



Warsash in Westminster - Suella Braverman MP supporting our community

## Health and Housing



I held my annual Health Summit at Fareham Community Church where over 100 local people attended to ask questions and share their views about local health services.

Thank you to Health Bosses of Fareham and Gosport CCG, QA Hospital, Dr Tom Bertram and the CEO of Southern Health, who attended to listen to Fareham residents. People are rightly worried about the loss of phlebotomy and eye testing at Fareham Community Hospital as well as the need for a more accessible breast-screening

service. And it was great to hear how people are welcoming the Same Day Access Service at FCH thanks to the collaboration of local GPs. If you would like to attend my frequent local events, join my mailing list at [Suella@suellabraverman.co.uk](mailto:Suella@suellabraverman.co.uk).

### Housing Matters

Housing and planning matters are worrying local residents too. That's why I have talked directly to the Secretary of State for Housing, The Rt Hon James Brokenshire, with fellow Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage.

## A brighter future for Brexit

We have every reason to look forward to life outside the EU. After some tough years following the recession our economy is growing strongly, firms are starting up and unemployment is at a record low.

Under Conservatives people are more likely to be in work than ever before, are paying typically £1000 less income tax than in 2010 and are saving £850 in taxes at the petrol pump. The number of people in absolute poverty is at a record low, disposable incomes are higher in real terms than 2010 and our national living wage means the salary of a full-time worker previously on the minimum wage is now £2000 higher.

Labour would limit our ability to make the most of Brexit, taking us all back to square one. And they would attack businesses that create jobs, pay taxes that fund our public services and provide the products and services that people need.



# InTouch

with Warsash and Hook

THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND MP

Autumn 2018

## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY



### An unwanted mast

In September, an application was received from mobile phone operator EE, for permission to erect a 15m tall mobile phone mast next to the Osborne Road recreation ground.

Councillor Mike Ford had expressed his concern directly to EE when they consulted with him prior to the application. "I felt that this was the most inappropriate site for such a mast; tall, obtrusive, adjacent to a popular play area and close to our local Academy. Many local residents contacted me with similar concerns.

"This application came in because EE have been asked to remove their existing mast in the Maritime Academy and whilst I appreciate that they do need to maintain mobile signals, this proposed site is totally inappropriate."

Fortunately, permission was formally refused by the Fareham Planning Officer in October for the reasons that Mike and residents put forward.



Local residents Emma Ward and Alex Rhodes catch up with Mike (who is on his way to a function!) to discuss their strong objections to the proposal.

## Planning strategy in turmoil as Whitehall imposes more houses on Fareham

Fareham's planning strategy is in tatters due to the Government's 'crazily inflated housing figures'. It is in such disarray that officers have been told to tear up the Draft Local Plan and add even more houses to those already proposed.

"Coupled with that, the Government will impose an additional 20% 'buffer' on Fareham for failing to deliver the new figures over the last few years.

"That is based on the figure imposed on the Council just 3 months ago – rather like being failed in an exam for incorrectly answering a question that was not even in the syllabus!"

Intensive lobbying of Housing Minister Kit Malthouse and senior civil servants by the Council Leader and Fareham and Gosport MPs fell on deaf ears. Only 3 months ago we highlighted Whitehall's imposition of 30% more houses equating to allocation of another 2,000 greenfield sites.

Councillor Woodward asked for the following assurances so the Council could submit its current Draft Plan for inspection:

- Protection from the Housing Delivery Test which will increase numbers a further 20%
- Appeals to be judged on current need in the Draft Plan
- Once adopted, no requirement to review the Draft Plan immediately based on the new numbers being far higher than Fareham's actual need.

But the baffling criteria continue to change like the wind. Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "The Government will allow councils to submit plans on their original figures (for Fareham 420 houses per year) rather than in Fareham's case an additional 30% (544 houses per year) if they can get them in by January.

