set in beautifully maintained gardens, which frequently win Fareham in Bloom awards.



Top shots (l to r): Councillor Brian Bayford, Club President Geoff Tocknell, Council Leader Seán Woodward and Councillor Susan Bayford.

Councillors join volunteer litter pickers

LITTER clearance costs Fareham council taxpayers millions of pounds a year and much of it could be avoided.

The Council collects litter from 600 bins across the Borough, each of which costs £350 to replace.

Collections from the bins vary from three times a day in busy shopping and pedestrian areas to weekly in some suburban streets and greenways.

Teams of operatives can be seen all over the Borough cleaning and collecting the litter from the bins as well as a great deal of rubbish that is strewn on pavements, in bushes and other public areas. Teams of volunteers can also be spotted in various neighbourhoods, including Locks Heath.

PHOTO: Locks Heath Councillors Keith Evans and Susan Bayford join volunteers Lyndsay Chamberlain and Janet Russell.



Cash grants give Victory Hall new lease of life



IT’S FULL steam ahead for the Victory Hall after funding was allocated to make vital repairs that will give it a new lease of life.

Councillor Keith Evans said the hall needed £200,000 for maintenance and an application was made to Hampshire County Council last year for cash from its community buildings capital fund.

He said: “I’m delighted to report that HCC has granted the full £148,000 we applied for.

“An application has gone to Fareham Borough Council for £40,000 under its matched community fund and the hall management will put £10,000 from reserves into the pot.

“This is excellent news and will secure the future of the hall and significantly improve its insulation and heating.

“As part of the County Council’s grant, we need to rewrite our constitution (the hall is a registered charity) and review governance and management arrangements, which is already under way.”

The original Victory Hall, known as Warsash Reading Room, was built in 1894 and was replaced by the current building in 1975 with a lifespan of 30 years, so it’s well past its ‘sell-by’ date.

Main problems centre on its mostly flat roof and the grants should give it at least another 25 years as the hub of the Warsash community.

The firm that originally carried out the survey has been appointed to manage the renovation project.

PHOTO: Keith Evans shows grandson Hugo (16 months) the Victory Hall.

Care Centre open day is a success



LOCKSWOOD Day Care Centre, which is run by Age Concern Hampshire, recently hosted a successful open day.

Visitors included former Mayor and Mayoress Mike and Anne Ford and Fareham MP Suella Fernandes.

Guests were shown the excellent facilities at the centre, which include a memory and craft room.

Council Leader Seán Woodward, Councillors

Susan Bayford, Connie Hockley and Brian Bayford posed for a photo next to a display commemorating The Queen’s 90th birthday. Also in the photo are Nat Gould and Joan Bowen. Councillor Keith Evans had to leave before the shot was taken.

Finding the pie life ‘full filling’

PIES topped the menu at a special lunch at Abbeyfield Court, Locks Road.

Senior house manager Neil Thompson used his experience as a former Royal Navy chef to cook a meal for 50 to mark British Pie Week.

Former Mayor and Mayoress Councillor Mike and Mrs Anne Ford, ward Councillor Susan Bayford and husband Brian (Park Gate) joined residents to tuck into steak and ale and chicken and ham pies.

Community-minded Neil organises such events to bring local people together and make residents feel part of the neighbourhood.



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COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to **vote** to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to **attend** social and political events or **help** by delivering **InTouch** in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we’ll respond personally within 48 hours.

Council starts revising plans to accommodate up to 2,500 more homes

THE COUNCIL is revising housing requirements because the current Fareham Plan, which includes Welborne, is 6–8 years out of date

It is using current government defined methods for calculating needs and extending the timeline of the Plan for the entire Borough to 2036.

The best present indication (to be confirmed) is that Fareham will need to provide 2,000–2,500 extra homes over this period.

Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member with responsibility for Planning and Development, says his approach will be:

- Look boldly, creatively and pro-actively at re-development of areas within the existing urban boundary – for example in the Town Centre and at the Portchester District Centre with the prime objective to generate additional housing and to improve the financial viability of the centres.
- Consider new greenfield site options to meet the balance of requirement after urban area development potential is determined.
- Identify opportunity locations for early additional provision.

