



# InTouch

TITCHFIELD, TITCHFIELD COMMON & CATISFIELD – 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)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,512.62 (+£65.06)</b>

## 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 Sarah Pankhurst 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 usage!



# NEWS ROUND



**Masked ball**  
There's a different theme for this year's Mayor's Charity Ball – guests will have to wear masks.



It will be at Fernham Hall on March 31 with music from Sounds Alive.

Tickets cost £45 each or £40 if you make up a table for 10 and can be obtained from the Mayor's Office on 01329 824303 or from the Mayor, Councillor Connie Hockley, on 01329 287365.

## Tea and talks for charity

The Mayor also raises funds for her charities through afternoon tea parties, which include a speaker, at the Civic Offices. They cost £4 and start at 2.30.

The final two will feature Richard Boden with 'The siege of Malta' on March 2 and Matt Wakefield with 'This and that' on April 6.

## Elderly warned of scams

Recent scams targeting the elderly – including 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.

## Fund raiser

Friends of Fareham Community Hospital thanked attendees at a recent £7 a head meeting for their support. Funds raised will be used to provide volunteers and help the hospital to improve patient care.

## Noisy recycling banks to be moved

**RECYCLING** banks at Barry's Meadow will be moved after noise complaints from residents whose new flats overlook them.

Fareham's Environmental Health Department agreed with the residents and said it would serve an abatement notice had the banks been privately operated.



Councillor Tiffany Harper said it was one of the most popular sites in the Western Wards and well used. Officers looked at several alternatives, before recommending relocating the banks

for a trial period of 3 months to sites at Titchfield Community Centre (pictured) and Titchfield Recreation Ground.

## Councillors see police at work

**COUNCILLORS** visited Park Gate police station to learn how their wards are policed.

A review of how reported incidents are processed was presented and issues facing residents regarding crime and antisocial behaviour were discussed.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst, pictured with Sergeant Nick Morgan,



said: "I particularly like the regular meetings that the Police arrange within Fareham Shopping Mall and Waitrose in Locks Heath Shopping Centre, where the public can raise concerns with their local officers."

"The police are an invaluable service that we should never take for granted."

## Campaign success as defib unit is fixed to community centre wall



### THIS device will save lives.

An automatic external defibrillator (AED) has been mounted on a wall at Abshot Community Centre, thanks to the management committee and local Councillor Sarah Pankhurst.

Sarah said she was pleased to support committee member Laura Wareham with advice from One Community in applying for community funding to buy the AED.

It is located outside the main entrance and will be logged on to the NHS database.

She said: "Working for the NHS 111 Service, I see first-hand how important this technology is in the fight to save those with heart problems."

"Indeed, the AED has proven time again that if used quickly and efficiently it saves lives. It is important places such as community centres have easy access to this technology."

Sarah and the Abshot committee thanked Claire Benfield of Fareham Borough Council for helping with the project.

**PHOTO** (l to r): Sarah Pankhurst, Bev Longhurst, Laura Wareham, Dorothy Bone, Dawn McLean and committee chairman Shaun Merington.



Last call: Sarah Pankhurst

## Titchfield game of phones

**Hello Connie...**  
I hear you've got a problem with a battered old phone kiosk.  
So have I. Residents have complained the phone box at Dimmock's Corner is in a disgraceful state.  
I contacted BT and I'm pleased to say its days are numbered. How about yours?

**Hello Sarah...**  
I've been trying for ages to get rid of this one at the bottom of Catisfield Lane junction with the A27, which is a real eyesore.  
After consultation with BT, they have at last confirmed that they have added it to their list for removal. No hang-ups, hopefully.

### THEY are destined to join dozens of others in the great phone box graveyard.

It's on an obscure industrial site in Newark, Nottinghamshire, run by X2 Connect (pictured).



But it's unlikely to be their final resting place because BT is on to a nice little

earner selling off the classic K6 kiosks, designed for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935.

At a starting price of nearly £2,000, demand is high from collectors and people who want them as garden features or mini greenhouses.



End of the line: Connie Hockley

## Appeal to voters as busy year lies ahead for Mayor Connie and Consort Geoff

**GEOFF HOCKLEY** has been your **Conservative** representative for the last 16 years, during which only around 35% of Titchfield residents actually voted.

I still manage to obtain a majority of about 1,000, a figure which suggests to many that voting is unnecessary as the result will be 'the same as usual'.

It saddens me that so many don't see a point in voting. How can we improve matters if we don't appear to care?

If I am successful at the May election, the following 4 years will be as busy and

constructive as the previous 16.

I have substantially assisted with:

- Work on the Titchfield Canal which has for the first time in many years flowed without flooding gardens.

- Reduced traffic speed in several roads by the use of stickers fixed on wheelie bins promoting careful driving.

I have had the unforgettable honour of being Consort to my wife, Connie, during her year as Mayor of Fareham.

It would be a marvellous year if we could substantially increase the percentage vote in Titchfield Division.

### IT'S BEEN a busy time for Fareham Mayor Councillor Connie Hockley.

One of her duties was to host a Christmas jumper fund raiser organised by the Council's COMMS team, which collected £280 for Y-Services.

**PHOTO:** The Mayor, with consort County Councillor Geoff Hockley (right) and staff sport their festive jumpers in the parlour.



Another of many events she attended was to unveil a plaque presented by

The Fareham Society in respect of its 40th anniversary Design Award at Fareham College.

**PHOTO:** The Mayor unveils the plaque watched by principal Nigel Duncan and Steve Dingsdale, assistant principal and managing director of CEMAST.

### BOROUGH COUNCILLORS Titchfield



**Connie Hockley**  
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### BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Titchfield Common



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### COUNTY COUNCILLOR Fareham Titchfield



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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 us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Titchfield Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Sarah Pankhurst on 07718 137 825.

**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."

### CONTACT SUELLA

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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](http://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.

