



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH – Winter 2019

Spitfires fly into battle to help keep Fareham's council tax low

SPITFIRES have come to our rescue yet again.

Five of the iconic WW2 fighters fly from Solent Airport and fuel sales for pleasure flights are reaping thousands of pounds in revenue for the benefit of Fareham council taxpayers.

And wise business investment by the **Conservatives** is sparing Fareham households massive annual council tax rises.

Out of an annual Borough Council spend of £47m, less than £7m comes from council tax.

Council Leader Seán Woodward stressed: "So 85% of what we spend includes our trading activities, among them a portfolio of mainly local commercial property that brings in millions of pounds in rental.

"For example, most units at Southampton Road, Park Gate (B&Q, Dunelm, Halfords, PC World, etc) belong to the Council. Without this income our council tax, currently almost the lowest in the country, would need to be far higher."

Despite losing all its Government revenue support grant, Fareham will raise its share of council tax for 2019-20 by only £5 a year, representing just a penny a day increase for the average band C property. Band D properties will pay £160 per year or just 44p per day for all Borough Council services.

In his budget summary, Councillor Woodward was upbeat about lucrative ventures at Solent Airport@Daedalus, where around £30m has been spent so far on infrastructure and new commer-

cial buildings such as newly-extended Fareham Innovation Centre, which is already 70% full.

Airport operations provide a financial return to the Council, flight movements increased to 30,000 annually and hundreds of new jobs were created at what is the Solent Enterprise Zone.

The target over the 25-year life of the Enterprise Zone for new jobs is 3,500, 1,100 of those being on the Fareham part of the site, of which half the total has already been reached.

Land was transferred to Fareham College to build a Civil Engineering Training Centre (CETC) to teach young people skills they need to undertake civil engineering works in this area where there is a huge skills shortage. A £39m capital

programme for future improvements includes:

- Ferneham Hall refurbishment £10m
- Spec build business units at Solent Airport@Daedalus £5m
- New council housing in Fareham, Portchester, Stubbington and Sarisbury £17.6m
- Phasing out single-use plastics by the Council
- Play area improvements £500,000
- Bus shelter replacement £300,000
- Holly Hill Cemetery extension £275,000

He added: "Setting a balanced budget without reducing services is more challenging every year. We have plans for another £1m of annual savings via efficiencies rather than service reductions."



Photos: Richard Davies Photography

All-party agreement failure may add £2.5m a month to J10 upgrade cost

WELBORNE was adopted into the Fareham Borough Plan 6 years ago, yet not a brick has been laid.

And it could be another 2 years before the concrete mixers start turning to prepare the first foundations.

Meantime, developers Buckland's application not being received in 2015 has contributed to cost inflation.

Fareham has raised £39m of public funding towards the J10 cost, but if it fails to tie in with the smart motorway work, it could add an extra £2.5m a month to the £65m bill.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "Families should, by now, be living in some of the new houses and the new motorway Junction 10 should be under way – the start of delivering 6,000 houses, 6,000 jobs, 3 primary schools, a secondary school and small shopping centre.

"The project was initially held up by significant land ownership/availability issues that needed High Court actions to resolve.

"The main landowners/developers finally submitted a planning application early in 2017, but this was inadequate and was refreshed (almost a re-submission) in

December.

"Hopefully, this will result in a planning consideration in April, leading, if successful, to houses on the ground starting in 2021."

He said bringing all the funding streams together was a major task, but more critical was ensuring the J10 plans were agreed to slot into Highways England timetables for the M27 smart motorway.

Fareham Council is working hard to get all parties – Buckland Development, the County Council, Highways England, Local Enterprise Partnership and Government – to agree funding and move towards detailed planning consideration.



NEWS ROUND

Funtley buys defibrillator

Funtley Village Society has bought a defibrillator from funds raised in the village at last year's summer fete plus a grant from County Councillor Peter Latham. It is reassuring to know this piece of equipment is available in the village.

Councillors' surgeries

North Ward surgeries continue in the café area at Fareham Leisure Centre on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 10.00am.

Call Louise, Pamela or County Councillors Peter Latham or Fred Birkett to make sure they will be available. Next dates: March 9, April 13.

Winter grit

As winter tightens its grip, it's important to make sure grit bins are topped up.

Councillor Louise Clubley (pictured) has been touring the ward, checking the bins.

She asks anybody who finds an empty or damaged bin to contact the County Council by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk.



Power of the attorneys

The Council's 'legal eagles' are flying high after winning a top national award.