"Despite the Council's commitment to deliver 6,000 new homes in one of the country's largest new communities, Welborne Garden Village, as well as an additional 2,000 on greenfield sites elsewhere, ministers have failed to give us the required assurances.

"Apart from being an impossible timescale to reach, the result of submitting such a plan would probably mean that after it was adopted the Council would need promptly to review it on the basis of the new figures, putting us back to square one.

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## Air Quality in Fareham

Poor air quality affects the health and well-being of all of us. As the Executive Member responsible for Air Quality, Councillor Trevor Cartwright explains what Fareham Council is doing to improve our environment.

A recent Government report highlighted areas in the UK that could have unacceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide in the future. In Fareham, the area around the A27 from M27 Junction 11 to Fareham Railway Station was identified as being at risk.

Whilst supportive in principle of these measures, a common theme of the feedback has been concern on whether they can be successfully implemented locally, and if enough research has been carried out to ensure their effectiveness at reducing nitrogen dioxide levels.

There has been an impressive response to the Council's 'LET'S CLEAR THE AIR TOGETHER' publicity campaign and accompanying air quality consultation. This asked the public for feedback on the Councils draft measures to ensure air quality remains good within the Borough.

The consultation results will form part of the consideration for the final air quality plan which is due to go to the Government at the end of the year.

Since the consultation's launch on 4 September, nearly 1,100 people and organisations have commented on the eleven measures proposed.

### Calling all photographers

Fancy getting your photograph in front of over 5,000 people? We are looking for a great picture of our area to feature on the front of the winter issue of InTouch. Send your images to [tcartwright@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:tcartwright@fareham.gov.uk)

## Get in touch

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“Reluctantly, we have asked officers to commence work on a new Local Plan to accommodate the Government’s crazily inflated housing numbers.

“We will now spend 2019 bringing that new Draft Plan through public consultation and onwards so that a public inquiry can be held.

“Throughout this period we will remain at risk of the Government making further changes to the numbers and, therefore, at risk of hostile planning applications and appeals.

“Without doubt strategic countryside gaps could be at very real risk due to the Government’s insistence on Fareham building too many houses.

“I would also like to reflect on the assurances given by Planning Minister Brandon Lewis that appeals would be judged on the 2015 Plan figures which proved worthless when the Cranleigh Road refusal was overturned leading to a developer frenzy.

“Finally, we have the very recent issue of the ONS figures which demonstrate that far from a need for 300,000 new houses a year nationally, the need is actually only 213,000, meaning



**NO MINISTER!** Nothing to smile about when Kit Malthouse refused to budge after meeting Fareham MP Suella Braverman, Council Leader Seán Woodward and Deputy Leader Trevor Cartwright.

that Fareham currently has sufficient planning consents to last the required 5 years.

“The government has made its intention clear that it will insist on disregarding the new ONS figures thereby pushing the requirement back up again.”

Fareham MP Suella Braverman and Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage said they were “bitterly disappointed” that Fareham would not be allowed to proceed with its original plan.

Suella Braverman said: “This has not been an easy matter to resolve.

“We need to build more and better houses to support people in owning or renting their own homes and Fareham Borough Council has been working hard to deliver.

“I was pleased to enable extensive discussions between the Government and Fareham BC but am disappointed that we were ultimately unable to find a way for Fareham BC to proceed with its original Local Plan.”

## Changes at Community Hospital

Blood tests will no longer be available at Fareham Community Hospital, with our already overstretched GP’s now responsible for delivering the service.

The Portsmouth Hospitals Trust has for a number of years provided both a consultant-led and GP-led phlebotomy (blood test) service at Fareham Community Hospital, performing some 9,000 tests annually, with the service’s administration being provided free of charge by the Hospital Friends.

The Trust has decided to end the contract for the GP-led

service, which will now be provided by the GP surgeries.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, said “This is a real and unnecessary blow to the hospital, which has been providing increasing numbers of services to local people, but is still only 50% utilised. The providers have said that patients prefer to have blood tests

done at their GP surgeries. Given that thousands of them clearly wish to attend the community hospital I find this difficult to believe.

