



InTouch

WHITELEY – 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 Jon Butts 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," he 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



Age Concern book launch

Councillor Seán Woodward was delighted to visit the Lockwood Day Centre recently to experience their intergenerational activities.

These involved young and old sharing in singing and games as well as just chatting.

He's pictured with the management team at the launch of *Getting On*, an interesting book written by Age Concern clients about their experiences of life.



Education Minister's visit

It was great to be able to invite Education Secretary Justine



Greening to a dinner at the Solent Hotel recently to talk about the government's plans to bring grammar schools back to Hampshire.

She is pictured with Fareham MP Suella Fernandes and Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward.

Parkinson's party

Councillor Seán Woodward is the President of the Fareham and District Branch of Parkinson's UK.

He was delighted to welcome Fareham MP Suella Fernandes to the group's Christmas party.

Pictured with incoming chairman Valerie Rossiter.



Speed cushions 'a huge success'

TRAFFIC calming measures in Yew Tree Drive have been lauded as 'a significant success'.

This was the conclusion after County Councillor Seán Woodward recently visited the site with highways engineers.

There had been a real lowering of speeds, despite the huge increase in traffic since the opening of the bus link to all vehicles.

Possible improvements costing £20,000 were highlighted, including extra painting and introduction of more speed cushions in the centre of the road, where some bad drivers swerve to try to avoid them.

"We successfully asked for dragons' teeth to be put along the verges outside the doctors' surgery to stop drivers who prefer to destroy the grass rather than find a legal parking space."



Better broadband on the way

EFFORTS to get better broadband for Whiteley are paying off.

After meeting local broadband activist Mat Stocks and Virgin director Hugh Woolford (pictured), Councillor Seán Woodward said:

"There is a commitment to extend Virgin network which, fortunately, doesn't depend on BT infrastructure.

"There should be a significant cabling of Dumas Drive area and some service into roads already enjoying Virgin.

"I must pay tribute to Mat's determination to help improve the local service."



'A Lidl in the wrong place' fears of knock-on effect



Councillor Jon Butts said residents would have received a letter from Lidl about their new store of 1,500 sq metres (4,920 sq ft) that they wish to build on Solent Way.

Lidl say it will have 121 parking spaces, an in-house bakery and create 40 jobs.

Jon Butts said: "You will all be aware of the increasing traffic concerns in Whiteley area and we have received several emails from residents concerned about the knock-on effect of traffic in Park Gate.

The site, which is in Winchester City Council's district, is currently an overgrown wilderness,

He said it was planned to take vehicle access off Solent Way, via the business park that connects to Rookery Avenue, Whiteley Way and surrounding residential areas, including Whiteley Shopping Centre and Swanwick.

He added: "I am seriously concerned about the traffic impact that this store would have on an already congested area and support the residents who have contacted me about a store such as Lidl being built in this location."

Residents who wish to comment should write to Roger Huxstep, the Winchester City councillor for this part of Whiteley (rhuxstep@winchester.gov.uk). Formal objections should be made to Winchester City Council who will make the decision.

Councillor Seán Woodward commented: "While further diversity of shopping on offer is welcome, there are concerns."

He told Lidl's senior consultant: "Road improvements planned for Whiteley are not planned and funded to facilitate a Lidl supermarket and its effects on the local road network.

FEARS of a huge traffic knock-on effect are mounting in Park Gate after Lidl submitted plans for a superstore at neighbouring Whiteley.

Kick-start funding bid for M27 J9

A BID for funding to improve the M27 Junction 9 has been submitted and a decision is expected in March.

Councillor Seán Woodward lobbied the Roads Minister to have the scheme reinstated after it was pulled at the end of 2015 because no work had started.

Enabling works were carried out a few years ago by Highway England (HE) and the original scheme was simply to increase stacking space on the off-slips including a cycle lane from the Rookery Avenue roundabout to Segensworth.

If the bid is successful, funding will be shared by HE and the County Council.



Urgent need for cemetery extension

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 Seán Woodward (pictured) said the cemetery was opened in 1957 and had been a popular location for burials due to its tranquil surroundings.

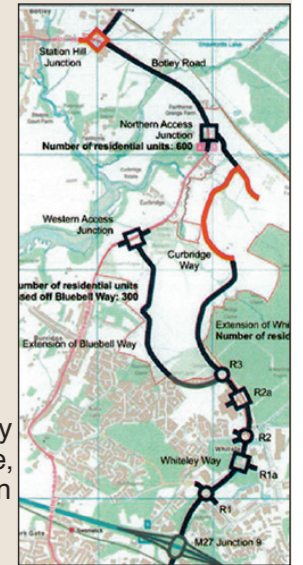
"It is only fair that people should be able to have their loved ones buried close so that they can visit their graves easily.

"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.

"I have been contacted by older residents concerned about the lack of cemetery space in the area. I am pleased that we now have a solution for their concerns."

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



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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, attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Jon Butts 07464 847852.

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.

