

**CONSERVATIVES** keeping our community



# InTouch

TITCHFIELD, TITCHFIELD COMMON & CATISFIELD – 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



Thousands of people have been using the £9m state-of-the-art Holly Hill Leisure since it was opened by Olympic gold medallist Adam Peaty and the then Mayor, Titchfield Councillor Connie Hockley, in 2016. It has a 6-lane 26m pool, learner pool, gym, spinning room and dance centre. Another **Conservative** success story.

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

## Council will find you a plot to self-build your dream home

**EVER** dreamt of building your own home?

Fareham Council has started working towards that goal with The Right to Build Task Force.

It aims to include a range of custom and self-build housing plots at Welborne Garden Village and elsewhere in the Borough on any developments of 100 homes and above.

Since its launch last year, the Task Force has been working with councils, landowners and others to bring forward custom, self-build and community-led housing opportunities, with an emphasis

on scale and housing affordability.

It can offer subsidised support for councils and community groups to enable them to meet the demand for self-build space.

One of the Task Force's key objectives is to provide more affordable homes for those in housing need and work with councils to help deliver these.

Council Leader Seán Woodward, councillors and officers met the Right to Build Task Force recently with Richard Bacon MP,

ambassador of the Task Force and Mario Wolf, Task Force director.

Richard Bacon said: "It was a

pleasure to meet Fareham Borough Council to discuss self-building opportunities in Fareham.

"Developments such as Welborne offer huge scope for bringing forward a range of well-designed housing options and are, therefore, a logical choice to help meet local demand for people who want to build their own homes."

Residents who are interested in building their own homes in the Fareham area and Welborne can sign up to the Council's register at [http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/local\\_plan/selfbuild.aspx](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/local_plan/selfbuild.aspx)

This will help them to find a suitable plot of land.

Only those that have lived or worked in the Borough for at least two years are eligible.



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

# NEWS ROUND



## Can you help us?

We are always looking for help with delivering 'InTouch' which, we hope you will agree, is full of helpful information.

If you would like to get a little exercise and enjoy walking, then please contact one of your local Councillors.

We would be particularly grateful for help in Titchfield Common and Segensworth areas.

## Housing application thrown out

Ward councillors strongly opposed a planning application for up to 150 dwellings east of Posbrook Lane, saying it was 'wholly inappropriate'.

Fareham planning committee accepted the officers' recommendation and rejected the application.

## 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.

## Same-day GP service success

The Fareham Primary Care Service same-day GP access at Fareham Community Hospital reports that nearly 1,000 patients were seen within the first 5 weeks of its inception.

Currently, 4 GP practices are providing this service and it is expected that this scheme will include other practices in Fareham in the coming year.

Fareham MP Suella Fernandes and her Fareham Community Hospital Task Force are currently trying to improve public transport links to the hospital.

## Users welcome Abshot centre makeover

THE NEXT stage of Abshot Community Centre's refurbishment programme is progressing well.

Fareham Borough Council has been working to upgrade the toilet facilities and to date the disabled and ladies' toilets have been modernised to a high standard. Contractors are due to complete the work on the men's toilets.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst (pictured with ACA Chairman Anna Hewitt) says: "I am very pleased to see the transformation of the centre which gives it modern facilities and upgrade the building

in general.

"Following on from the new roof replacement, the centre's entrance doors were upgraded to electric giving disabled visitors ease of access. The toilet upgrade is the next stage."

Anna said: "It has been a long awaited upgrade and we are grateful for Sarah's and FBC's support. It is certainly benefiting all users here."



## Road adoptions go-ahead

ADOPTION of two roads in Titchfield Common can now proceed.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said the 'right to discharge' agreement had been completed so the developer and the County Council could go ahead with adoption of roads at the Highwoods part of Tanners Gate.

An inspection should have been done by the time we went to print and any defects rectified.

Sarah Pankhurst, who's been pushing to get it completed after storm water flooding problems were fixed, said: "As yet, I am not aware of the road adoption to the north part of the estate. I shall keep residents updated."

## Flats noise vibration misery

They claim landlords, Vivid Housing Association, have so far been unresponsive to calls to deal with the problem.

And ward Councillor Sarah Pankhurst is asking whether residents are being sold short by minimum standards in building regulations.

Residents Mr Kevin Towler and Miss Hannah Harris (pictured) contacted her because they felt 'totally alienated' due to lack of support from the landlords who failed to recognise that neighbours' washing machines cause vibration throughout the ground, first and second floor flats.

