

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM WEST – 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



After consultation with parents and children nearly £34,000 was spent on Blackbrook Park children's play area. The multi-play unit has a cradle swing, space climber, trim trial, pick-up sticks and roundabout were provided in addition to the existing equipment. Councillor Leslie Keeble (pictured) says they are much appreciated.

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.

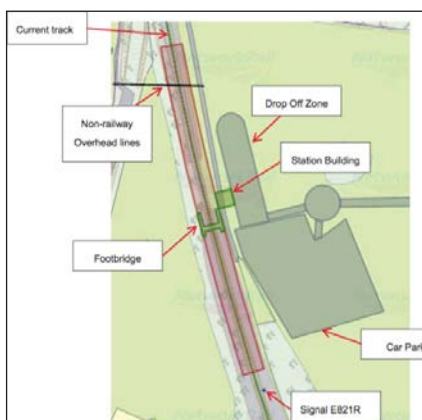
A feasibility study commissioned by Fareham Borough Council and carried out by Network Rail in November sees it as a viable project, costing up to £78m.

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

Curry off

The annual social event at Café Tusk will not be taking place in February.

The restaurant had closed, but re-opened under new management. Leslie and Tina hope to arrange a BBQ later in the year.

The Big Read

Readers will recall the story of World War 2 heroism of Commander John Ouvre DSO RN, of Somerfields, Peak Drive, which we published briefly in our spring edition.



The full feature-length story by InTouch editor Tim King, former defence correspondent with The News, was published on November 23. You can find it on The News website under The Big Read: 'One tiny slip meant instant death for brave Portsmouth mine team' or email Tim at tkroverside@yahoo.co.uk.

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.

Easing pressure on surgeries

The same-day GP service run by Jubilee, Whiteley and Highlands practices is easing pressure on the surgeries while allowing more patients to be seen on the same day. Fareham and Gosport SE Hants Alliance, part of the National Service Out-of-Hours Extended Access (via 111), is seeing patients from 6.30pm to 8pm Mondays to Fridays and 8am to 4.40pm on Saturdays.

It's illegal and it's a danger to cyclists

OCCUPANTS of this property have angered Highlands Road residents by brazenly flouting parking laws.

A resident took the photo which clearly shows two vehicles outside the property blocking the pavement and the cycle lane.

"I find myself regularly reporting various vehicles parking outside this dwelling to the police, but nothing seems to change. "Please deal with this matter before a cyclist is injured."

Councillor Leslie Keeble said it was a police matter and his latest information



was that a police officer was due to call on the resident to listen to the complaints.

They keep their green beautiful

A FEW years ago the green at the entrance to Ashlyn Close was planted by residents with the help of Matt Wakefield of FBC, Fareham In Bloom volunteers and residents who undertook to replant and maintain it.

Over the years, the group waned and today consists of Douglas and Penelope Barnard, Tony and Pat Stowe



and Margaret Hicks, who helps to prune the flowers.

Pictured here with the fruits of their labour are Doug and Penny with their granddaughter Jessica.

Ward Conservative Councillors Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis really appreciate the efforts of these folk to help make the area a delight to behold and wish to say a big 'thank you' to them.

A whistle-stop tour of a railway addict's back yard

RAILWAY buffs would get all steamed up if they visited a back garden in West Ward.

Amid the flower borders and shrubs, the owner has planted his amazing display of railway memorabilia.

It's the fulfilment of owner John's lifelong dream that started as a little boy peering through holes in Jacob's Ladder, the footbridge spanning the main line near Fratton Station in Portsmouth from where he soaked up the fascination of steam trains passing below.



John (we've withheld his name and address) took Leslie Keeble, who also loved train-spotting in his young days, on a whistle-stop tour.

Leslie said: "Some 12 years ago through Railwayana he started to collect the signs from fairs, private sales and Worthing railway sheds.

"He travelled all over the country, the Midlands such as Cannock and Tipton and to Shepton Mallet and the South.

"Many were found in reclamation yards but all were obtained legally.



