

**CONSERVATIVES** keeping our community



# InTouch

**FAREHAM SOUTH – Spring 2018**

## Just a 1p a day rise as Tories set austerity-defying budget

**CONSERVATIVES** have agreed yet another austerity-defying budget for Fareham.

Despite losing its entire Revenue Support Grant from government, the Borough share of council tax will rise by just 1p a day for the average home.

The Council spends £46m delivering services, but the amount raised in council tax accounts for only 14% of that sum, so we have to raise the rest by investing YOUR money wisely.

For example, over £26m has been invested in the last 3 years in commercial property, mainly in Fareham Borough, producing an income of nearly £2m a year.

Without this income your council tax would have to be increased by nearly 30%.

The resulting budget sees the Council's services remain intact and a district council tax which remains almost the lowest in the country.

Car parking charges are frozen for the 7th year and continue to apply only in the town centre, and free in the evenings and Sundays in the long-stay car parks.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "Times are incredibly hard in the public sector, but we have been able to preserve all the services which our residents value



Official opening of Daedalus runway. Fareham Council is investing £15m to extend the successful Innovation Centre, providing 11 new hangars at Solent Enterprise Zone to help create thousands of new jobs.

while respecting that many, particularly those on fixed incomes, would find even modest increases in our charges difficult to bear."

## Welborne to Waterloo? Garden village lined up for new station

**WELBORNE is on track for its own railway station, linking the new garden village directly to London Waterloo.**

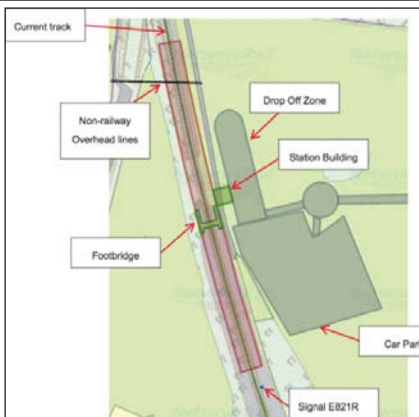
A feasibility study commissioned by Fareham Borough Council and carried out by Network Rail in November sees it as a viable project, costing up to £78m.

It's good news all round as the Council has been awarded £10m by the government to deliver vital road improvements to upgrade the M27 J10 to an all-moves junction.

Four potential sites for the new station were identified, the most favoured option being within Welborne, with direct access into the development allowing flexibility for the local transport strategy.

It would have parking for 200 vehicles and a drop-off space.

Phase 1 of the plan shows a 250m platform to accommodate a 12-car train on the existing single track.



Phase 2 shows restoration of the double track between Fareham tunnel and Botley, with two platforms.

Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "A railway station at Welborne is part of our vision for a well-connected, thriving new community and we recognise the strong employment and social benefits that this would bring.

"It is our aim to work with the appropriate partners to make this happen and, most importantly, to ensure that we do not make any planning decisions that could prejudice the future delivery of a railway station at Welborne."

Managing Director at Buckland Development Ltd John Beresford said: "Our plans for Welborne always included safeguarding an area of land for a potential rail link.

"This feasibility study is an encouraging next step that keeps an exciting transport option open."

**SKETCH:** Outline of Phase 1 preferred option.

**Almost England's lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES**



# NEWS ROUND

## Farewell Dennis



Dennis Steadman, who has been one of our Conservative councillors for the past 17 years, has decided to stand down in May.

He said: "It has been a very difficult decision to make but I do not feel that I could afford you, my friends, the same level of service I hope I have always given you."

"Thank you so much for the support and faith that you have entrusted in me all those years, but I feel my decision is the right one and for the good of all."

"I will always be around to offer advice and point you in the right direction."

Dennis says Geoff Fazackarley, Fareham's current Mayor with whom he's pictured, will make an excellent replacement and hopes you will support him at the May elections.

### Takeaway for charity

Please support the Mayor's two charities – Sam's Haven and the Moving On Project – by buying an Indian takeaway from Ghandi's in Anjou Crescent on the night of April 30.

Every year, owner Abu kindly donates the evening's takings to the Mayor's charities. Order on 01329 842183.

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## Call for mobility scooter pod space

RESIDENTS have been asking Geoff Fazackarley for more provision for spaces to store mobility scooters.

Fareham Borough Council says although space is limited, some people do have small bits of land joining their properties where a hard-standing could be laid down and a cable run through into the house for charging the scooter.

"Barbara at 48 Barnfield asked if we could use a space by her property where an overgrown bush was an eyesore, so we had it removed leaving space to install two scooter pods."

Other works involving mobility scooters included having a dragon's tooth moved as it was impeding the footpath and we asked for some dropped kerbs to be lowered as they were not completely flat.

Geoff added: "These spaces are necessary we need to help our elderly residents as much as we can and this gives them a bit more freedom."



## Road improvements rejected

DESPITE repeated efforts by ward councillors, Hampshire County Council has again refused to make improvements in Bishopsfield Road, the junction with Butser Walk and in Redlands Lane.

The County Council does not see it as a safety issue, and the only glimmer of hope is that HCC say they may look at the feasibility of a pedestrian refuge island.

Councillor Keith Barton received a lengthy explanation from Andy Smith in Traffic Management, which basically stated it was down to lack of funding and the small number of accidents were insufficient criteria to justify the changes asked for.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "We will press harder for the County to get the job done and we will be pushing to the highest levels to achieve our residents' goals."