Even when neighbours walk around, their footsteps echo through the ceiling.

"Mr Towler and Miss Harris showed me a recording where their kitchen sink tap was vibrating loudly and I was shocked that even smoke detectors were de-

taching from the ceilings following the regular and sustained vibration through metal connectors in between the floor levels.

"The issue seems to be connected to a Building Regulation Minimum Standard and I have also been made aware of similar noise pollution problems in Bedford Drive."

Mr Towler and Miss Harris are in discussion with Vivid Housing Association to try to find a solution, but minimum standards and private agents handling building regulation sign-off means that Fareham Borough Council cannot enforce standards.

Sarah Pankhurst added: "The system is allowing developers to profit from poorly designed and built properties leading to misery, stress and strain.

"I am awaiting an update from Vivid Homes and will inform residents as soon as possible."



NOISE vibration is making life a misery for residents in a new block of flats at Tanners Gate.

## Abshot panto was 'magical'

THIS year's Abshot Community Centre panto 'Cinderella' was a huge success. Oh yes it was!

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst, who watched the dress rehearsal, said: "As usual it was a truly magical performance."

"Fareham Council provided a grant, with my support, to enable the Community Association to buy a new stage and I am pleased to see that it is being put to good use,"

PHOTO: Roy Coombes and Rich Jones got plenty of 'boos' as the Ugly Sisters.



## Beaches under threat

STORM Eleanor in January left a tidal wave of plastic waste on British beaches.

Titchfield InTouch team member Karen Healey was appalled. She said:

"A solitary carrier bag on our roads or in the countryside can easily blow miles away in windy weather, finding its way into rivers and sea shores and beyond, harming or killing wildlife and marine life."

"We are fortunate living so close to the river and the coast, so this issue is very relevant. It is important that we all take care with our waste and dispose of it safely."

"Litter not only looks unsightly, in large quan-



ties it can have an impact on our health by attracting all sorts of problems."

The Council spends £920,000 a year keeping the Borough clean and has started a 'Keep It Clean in Fareham' campaign. Details: www.fareham.gov.uk/latest\_news/pr-041017-1.aspx

## New play equipment in 5-year plan for Titchfield



Course Park play area new equipment.

FAREHAM has 43 Play Areas with over 350 items of equipment, suitable for various ages and abilities.

It is safe, fun, challenging and inclusive as well as being accessible

Councillor Connie Hockley, chairman of the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel, says: "There has been a rolling programme to improve and update many of the sites that were identified as being in the greatest need."

"In the last 3 years, 14 play areas have been refurbished, 22 have had a 'mini makeover' and a new one has been installed at Holly Hill."

"Plans are being drawn up to improve further sites over the next 5 years and I am pleased to report that Barry's Meadow is on the list to be updated in 2019/20."

"We can also look forward to the Titchfield Country Park play area being installed."



Segensworth Road play area.

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**WE SERVE YOU ALL**

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to the whole community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours. If you'd like to join Titchfield Branch of Fareham Conservative Association for political and social events or help to deliver InTouch in your street, call Sarah Pankhurst on 0770 1393 396.

# 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 chaired by Warsash Councillor Trevor Cartwright, which will speed up the process of bidding for Government grants.

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 emis-

sions.

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

Locks Heath Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans agreed reducing air pollution was top priority, particularly



with the huge expected increase in housing and traffic.

**PHOTOS:** (l to r) Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Fareham MP Suella Fernandes, Council Leader Seán Woodward, Dr Thérèse Coffey, County Councillor Rob Humby and Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage. (inset) Portland Street monitoring station.

## Sea defences take another battering



**Battered by the sea:** Concrete foundations (left) exposed and (above) old groynes have reappeared, almost blocking the beach.

**THE £1m Borough Council project to maintain and improve the sea wall at Hill Head was completed in December.**

But another problem has now arisen further east below Hill Head Road.

There has been a dramatic fall in beach levels, resulting in the uncovering of old groyne posts and concrete foundations.

Access along the beach at high tide is now almost impossible.

Investigations are continuing with councillors liaising with residents and the authorities concerned.

In the earlier works, 4,000 tons of shingle were used to renourish the beach to protect it from wave damage and extensive maintenance was carried out on the groynes.

A rail was also installed along the renewed promenade wall to make it safer.

Further work has been carried out on the groynes east of Gible Ore with local residents working in collaboration with the Council.