



InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – 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.



POSITIVE steps are being taken to make better use of Fareham's £25m Community Hospital.

Since it opened in 2010, it's only operated a business week of 45 hours and just 40% of its space is used.

Putting Community Hospital to better use

Councillor Susan Bayford blames the original funding arrangement whereby community health partnerships (which paid for the build and maintenance) have charged commercial rent and demand separate leases for use of the rooms.

"This has led to the nonsense of no single person being in control and some NHS users seeking cheaper accommodation elsewhere.

"For example, community nurse staff are currently accommodated at the Office of National Statistics in Segensworth," she said.

In January, Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group agreed a single annual payment with the CHP for the rest of the contract.

The remaining issue is that of a single NHS manager, as CHP insist on appointing one to control useage!

NEWS ROUND



Going swimmingly

Holly Hill Leisure Centre, opened by Olympic gold medallist Adam Peaty in October, is thriving.

Over 2,500 memberships have been taken out and the £9m centre receives an average of 35,000 visitors a week.

"This is excellent. We are delighted," said ward Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans.

Crossing points welcomed

Residents have welcomed plans to improve crossing points at two locations along Locks Road, reports Councillor Keith Evans. They are:

- 1 Just north of Northmore Road to improve crossing adjacent to the footpath leading to Honeysuckle Close.
- 2 At the Meadow Avenue junction to give two improved crossing points and to improve the kerbing along the road radius into Meadow Avenue.

Cycle path upgrade

Works agreed by Councillor Keith Evans with the County Council were completed in January/February and have improved the cycle path running between Peters Road and Upper Brook Drive as follows:

- 1 Improvements to the staggered cycle barrier at entrance from Peters Road.
- 2 Construction of new path section and dropped crossing points at entrance from Upper Brook Drive.
- 3 Improvements to existing footway on Upper Brook Drive to accommodate cyclists.

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.

Councillors' action brings footpath upgrade

A WELL-USED pathway has been upgraded after a resident complained to local Conservative councillors.

Peter Wright took Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans to show them the path which runs between Locks Road and the Shopping Village (reported in our Spring 2016 edition).

Susan and Keith acted quickly and invited the County Council's senior transport planner, Steve Faulkner, to inspect the site and he agreed the path should be upgraded and widened to make it more amenable for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability motor scooters.

Pictured are Keith and Susan showing Pe-

ter Wright (right) and residents Carol and Roy Young (left), of Locks Road, the result.



Graves space runs out

THE ONLY open cemetery serving the Western Wards is full and an urgent extension has been approved.

This will create space for 377 more graves and 240 cremated remains plots to the south east at a cost of £300,000.

A programme of planting will be undertaken around the site and on land at Coldeast to mitigate the loss of trees.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "Any decision to extend the cemetery will need to be carefully considered as we seek to ensure adequate provision of burial plots in the Western Wards, while balancing environmental needs."

First phases of the extension should start around autumn 2017, with a view to being available for burials in early 2019.

Late summer review for new draft Borough Plan



WORK on writing the new Fareham Borough Plan that will identify housing and employment requirements to 2036 is making good progress.

A draft is likely to be reviewed by the Fareham Executive in August/September. This will indicate the level of additional housing that can be provided from within the existing urban area (brownfield sites) and the level that will need new greenfield sites.

This draft will then be subject to full public consultation. It will include an assessment of all the greenfield/countryside sites that have been submitted to be considered for new development, a statement of the Planning Strategy to be used in selecting new sites and details of the new sites that meet the deliverability and planning strategy guidelines.

Welborne remains the core element to meet our housing needs with around 6,000 new houses proposed for this location, with 270 acres of natural green space and the relevant required infrastructure.

The new plan should reach its final stage of approval before the end of 2018.

Meantime, Fareham will continue to judge new planning applications against the existing adopted plan and its objectives/policies.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "This was the position taken at the last Fareham Planning Committee meeting which considered two applications from Taylor Wimpey and Foreman Homes for 80 and 150 houses respectively on land north of Greenaway Lane.

"Both were refused by the committee for the basic reason of being outside the urban area and in designated countryside, and not required to meet housing needs in the present adopted Borough Plan.

"These decisions can, of course, be appealed by the developer and it is worth noting that both have been submitted as greenfield for consideration in the new Borough Plan."

Anti-social behaviour crackdown

DRUNKENESS, drug dealing, begging and sleeping rough in Fareham town centre will no longer be tolerated.

Persistent complaints about anti-social behaviour forced the Council to act and a Public Protection Order came into force in January.

County Councillor Keith Evans says the police work closely with the Council, which in turn works with special support organisations to help people. The Order will only

be used as a last resort if offenders persist in anti-social activities.

He adds: "There is no need to be homeless as the Council has a duty to house people in need. However, some choose not to take up this option

"We believe this approach balances the support and needs of people with our duty to respond to complaints from the public and take action against illegal activities."

Parliament visit for deliverers

VOLUNTEERS who give up their time to deliver InTouch were rewarded with a trip to the Houses of Parliament.

It was arranged by Locks Heath Councillors Keith Evans and Susan Bayford and the party included deliverers from neighbouring wards, Park Gate and Sarisbury.

The group toured the House of Commons and House of Lords, then had tea in the Jubilee Tea Room with Fareham MP Suella Fernandes, who hosted the event.



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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.

Volunteers bring seasonal good cheer to Locks Heath

CHARITY begins at home and there was plenty around Locks Heath at Christmas.



Abbeyfield Court, a sheltered home offering supported living for the elderly, held its annual Christmas lunch, attended by all the residents who enjoyed the cooking of manager Neil Thompson and his team.

PHOTO: Judith Arnold Boakes, residents' committee members Hilary Wartig, Christine Cheshire, Sarah Clansy and Robin Kelly, who are volunteers at Abbeyfield, and chairman Gail Leitelmayer, Neil Thompson, housekeepers Alison Walker and Rita Burchett, guests Councillors Susan and Brian Bayford.

Lockswood Community & Sports Association (LCSA) joined in the fun for the Locks Heath Christmas lights switch-on.

Staff members Bev Colborne and Jess Gentle and the trustees worked hard preparing the hall and many children were delighted to meet Father Christmas and his helpful elf, Danielle.



A cake stall was run by Lesley Randall and her sister Marie. Trustee Jacqueline and members of the Inner Wheel of Locks Heath ran a tombola and trustee Kirsten and her Bodyrox team performed.

Councillor Susan Bayford, who represents Fareham Council, said £710 was raised for the centre, which is run as a charity.

PHOTO: Bev Colborne, Father Christmas Dave Grindey, treasurer Ray Randall, Danielle the elf and Jess Gentle.

The Friends of Fareham Community Hospital (FFCH) hosted a Christmas party which was attended by many volunteers who support the Dementia Friendly Clinic and the Phlebotomy appointments desk.

Trustees chairman Jill Sadler welcomed everyone to the event and said that the Friends would

continue their series of health talks in 2017, topics for which are chosen by the community.



PHOTO: Includes Jill Sadler, trustees, volunteers and patrons, Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward and Councillor Brian Bayford.

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."

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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/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.

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.