"The signs are made of metal or stove enamel but John says there are many fakes out there.

"He has researched all the signs' history. The 'Beware of Trains London South Western Railway' is nearly 100 years old.

"Most of the signs date from the 1920s and 1930s and he says the little station signs are worth about £2,500 with larger ones fetching up to £4,000."

Next time you peer over your neighbour's fence you might also see a bit of history.



Centre closure leaves void

THE POPULAR, homely Kershaw Day Centre in Wynton Way closed in December after 30 years.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "The closure means many residents have to travel further afield to other centres.

"Borough and County Councillors are upset to know that those living in central Fare-

ham don't have the pleasure of a truly local service at present."

Age Concern ran the purpose-built centre for many years, but following new contracts offered by the owners, Hampshire County Council, the charity decided it could not afford to bid for the contract.

They're going to have a ball

HOURS of planning go into ensuring fund-raising events for the Mayor's charities are well publicised and run smoothly.

Annual events mean that booking of venues, bands and caterers must be done at least a year in advance.

Advertising has to be timely and precise even down to organising cash floats for the doors and raffle, not forgetting the prizes.

Pictured here the Mayor and Mayoress Geoff and Tina Fazackarley with committee mem-

bers Tina Ellis, Susan and Brian Bayford and Christine Keeble (on floor) finalising details for the Charity Ball at Ferneham Hall on March 24.

The evening will be themed around musical movies. Geoff says that all events are arranged to make fund raising enjoyable.



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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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339.

What's the link between these 3 photographs?



Top (left) Councillor Leslie Keeble puts a bag of material into a Council bin at the Highlands Road shops.

Top (right) With Councillor Tina Ellis and 1st Catisfield Scout Group chairman Andrew Prescott with a modern shower at the Scouts' new HQ.

Bottom: Cubs, Scouts and parents celebrate opening of the refurbished HQ.

Leslie said: "Funds from the sale of materials in these Council bins go to good causes via the Community Fund, from which £30,000 was granted to the Scout group towards the £105,000 they have spent so far.

"The new building now has modern toilets, including a disabled one, shower, meeting room, a super kitchen and new outer cladding and roof.

"Fund raising will continue to enable refurbishment of the hall and storage areas.

"Please help the Council to assist other worthy causes by putting your unwanted shoes and clothes in our bins."

Leslie was so impressed with the group's dedication that he donated a gazebo and large festival tent.

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.

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 Minister 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."

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

Her boots were made for walking, now Sheila has to hang them up



WE OWE our gratitude to Sheila who, over the past 16 years, has walked her socks off for the Conservative Party.

After tramping hundreds of miles and climbing umpteen stairs to flats, Sheila, of Nicholas Crescent, had to give up delivering her quarterly 244 copies of InTouch.

"My legs are not what they used to be and at the age of well over 80 what do you expect?" she said.

Councillors Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis paid tribute to Sheila's

and husband Peter's devotion to the Conservative cause.

"She loved meeting and talking to people and will miss it a great deal," said Leslie, "she wishes she could continue."

The couple spent many hours helping with envelope stuffing in the Conservative Office, also addressing and stamping mail, especially at election time.

PHOTO: Leslie and Tina made presentations to the couple in appreciation of their long service.

It's not a speed bump, but you should slow down anyway

THE MYSTERY of the Highlands Road 'bump' is still unsolved.

It appeared several weeks ago as more than just a 'minor bump' in the metalled road directly above where the old railway deviation line once ran.

Hampshire Highways are trying to find out what happened to the road structure and former bridge after the line closed and the area back-filled.

A team at Highways Laboratory took

core samples, which provided an idea of the current road structure and confirmed no large voids were present.

Phase 1 of a CCTV survey of the drainage system has been completed. On completion of Phase 2, Hampshire Highways will decide the best course of action for remedial works.

The site is monitored daily and signs warning of the uneven surface checked and re-erected if necessary.



Councillors Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis (pictured) advised: "Until this 'bump' has been rectified we would urge caution when driving along this stretch of the road."