He said: “I expect the draft proposals for urban area development will be available for public comment around the 4th quarter of 2016 with a draft of the new Borough Plan out for comment around the 1st quarter of 2017.

“This revised Borough Plan, which is a statutory legal requirement, will include reference to other public bodies like Highways, NHS, Education, Water etc and identification of Green Infrastructure needs.

“Make sure you have your say when these plans are available for comment.

Minister praises Suella for work on landmark Bill



TERRORISTS, paedophiles and serious fraudsters exploit the Internet, social media and other sophisticated communications

to scheme online, making it more challenging to keep track of them and gather the vital evidence to secure a prosecution or thwart plots.

The Commons passed the landmark Investigatory Powers Bill to regulate the interception powers used by our intelligence, security and law enforcement services.

I have taken a close interest in this issue and served on the joint committee of MPs and Lords that studied the draft Bill, and on the subsequent Commons committee that looked at current proposals.

Replying to the debate, Security Minister John Hayes congratulated me on the role I played in both committees.

He said: "The threat she described so vividly is, as she said, worldwide and of a kind that would allow us to do nothing other than take the necessary steps to counter it in the defence of our freedoms."

Suella

FERNANDES MP for Fareham



Time to unite in the wake of Referendum

THANK you to everyone who voted in the EU Referendum. Nearly 80% of Fareham residents took part in the biggest exercise in democracy in decades, resulting in an historic decision.

Whichever way you voted, I was pleased to see many new people vote for the first time, increased numbers of young people taking part and vigorous campaigning from both sides.

People, volunteers, attending meetings, speaking up in debates – all these are the lifeblood of politics and democracy.

By over 1,000,000 votes, Britain voted to leave the EU. Fareham reflected that trend, with a strong majority of residents voting to take back control of our democracy, our laws, immigration and our money and to look beyond the EU to forge more global trade and commercial links.

Many people did not vote to leave the EU and were disappointed, but I reassure them Britain has a robust economy, the talent and experience to secure the best settlement for the country.



I held my 'Big Fareham EU debate' in Portchester when over 100 local people asked questions to find out more about the issue.

I will be working hard to contribute to this effort in Parliament and I know that the spirit of open-mindedness, enterprise, economic prudence, compassion and tolerance that make our country great will be maintained.

As we navigate the next chapter of our history, we need to put past divisions aside and unite in the national interest, respecting each other while engaging in healthy discussion.

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Surgery dates

I will hold surgeries at different venues across Fareham. Please call to arrange an appointment to meet me.

Keep up to date

To stay up to date with all of my recent visits and speeches in Parliament please sign up to my newsletter at www.suellafernandes.co.uk/newsletter

Arrange a tour

I am happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for groups of my constituents.

To book please contact my office with a minimum of three months' notice, as they are very popular.

FAREHAM CONSTITUENCY NEWS



APPRENTICESHIPS offer young people a great opportunity to learn professional skills, gain confidence and earn a living.

They also enable businesses to develop careers of talented young people in Fareham, ensuring the workforce of the future has the skills it needs.

I was grateful to work with local companies such as NATS (pictured) and Parcar who sponsored my first Apprenticeships Fair and Fareham College, where it was held, to enable young people to meet employers and learn more.

Many local businesses took part such as Yo Telecom, Babcock International, Lloyds and MB Air Systems, plus the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Over 500 young people attended.

Look out for my event next year. If you are a

local employer keen to learn more about taking on an apprentice or holding a stall, let me know.

Broadband meeting

Many residents have contacted me about problems with their broadband service.

I have organised a public meeting for residents on October 28 at 7pm at Whiteley Community Centre to meet representatives of BT, the County Council and phone companies to voice their concerns. Let me know if you plan to attend.

Join me for a coffee

I enjoy meeting local residents and listening to their concerns.

As well as regular surgeries, you can join me for a Q&A and discussion on any topic at my coffee mornings and town hall events.

I recently held them in the Victory Hall, Warsash and Highlands Hub (pictured). Sign up to my monthly newsletter via suella@suellafernandes.co.uk to get updates on future dates.

