



InTouch

Fareham North West **GRAPEVINE No 99** 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.

Borough bus tour helps councillors get to grips with ward issues

NORTH WEST WARD Conservative Councillors Peter Davies and Fred Birkett joined other members for one of their regular bus tours of the Borough.

Peter Davies said: "Every ward was visited so that when issues come before the Council everyone has a better understanding of them.

"We were particularly interested to view our newest leisure facilities such as Portchester Community Centre and Holly Hill



Leisure Centre, plus the Innovation Centre at Daedalus and the Solent Airport .

"We also took in Coldeast in the west to Highlands shopping parade and Funtley in the north, Portchester shopping precinct and the new Lidl store in the east.

"Sites likely to come forward for development were also viewed, including Warsash Maritime College and controversial sites such as Newlands at Stubbington and Cranleigh Road, Portchester."



NEWS ROUND

Pop in for a coffee

We have a 'Grapevine' drop-in coffee morning at the Highlands hub on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.



We would love to chat with you.

Of course if it is more convenient, give us a ring and we'll come round to your home.

Make a note of our addresses, telephone numbers and emails. They're in the panel at the foot of the page.

£60,000 revamp

Fred Birkett attended last month's public consultation in St Francis Church when residents gave their input to a plan for a £60,000 revamp at Funtley recreation ground. Children living in North West Ward often use the Funtley play area.

Festive spirit

Local resident Mary Shepherd and her family really entered into the festive spirit.

They laid on a 3-course Christmas dinner for the ward's lonely folk and 22 residents were transported to North West Community Centre to enjoy it.

The guests were treated to a quiz and raffle and each took home a parcel containing their tea and presents given by generous local businesses and well-wishers.

Community Action Fareham coordinated this event.

Recommended

Do you need help with your garden or cleaning?

Fred and Peter have both used Ryan and are impressed by his work. You can contact Ryan on 0795 073 3048

Selfish drivers drain resources

THOUGHTLESS drivers are causing damage across the Borough by driving and parking on verges and green areas.

Councillor Peter Davies, pictured showing tyre tracks at Hammond Road, commented: "It is not purely because the damage caused is unsightly.

"Remedial work is paid for by the Borough Council, which in effect prevents these resources being more directed to where they are really needed rather than a totally preventable work order."

Contact Peter or Fred Birkett if you wish to report such incidents.



Attraction to the Manor reborn

WORK has begun to transform Westbury Manor Museum into a 'vibrant cultural centre'.

Fareham Council is contributing the major sum of £483,000, Hampshire Cultural Trust will give £100,000 with the County Council providing architectural input.

Councillor Peter Davies said: "It is the first time for many years that this much-needed work on the historic Grade 2 listed building has happened, but once completed it will have the potential to attract visitors from a wider area."

The ground floor will become a cultural space with pop-up exhibitions; the railings on the front courtyard will be removed to create a garden patio. Upstairs will be turned into a digital exhibition charting Fareham's history.



Wanton rubbish dumper jailed for 12 months



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

He also off-loaded trash in Gosport, Winchester and Eastleigh and was prosecuted by all four councils.

Mooney, who pleaded guilty to 14 charges and was jailed for 12 months, charged up to £150 a time to take away rubbish, using Facebook to tout.

Costs to landowners and councils to clear it plus the prosecution totalled £25,618.

Peter Davies, who has received much correspondence on the issue, was delighted the offender was caught.

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

"This is completely untrue because until October no sites would accept commercial waste. A chargeable service is now offered for trade waste where previously there was none."

Fly-tipping is a crime and the Council says offenders will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

- Maximum penalty for companies 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.

Peter and Fred are keeping close watch on planning matters



WITH the lack of housing locally and nationally, it may seem odd that new developments are met with opposition.

However, not all building development applications are good news for everyone.

For example, in Tewksbury Avenue, pictured

left with Councillor Fred Birkett, the original application was to squeeze 8 chalet-style bungalows on to a small plot requiring demolition of the existing bungalow.

This application was successfully resisted and agreement was achieved to reduce the number of dwellings down to 7, to make them standard bungalows with no opportunity to extend into the loft and with additional caveats to protect the interests of local residents.

Additionally, land adjoining Hope Cottage that abuts the countryside pictured right with Councillor Peter Davies, may soon have an application for change of use into a residential

development. This may affect the wildlife, the environment and character of the area in a detrimental way.

Therefore, it is important that each application is scrutinised and, where needed, challenged.

If you have any concerns about developments that may affect you, please do get in touch with either Fred Birkett or Peter Davies.



Fred shapes up for Marathon date

SWEAT pours from Fred Birkett as he steps up his training routine for the big day – the London Marathon on St George's Day, April 23.

There's no doubt Fred (45) is the fittest of Fareham's 31 borough councillors and he's lost nearly 21/2 stone with his current routine of running 4 mornings a week, covering between 3-7 miles, plus two or three weight training sessions.

"I anticipate losing another stone during the rest of my training," says Fred, who is seeking sponsors for two charities for which he's raising money – Highlands Hub and MIND's Wellbeing Centre in West Street.

It's his first Marathon and he aims towards a finishing time of 4hr 30min for the 26 miles 385 yards of bodily torture.

To donate and to see his training updates, go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frederick-birkett or pop into the Highlands Hub and fill in a sponsorship form.

Group aids the lonely

THE ELDERLY need not be lonely in our ward, says Councillor Fred Birkett.

A seniors' group called Tea, Talk and Tonk meets at North West Community Centre on Monday afternoons.

It offers a way of socialising over a cup of tea with a varied list of light activities and selected speakers. The aim is to mentor and support the participants so they can become a self-sustaining group.

For details phone 01329 231899 or email LudyT@FarehamNWCA.org.uk.

• Tonk – Our word for pétanque

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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 Fareham North West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

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

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.

