



InTouch

FAREHAM SOUTH – Spring 2017

Wise Tory budgeting braces for end of Whitehall support

IT'S BEEN a financially challenging year for councils across Britain and there are rough seas ahead.

In Fareham, it's brought out the best of **Conservative** budgeting and wisest spending of your money.

Against the odds, we kept Fareham's council tax to almost the lowest in England for many years with zero rises, while maintaining services with declining government support.

In his 2017-18 budget speech, Council Leader Seán Woodward said another low rate had been achieved with a modest £5 a year rise for Band D properties.

The average home in Fareham is band C, so Borough Council services will cost them just 1p extra per day.

But in 2019, all government revenue support will cease and we'll be left on our own to generate sources of income, plus what we can get from business rates.

Your prudent **Conservative** Council anticipated this and

laid plans to generate income from property investment.

He said: "Only £6.3m of our £48m annual budget comes from council tax, so the Borough Council relies heavily on income from fees, charges and commercial investments.

"Days of living off income from cash investments are past with interest rates at record lows, so we began buying commercial property with good solid tenants (Tesco, Sainsbury's, Specsavers etc) providing a much better income.

"The commercial portfolio generates a 6% return and the buildings remain an asset to sell if the capital is needed.

"75% of the portfolio value is in Fareham. Recent acquisitions include Halfords, PC World, Argos and Dunelm at

Park Gate and a commercial building for Universal Tool and Production at Daedalus.

"Millions of pounds annually are now being generated and every £60,000 is equivalent to around 1% off the council tax bill."

WHAT BAND D PROPERTIES WILL PAY

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Fareham Borough Council | £150.22 (+£5) |
| Hampshire County Council | £1,133.10 (+£53.82) |
| Hampshire Fire and Rescue | £63.84 (+£1.24) |
| Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner | £165.46 (+£5) |
| TOTAL | £1,512.62 (+£65.06) |

Fareham has lots to look forward to during the year ahead

Modest savings will come from moving Fareham Today magazine online.

We will now be publishing more frequent, shorter editions on our website.

If you'd still like a copy posted through your door or to receive email alerts you can sign up.

We welcome a well-known hotel chain that will bring a long overdue hotel to the town centre.

We have exciting ideas for making the centre a vibrant place and have put together some draft plans.

But we'd like your ideas on how we can improve it.

A splendid new play area will open in the summer at Holly Hill, Sarisbury.

School children are collecting items to put into a time capsule which will be buried there for 25 years.

It will add to the highly successful £9m Leisure Centre.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of flying at Daedalus, the former Fleet Air Arm HQ.

We've looked at its history and will be holding an event in the summer for the community to mark this historic milestone.

More details later.

Fareham Library to re-open soon after digital age updating



A MAJOR revamp is under way at Fareham's busy library, which is temporarily closed.

The main feature of the work will see the installation of a digi lab.

It will be equipped with IT and coding tools to encourage the public, particularly teenagers and young adults, to learn new skills.

It should reopen by mid April, but the digi lab may have to open a few weeks later so volunteers can be trained to work alongside digital champions.

The children's library is being extended and a library café will be created, although this, too, will not open until a programme of developments has been set up to encourage new customers.

County Councillor Peter Latham said: "This refurbishment to an already busy library will hopefully encourage many more users to take advantage of the excellent facilities being updated."

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NEWS ROUND

New Rugby posts

Fareham Heathens were awarded £1,889 from the Council's Community Fund to replace a set of Rugby posts at the Heathens' grounds, which had deteriorated.

Their application demonstrated good community use of their facilities, ensuring the benefit of the award is far reaching.

Councillor Dennis Steadman commented: "I was very happy to have supported this application, this has been good news for Cams Alders, South Ward and Fareham Heathens, and will add to the Cams Alders Vision project which I hope to come into fruition soon."

Elderly warned of scams

Recent scams targeting the elderly – including the false letters from Lloyds Bank – have brought a warning from Community Action Fareham.

A Stubbington resident handed over £80 on the doorstep to a rogue builder who returned next day demanding another £120. The home help sent him packing.

People are advised not to call numbers on letters, but visit their bank; hang up on cold callers; display a County Council 'We do not buy' sign on your door; don't reply to emails or click links; ask a family member to check.