## Councillors welcome new play area, but say all must be updated



A NEW play area will be built off Bishopsfield Road.

It will be provided with a contribution from developers of the former Fareham College site.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "We are pleased this new area is going ahead, although the exact location is still to be finalised and Fareham Council will hold public consultations."

"The process should be under way at the time we go to press, but contact your ward councillors if you have ideas on what you'd like to see in this new venture."

Conservative councillors have been

pushing for years for more provisions for young people and other play areas in South Ward are being looked at, including Crossfell Walk, which Councillor Dennis Steadman has been urging the Council to modernise.

Geoff added: "This proves the Council has kept its word in providing new services for our children and we will be pushing for all our play areas to be refurbished."

Public consultation for the college play area runs from February 26 to March 26 and there will be a special event at Broadlaw Community Centre on March 19, 4pm to 6pm.

## Helping the elderly with bus service queries



COUNCILLORS Geoff Fazackarley and Keith Barton attended a coffee morning at Trafalgar Court to help residents with queries on local bus services.

Geoff, who designs many routes across the Borough as part of his job, discussed the pros and cons of the entire procedure, costs of running a bus service and where they might expect new routes in the future.

He also promised he would look into discussions with First Bus to improve links to Fareham town centre.

PHOTO: Keith and Geoff meeting residents at Trafalgar Court

## In the correct bin

MAUREEN, like many people, sometimes gets a little confused over what goes in the blue top bin.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley was on hand to explain.

"Would you believe we've even had an engine put in the blue bin!" he said.



'We're determined to get this path to the bus route'



GEOFF Fazackarley has reassured residents in Trafalgar Court that everything will be done to secure the footpath they want across Cams Alders to the BRT route.

He said: "I apologise to a few of the residents in Trafalgar Court about the footpath story in the last InTouch."

"When I visited them a short while ago with an officer from Fareham Council, I was informed that they felt they were not consulted in any way."

"Many residents feel that some form of footpath is needed to take people across the Cams field to get them over to the bus routes in Redlands lane."

"They feel that the path that goes through some woodland and across muddy grass is not suitable."

"The Cams Alders project that was going to include looking at a footpath was axed when the project got put on hold."

"However, I was informed that it has started up again but even if this project does not include a path, the Council will look at putting one in."

"The safety of our residents is Keith's and my highest priority and getting this path done will ensure a safer route."

Image: The proposed 221.6m (243 yards) path is outlined in yellow. The red indicates where scrub would be removed to improve sight lines.

### 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



**Fred Birkett**  
22 Lynden Close  
Fareham PO14 3AL  
Tel: 0750 5000 987  
Email: fred.birkett@hants.gov.uk

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.

### 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.

# Fareham traffic pollution brings Environment Minister to town

**POOR AIR** quality caused by traffic pollution in several parts of Fareham led to a Government minister visiting to see what action the Council is taking.

The Council is taking it seriously and, with ANPR cameras monitoring 27 sites across the Borough, is doing its best to improve the situation.

There will be a new air quality working group consisting of councillors and other partners.

A survey will be carried out to see the nature of traffic using these roads and the information will be part of our new plan that must be submitted to the Government by the end of March this year.

The Government recently published a new Air Quality Plan, looking at ways of reducing unacceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide vehicle emissions.

The report highlighted hotspots in Fareham, including the A27 near the Delme roundabout down to Quay Street roundabout, part of Gosport Road, and along the A27 to the Station roundabout.

It sparked a recent visit to Fareham by Environment Min-



ister Dr Thérèse Coffey to discuss the Council's plans to tackle the problem.

She said: "Air pollution has improved significantly since 2010 but we recognise there is more to do which is why we have put in place a £3.5 billion plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions.

"I am delighted to see Fareham taking this seriously and that discussions are underway, and I look forward to seeing firm plans for action as they develop further."

Fareham South Conservative Councillor Keith Barton said: "It's only by working with all agencies and with our residents we can make the difference.

"Geoff Fazackarley and I will monitor the quality of our air, so our residents have a safe clean environment to live and work."

**PHOTOS:** Traffic gridlock in Fareham centre. Inset (above) Environment Minister Dr Thérèse Coffey (below) Portland Street monitoring station.

## Shed your worries and join this practical men's skill group

**FAREHAM Men's Shed (FMS) has been awarded a grant of £1,500 by County Councillor Fred Birkett.**

The money will enable the group to buy specialist power tools and two high specification dust extractors for their woodworking workshop.

FMS started life in May 2016 and has gradually grown to a membership of 43 at the end of 2017.

It is a club for men generally aged 55 and older and meets from 10am until 2pm each day, Monday to Thursday.

Fred Birkett said: "Retirement, and even worse the loss of a partner, can come as a great shock and leave someone very lonely.

"The Shed is somewhere to meet and make new friends. Whether it is just for a chat and a cup of tea or to



FMS members' Christmas draw stand.

learn new skills and make something in the workshop members are free to do what they want and stay all day or just for an hour.

"The group has been involved with several community projects including converting a double decker bus for the homeless and

repairing cages at The Ark animal rescue centre.

"Currently the group is talking to Redlands Lane Junior school about the possibility of making outdoor equipment."

If you would like to find out more, please visit their website at:

[www.farehammensshed.org.uk](http://www.farehammensshed.org.uk)



Fred Birkett tries his luck at the FMS Christmas draw stand in the Shopping Centre.