On a far more positive note, the Council recently held a meeting with Dr Jonathan Nash, Consultant in charge of the Breast Screening Service and the service managers and community hospital managers to discuss the initiative to bring breast screening service into the hospital on a permanent basis in time for the next round of 3-year screening in 2020.

Dr Nash and his colleagues were very supportive of the idea and are now working together with the hospital to develop a solution to bring the service permanently to Fareham Community Hospital.



Trevor alongside some of the Friends of Fareham Community Hospital, who volunteer to administer around 9,000 blood tests a year at the hospital.

The website features information about all the agencies who play a part in helping those sleeping rough in Fareham. It also explains how people can help by donating time, goods, money or food, and provides contact details for charities who can collect and redistribute items.

The key message behind Fareham Street Aid is that it’s better to give to the charities that support rough sleepers, rather than giving to rough sleepers direct.

The needs of those sleeping rough can be quite complex, spanning substance misuse, mental and physical

## Helping the homeless

A new website, Fareham Street Aid, has been launched to help vulnerable people get off the streets.

health concerns and financial and employment difficulties. By working together, all agencies operating under the Fareham Street Aid umbrella offer assistance carefully tailored to the individual.

For more information, visit [www.farehamstreetaid.org.uk](http://www.farehamstreetaid.org.uk)

## Paving the way in Newtown Road

Following complaints from residents about the poor state of the pavement, Newtown Road is currently undergoing refurbishment.

Councillor Mike Ford contacted Hampshire Highways and following inspection was scheduled for last year.

Unfortunately, the work was not undertaken due to county budget pressures, but Mike kept the pressure up and work started in September. This will make the road much safer and

Mike with Foy Gardens resident Roy Childs who first contacted Mike about the problem.



easier to walk along, particularly for our more elderly residents.

## ‘Tommy’ returns home

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War, the Council have commissioned eight life size statues of the silent soldier Tommy. Victory Hall was chosen as one of the venues, which will host the statue until 31 December.

Trevor, Mike and Hall Manager Mike Appleby alongside Tommy



## A&E at QAH

Plans are underway to improve the provision of accident and emergency services at Queen Alexandra Hospital to meet a 35% increase in demand.

The Chief Executive of QA Hospital, Mark Cubbon, recently wrote to Trevor about their plans to redevelop the Emergency Department, demand for which has increased from an average of 240 patients a day in 2010 to over 300 a day in 2017.

The scheme will require significant capital investment and the Hospital believes they have a strong case to secure the full funding.

Mark has promised to keep Trevor updated on the progress of the project.

## In brief

### Cycle racks for Shore Road Car Park

Following requests by residents, secure cycle racks will shortly be installed at the Shore Road Car Park as part of the Council’s support for sustainable transport and healthy living.

### The festival is coming!

The highly popular Warsash Festival will be taking place again on 6 July 2019. Both Trevor and Mike are members of the organising committee of the Warsash Festival, which takes place on Strawberry Fields.

The last event in 2017 attracted around 6,000 visitors and was an outstanding community event showcasing the incredible array of community groups, clubs, societies and businesses that we have in the area.

### Warsash Neighbourhood Forum

The Warsash Neighbourhood Forum was established earlier this year to promote what residents would like the future of Warsash to look like and put it into a Neighbourhood Plan.

Both Trevor and Mike are very happy to support the Forum, and would like to congratulate the people behind the initiative.

### Solent Airport wins awards

As Chairman of the Daedalus Working Group, Trevor is pleased to announce that the Council has won two prestigious South Coast Property Awards; Development of the Year and Business Park Innovation of the Year.

Plans are also currently underway at the airport to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day next year, which will build on the airfield’s centenary celebrations that took place last year.

### Calling all community groups...

The Council’s Community Fund is available for projects they are considering but may need financial help. Applying for support is quick and straightforward, and any group’s interested should contact either Trevor or Mike for more details.