Residents' speeding fears

Speeding drivers are again upsetting residents in Longfield Avenue.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said he had contacted the police and highway authority to report their concerns.

A drink-drive campaign and a speed operation were instigated, but he was unaware of the outcome as the reports had to be compiled and studied.

Wallisdean parking nightmare

MUMS AND DADS taking and collecting their children at Wallisdean School are finding inconsiderate parking a nightmare.

Normally, Hampshire Highways would provide minimal restrictions at junctions in safety interests, but from April 1 Fareham Council, which has been undertaking traffic regulation orders (TROs) on the County Council's behalf, will terminate the agreement.

HCC cut funding which would have resulted in the Borough Council having to find an extra £60,000, adding 1% to council tax bills.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said HCC would in future only support funding for TROs in life-threatening situations.

A solution might be to involve pupils in an educational survey for which they would stand outside the school in high visibility jackets. "Parents seeing this might be embarrassed into driving and parking more sensibly – something for the school to consider," he added.

Help promised for hall revamp

OVER 300 people attended the senior citizens' fair organised by Fareham MP Suella Fernandes at St John the Evangelist church hall.

Its aim was to provide help and advice to the elderly on dealing with loneliness. There were 25 exhibitors, including local groups and charities and it's hoped to make it an annual event.

Meanwhile, the hall which is the heart of the community, is looking tired and shabby and urgently needs refurbishment.

Councillor Dennis Steadman has promised to support the church warden and committee who are applying for a County Council grant to revamp the kitchen and carry out other repairs.

"If necessary, I will approach Fareham Borough Council for any shortfall," he said.



Jail for the man who did this



FLY-TIPPER Ashley Mooney, formerly from Gosport dumped this load of rubbish which blocked Spurlings Lane.

He also off-loaded lorry loads in Gosport, Winchester and Eastleigh.

Mooney, who admitted 14 charges, was prosecuted by all four councils and jailed for 12 months. It cost a total of £25,618 to clear up his mess and bring him to book.

Councillor Dennis Steadman was delighted the offender was caught.

People complained the problem was caused by HCC charging for commercial waste at recycling centres, but that was untrue.

"A chargeable service is now offered for trade waste where previously there was no service at all," he said.

Fly-tipping is a crime and the Council will prosecute offenders.

- Maximum penalty for companies who fly-tip is £3m and £95,000 for individuals.
- Low-level offending can bring fines up to £10,000 and up to 3 years' jail.
- The Environment Agency can recover costs by seizing vehicles used for fly-tipping.
- Clearing up litter in Fareham is the second highest cost on council taxpayers' bills.

Licensing committee rules workers' club's rowdy past irrelevant in extension decision

DESPITE objections and a history of incidents of drunkenness and rowdy behaviour over the years, an application to extend licensing hours at Fareham Working Men's Club was successful.

Nine objections were received by the Borough Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee and two residents living near the club spoke at the meeting.

Councillor Dennis Steadman, who also attended, said their fears were based on problems experienced since the club opened in the 1970s.

"Residents had their fears justified on numerous occasions by having to call for help from the police.



"However, although many of these fears were highlighted, the application was for extended hours and the panel had to decide on that issue, not the history," he said.

The secretary assured the panel they had trained staff to deal with any rowdiness. Committee chairman Councillor Pam Bryant

said: "There was no representation from police or Environmental Health, therefore the panel was bound to infer no objection is held from responsible authorities."

The application sought to bring use of the concert hall in line with the hours permitted for the club under the club premises licence and would not increase the frequency or intensity of use or the intensity of use.

Permission was granted to extend the hours of sales of alcohol from Monday to Thursday from 10 am to 11.30pm in the concert hall, in addition to the licensing hours of 10am to midnight at weekends.



Keith gets things moving

TWO local issues have been resolved by Councillor Keith Barton.

With cold weather forecast, a resident contacted him to ask for a grit bin to be placed on the slope at the beginning of Paxton Road.

Keith, pictured with the new bin, said: "It was installed within a couple of weeks, which was an impressive response from Hampshire County Council."