Lawyers in Fareham and Southampton Legal Services Partnership took the National Legal Team of the Year title in the Lawyers in Local Government Awards.

They were also runners-up in the Litigation Team of the Year category.

We're on Facebook. Go to Councillor Louise Clubley and Councillor Pamela Bryant

West end traders raise profile

TRADERS at the west end of West Street raised their profile at Christmas by taking part in town centre activities.

Thanks to Shane Davies from the Crafty Makery, several decorated their premises to encourage shoppers to visit their end of the 'Golden Mile'.

Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley support the group and liaise with Council officers, who meet business owners and offer help.

Pamela, pictured with chippie Mike Hurley, said: "While this was a first venture for some traders in this part of town, we feel sure it will become a welcome attraction."

"Many individual traders are keen to improve the footfall across the whole town centre and are looking to work together to plan events during the coming year."



Unusual tree species introduced

TREE planting has been taking place across the Borough with new varieties being introduced.

At the Park Lane entrance into Miller Drive, a 'Tila Americana' has been planted and, as part of the Council's tree strategy within the parkland, a 'Ulmus Clusio' forms part of the cluster of unusual species.

Councillor Louise Clubley (pictured) is pleased to report that a replacement 'Prunus Padus' has been planted near the Colenso Road entrance after one was felled for safety reasons.



It's not leaves on the line, but risk from dangerous trackside trees

TREES along the railway cutting near the Highlands Road tunnel pose a danger to passing trains and will have to be felled.

The embankment is unstable and many trees are too close to the tracks or prone to fungal disease.

Councillor Pamela Bryant said Network Rail was working with the Council's chief arborist, Paul Johnston, and John Stokes from The Tree Council to agree the work needed to make the line safe.

She said: "It is a balancing act between running the railway safely whilst protect-

ing the biodiversity of the lineside environment."

The cutting slopes have suffered from instability, mainly due to the way the tunnel was constructed in 1840.

Land slips on both sides of the cutting caused a risk to the safe operation of the railway, particularly near the tunnel entrance, which could lead to damage to neighbouring property if not rectified.

Trees have been allowed to grow too large on parts of the site, and could fall onto the line, disrupting train services.

Large trees on the steep embankment

place too much weight on some areas, which could lead to further instability.

An ecological appraisal was carried out to identify protected habitats and species. The ecologist concluded that there would be no significant impact as a result of vegetation management.

Vegetation is being properly managed and trees with amenity value will be retained where they pose no significant safety risk.

Works on some parts are scheduled to continue over the next 2-3 years as failing areas of the cutting slopes are stabilised.

Stricter anti-dog fouling law is proposed

A NEW law is proposed to tackle dirty dog owners.

The Council is responding to complaints about dogs fouling and being out of control by seeking an updated Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

If approved, it would replace the existing PSPO which expires in March and extend the Council's powers for the next 3 years to:

- Tackle dog fouling
- Ensure people have a means to pick up dog litter
- Request dogs be put on leads if causing a public nuisance

- Ensure dogs are put on leads in sensitive places e.g. cemeteries
- Limit the numbers of dogs one person can walk at any one time
- Exclude dogs from certain areas e.g. play areas

It would also enable Council officers to issue on-the-spot fines to irresponsible dog owners. The proposed powers would not apply to people registered blind, or who rely on assistance dogs.

Councillor Louise Clubley said: "We want to ensure that irresponsible dog owners don't spoil people's enjoyment of the public spaces in the Borough."

Post Office sees sense

A POST OFFICE counter is reopening within the Co-op in Arundel Drive.

This is welcome news for residents who supported ward councillors several years ago in trying to stop the Post Office going ahead with the closure.

Councillor Pamela Bryant, pictured with local customer Matthew, who is delighted with the reopening, commented: "Common sense has at last prevailed and this vital facility has been reinstated."



Call for more police heeded as Fareham crime rate soars

LACK of police resources is blamed for a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour in Fareham.

North Ward and the rest of the Borough have suffered a significant rise which is worrying residents and businesses.

County Councillor Fred Birkett demanded top-level action. And he got it from the county's police boss himself.

Police Crime Commissioner Michael Lane's recommendation for 200 new officers, plus 65 staff police investigators and training for new PCSOs was accepted.

But it will cost an extra £24 a year on Band D council tax bills.

Statistics show Fareham has Hampshire's second lowest crime rate, but it experienced a steady rise during the past 3 years.

Fred Birkett said: "Although the Fareham area remains one of the safest places in Hampshire to live and work, this rise in crime levels is affecting people."

