

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

WARSASH – 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



The £9m Holly Hill Leisure Centre has been an on-going success story. Councillor Trevor Cartwright (l), who chaired the working group that built it, is pictured on a visit to the centre with Councillor Mike Ford.

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

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

Sea wall subsidence

Councillor Cartwright reports that a local resident notified him recently regarding some subsidence alongside the sea wall behind the Maritime College. It appears that the shuttering at the bottom of the wall has come away allowing water at high tide to push through which is now affecting the pathway causing it to subside into the reed bed. Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency have been informed and their recommendation for a remedy is awaited.

Same-day GP service success

Around 200 patients a week are using this service where they can see a GP on the same day at the Community Hospital, Coldeast. The new Fareham Primary Care Service, which includes the same-day service at the hospital, saw nearly 1,000 patients in 5 weeks. Councillor Trevor Cartwright, executive member for health and public protection, stated: "This is an exciting step forward to improving access to care in Fareham." People would now avoid having to wait weeks for an appointment. It is hoped that this scheme will be rolled out to patients at all practices in Fareham in the future.

Play area

Councillor Cartwright reports that following a consultation that took place last year, residents told us how we could improve the Warsash play area. We are now choosing a company that can design and deliver the improvement works, taking on board residents' comments. These works should be completed by summer this year. The play area will be extended allowing new equipment to be installed. This will include a toddlers' climbing unit, inclusive roundabout, play panels and more. The existing equipment will also be re-painted and the area re-surfaced.

New sub-station for Chilling



NATIONAL GRID planned to start work on a new sub-station within the existing site at Chilling in January.

They promise to keep traffic disruption and damage to the environment to a minimum. Councillor Trevor Cartwright recently met the project director and project engineer to discuss the details. "The facility at Chilling Lane has been part of the nation's high voltage network for over 40 years. They now need to install new equipment so that the power from the IFA2 at Dae-dalus can be fed into the National Grid," he said. The new equipment will be lower than existing overhead line gantries. Work should be completed in Autumn 2019. National Grid are aware of the road system to their site and most of their traffic movements will take place outside peak times to minimise the impact on local residents. During the peak construction period, they will use Lowater Nurseries as a vehicle holding area, enabling them to combine equipment onto fewer vehicles, thus reducing traffic on Chilling Lane.

They are talking to Hampshire County Council to arrange temporary footpaths. National Grid are passionate about operating their business in an environmentally responsible way and want to make sure that their environmental impacts are minimised and that any permanent habitat loss as a result of the construction is mitigated.

Some vegetation will have to be removed, but they have already prepared a planting scheme to replace hedgerows and trees once work is complete.

Their site, west of Workman's Lane, is close to a feeding area for Brent geese, a protected species, and they will build an acoustic barrier fence around the site to minimise disturbance.

Councillor Cartwright said: "I was very impressed with their update. I feel that they have been prepared to listen to residents and seem to have mitigated all their concerns."

PHOTO: Councillor Cartwright with Chinedu Orji and David Luetchford.

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 emissions.

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



Councillor Cartwright said reducing levels of harmful vehicle emissions in the Borough was a key priority as it contributed to the health and wellbeing of residents.

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

Princess Royal opens Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering

COUNCILLOR Cartwright attended the launch of the above at St Mary's Campus in Southampton.

At the official ceremony HRH the Princess Royal unveiled a plaque to commemorate the launch.

He said: "After the ceremony we were given a

tour of the facilities, which were most impressive and incorporated the latest technology as well as basic engineering facilities.

"The University now trains staff from many companies throughout the world. I was very impressed and very pleased to see that the school retained the name of Warsash."

County Council dragging its feet over pedestrian crossing petition

COUNCILLOR Cartwright reported in the summer InTouch edition about his support for a pedestrian crossing along Warsash Road near the village centre.

"A petition was raised by local resident Cheryl Glee with over 500 signatures which I handed to the full Council meeting.

"It was then passed to Hampshire County Council in August for consideration as they are responsible for this.

"I am disappointed that it has taken all this time for an answer and I have chased up the Hampshire County Council Executive member demanding a response," he said.

6 years' hard work to transform tatty part of common



VOLUNTEERS using ancient crafts have transformed a tatty area of Warsash Common into a thriving wildlife attraction.

It's taken the volunteers 6 years to complete the job at what was once an unloved area just outside the main entrance in New Road.

Councillors Trevor Cartwright and Mike Ford attended a ceremony in December arranged by Fareham Council's countryside team to mark completion.

Improvements involved building an earth bank, sewing the small meadow with wild flower seed and grasses, erecting a combination of habitat hotels, weaving a continuous wattle fence around the boundary, planting a hedge just inside this feature and making a replica of a Celtic style wattle and daub house.

In late November, the volunteers started work on 'pleaching', posting, weaving the pleachers and binding this new boundary. (Pleaching is the technique of cutting a tree at an angle, acute enough to lay it down without snapping, so it can be woven between the posts to form a hedge).

This project began life as a model wild life garden, and soon became an outdoor classroom when a small pond was added.

Trevor Cartwright thanked the volunteers at Warsash Common for their dedication and hard work.

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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 Warsash Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Trevor Cartwright on 01489 578519.

Warsash councillors' planning protests fall on deaf ears



Warsash Councillor Trevor Cartwright explains the situation to residents in a packed Victory Hall.

COUNCILLOR TREVOR CARTWRIGHT reports on the planning situation:

From the initial announcement of the proposed housing numbers for Warsash, both Councillor Mike Ford and I have been strongly against them.

At the 9th October 2017 Executive meeting on the draft local plan when each proposed site was discussed and a decision made as to whether it should be accepted and sent out to consultation, I spoke and voted against the proposal and Councillor Ford made a similarly strong deputation.

We both accept that Warsash must take its share of development, but we thought this should have been around 250 homes, not the 800 proposed. Despite this, the vote went in favour of the Warsash sites being included in the consultation.

Since then residents have become very concerned with the situation in that they have objected to the sites in the draft local plan and produced a Petition with 2,400 signatures which will not be heard until later.

Both Councillor Ford and I are very unhappy about this delay but this is entirely due to all planning applications having to be determined within a tight timescale by Law.

We have since spoken strongly both internally at the Council and locally, that the proposed numbers are simply far too high for the infrastructure to cope.

At the Planning committee meeting on the 24th January 2018 when the first 3 sites (i.e. Taylor Wimpey, Foreman Homes and Bargate Homes) were to be considered, I was unable to sit on the Planning Com-

mittee for these applications because of my opposition to them over the last few weeks, and after taking advice from the Council's monitoring officer on the code of conduct, it was considered I had a conflict of interest which would make it extremely difficult for me to make an unbiased determination.

In other words, I had pre-determined my decision which could have made me liable for a possible criminal prosecution, hence I had to stand down from the meeting. (I guess that this could be compared to a juror who, before hearing the evidence, indicates they were going to find the defendant guilty!)

Instead, I gave a strong deputation from the floor against permitting all 3 applications. The main objections being increased pressure on highways, education and health.

Councillor Ford followed, as a member of the planning committee, and spoke at length against all 3 applications, urging colleagues to reject them.

He voted against all 3, but each application was permitted by 5 votes to 4.

We are both bitterly disappointed with the decision that is quite clearly bad news for Warsash.

What we have to do now is await the detailed planning applications and hold the developers to account in making sure that we see a single integrated Masterplan development site, rather than individual planning applications.

It is essential it accords with the surrounding area, has sensible entrances and exits, is well planned and spaced out, has adequate public open spaces and car parking provision.