There wasn't a bus shelter in Bishopsfield Road opposite Butser Walk, so residents in Barnfield Court had to wait in the shelter across the street in wet weather, then cross the busy street.

A new company took over the Borough's bus shelter contract, and Keith, pictured with the new shelter, pushed the Council to find enough cash to get an unused one re-located.



Better access on new community bus

DELIVERY of a new minibus by Fareham's Community Transport took place in December.

Local groups will now have greater access to good quality transport.

Fareham MP Suella Fernandes, pictured with County Councillor Chris Matthews, presented the keys to one of

the volunteer drivers. Fareham Community Transport relies on volunteers, as drivers and others maintain the buses.

The County Council funds the co-ordination and promotion of the service. Chris Matthews said: "HCC recognises the importance of alleviating isolation among older people."



**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
Fareham South**



Dennis Steadman
77 Mill Road
Fareham PO16 0TP
Tel: 01329 285667
email: dsteadman@fareham.gov.uk



Keith Barton
2a Drift Road
Fareham PO16 8SY
Tel: 01329 286396
email: kbarton@fareham.gov.uk

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS
Fareham Town**



Peter Latham
Posbrook Gardens
Triangle Lane
Titchfield PO14 4HD
Tel: 01329 843267
email: peter.latham@hants.gov.uk



Chris Matthews
4 Greyfriars Road
Fareham PO15 5PD
Tel: 01329 481053
email: chris.matthews@hants.gov.uk

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 us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham South Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Keith Barton on 01329 286396.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

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

A clear plan for Brexit and an economy that works

The Prime Minister has set out a bold plan for a global Britain.

It contains 12 objectives including controlling our own laws, strengthening the Union, controlling immigration, protecting workers' rights, free trade with European markets and new trade agreements with other countries.



After a Parliamentary vote and debate, Article 50 will be triggered, enabling the formal process of withdrawal to begin.

All of this is set against a backdrop of the lowest unemployment in 10 years, the UK being the fastest growing G7 economy, the deficit cut by two thirds and Global businesses like Nissan and Google investing in the UK since the Referendum to create even more jobs here.

The UK's strength will ensure that we can deal with the challenge ahead!

Suella



FERNANDES MP for Fareham

Hundreds flock to Ferneham Hall for Apprentice Fair

EQUIPPING Fareham's young people with skills and know-how is crucial to ensuring that they thrive in the workplace, build expertise and boost business.

I am passionate about apprenticeships as a means of empowering the next generation and was delighted to hold my second Apprenticeships Fair in Ferneham Hall in January.

Hundreds of school pupils, sixth formers and job-seekers attended the day event, kindly sponsored by Segensworth-based manufacturers, Saab Seaeeye.

With over 30 organisations represented, covering the IT, engineering, aerospace, marine, health services, care, military, naval and charitable sectors, visitors met employers, apprentices and learnt more about training and jobs.

Throughout the day, workshops were held at the Careers Hub on CV preparation, inter-



Suella discusses the fair with Saab Seaeeye apprentices Jack Burgess (left) and Zach Coates.

view skills and presentation.

By the end of the whole day, some people even left with an offer of an interview!

Suella said: "Thanks to all sponsors and companies who made the event possible."

FAREHAM CONSTITUENCY NEWS

Progress on Fareham Community Hospital

We need to use Fareham Community Hospital better.

That's why I set up The Fareham Community Hospital Taskforce (pictured) last year.

The local CCG has now agreed to a pilot project which will enable the hospital to be used by more healthcare providers and will create a more centralised management system to help patients make better use of this valuable local asset.



Office of National Statistics visit Parliament

I was delighted to welcome Fareham's team from the Office of National Statistics to the Houses of Parliament.

We had a good discussion on the impact of the Digital Economy Bill related to the work that the ONS does.



Speaking up for Southern Rail commuters

The Southern Rail strikes have affected many rail commuters in Fareham. They are totally unacceptable, when there are no jobs at stake, no pay cuts and no safety implications of the new driver-operated doors.

I raised the issue in Parliament with the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, who urged the Rail Unions to call off strikes and come back to the negotiating table.



CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street
Fareham PO16 0BN
Tel: 01329 233 573
www.suellafernandes.co.uk

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/contact

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.