"Residents are worried about the increase throughout our communities in anti-social behaviour, break-ins and violent crimes, all being reported in the media."

"Incidents are also affecting businesses, with data showing that between December 3, 2018 and January 14, 2019, 13 Fareham businesses were raided, several in the Highlands area."

Inspector Sarah Nicholson said: "We are continuing to carry out inquiries to establish if any of these incidents are linked, including reviewing CCTV and carrying out additional patrols."

Fred Birkett said: "I passed residents' concerns to the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection and the Police and Crime Commissioner with a request for extra resources to be assigned to Fareham, but not just to the town centre."

At the time we went to print, there was no indication as to how many of the new police recruits will be assigned to Fareham

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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 North Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Pamela Bryant on 01329 281427.



Why I voted against original Brexit deal

Despite Brexit turbulence, unemployment remains at a record low, wages are rising faster than prices and the economy is growing faster than forecast.

As I wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*, no-one can doubt the Prime Minister's indefatigable pursuit of a Brexit deal, so it was with regret that I voted against the original deal in Parliament in January.

That deal was not Brexit. It would have locked the UK indefinitely into the EU's single market and customs union whilst annexing Northern Ireland so that it would be treated as a 3rd country by Great Britain.

I sincerely want to support a Government deal and am hopeful meaningful changes will be secured.

The last year was very busy. Over 2,500 residents came to my local events and I replied to more than 35,000 emails!

In some welcome personal news, I am expecting a baby in July. Rael and I are looking forward to becoming parents!

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

Suella was delighted to hold the first ever Solent Festival of Engineering at Fareham Leisure Centre which was attended by over 1,000 local children and students.

The aim of the event was to showcase and bust the myths about engineering, technology and the sciences.

The UK faces an estimated shortfall of 20,000 engineering graduates every year and Suella is passionate about encouraging the next generation of innovators.

She brought together over 50 national and international companies such as Rolls Royce, Google, NATS, Southampton and Portsmouth Universities, and the



Royal Navy and RAF to enable young people to learn more about the opportunities from further study and careers in the field.

From virtual reality, rocket cars, coding challenges, 3D printing, Lego building, drones, model railways, AI, learning about wi-fi, jet engines and gas turbines to life

on Mars and deep sea diving, pet scanners, magic and ship tankers, attendees were not short of interactive engineering experiences.

Suella holds regular events open to the public. If you would like to stay up to date with her events and news, sign up to her monthly e-newsletter by emailing suella@suellabraverman.co.uk.



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Daedalus D-Day Diary Dates



D-Day 0441 hours, June 6, 1944.

The first aircraft take off from HMS Daedalus to support Operation Overlord – the Normandy Invasion.

It was a pivotal moment in the history of the Fleet Air Arm base where 435 units – the largest to operate from any UK airfield on D-Day – were deployed.

The Fleet Air Arm was joined by RAF squadrons, Royal Canadian Air Force Typhoons and Mustangs and US Navy Spitfires, softening up Hitler's Atlantic Wall and protecting the invasion armada.

That historic day which paved the way to victory over the Nazi regime will be recalled during 75th anniversary events commemorating the landings.

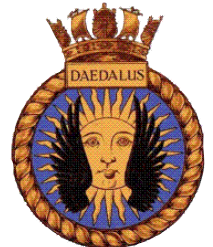
Plans are under way for a two-day spectacular show at what is now Solent

Airport on June 8 and 9, from 10am to 4pm, and Fareham residents are asked to diary the dates.

Vintage aircraft will play a key role and details of those taking part will be released soon.

There will also be children's activities, market stalls and stage performances by local groups.

Fareham North Councillor Louise Clubley said: "Council officers are planning to make it a day to remember, so make sure you don't miss what will be the biggest event of the year."



A valuable community service to help catch speeding drivers

RESIDENTS can help catch speeding drivers by volunteering for Community Speedwatch.

They will be trained to use speed detection equipment and record details to add to a database. Vehicle checks are then undertaken by the police and letters are sent to the registered keepers advising them of their speed and

reminding them of why it is a community concern.

PCSO Heather Wright (telephone 07392-289407) looks after Community Speedwatch locally and is keen to hear from anyone interested in setting up or joining a group locally.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I helped set up the first local Community

Speedwatch group (in Burridge) and since then a number have been set up in the area.

"The volunteers provide not only a speed deterrent but also a valuable community service by working with the police to drive such anti-social behaviour from our areas. I urge anyone interested to get in touch."

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