



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-



Photos: Richard Davies Photography

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."

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

Pop in for a coffee

We have a 'Grapevine' drop-in coffee morning at the Highlands Hub on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We would love to chat with you.



If it is more convenient, give us a ring and we'll come round to your home.

Our contact details are at the foot of the page.

Local project grants available

County councillors receive an annual grant budget, which can be allocated to local projects, initiatives or organisations in their division.

Legitimate groups, but not individuals, can apply to their county councillor.

County Councillor Fred Birkett comments: "The last time I advertised for applications for grant funding I was happy to assist the Fareham Stroke Society, which used the grant to buy new equipment to aid their work."

The period available for grant funding ends on February 28, but will re-open on June 1.

Fred Birkett said: "I would encourage any group to contact me so that we can discuss your requirements,

"I would really like to help as many organisations as possible."

How to report it

If you wish to report something to Fareham Borough Council, there are two simple ways to do so.

1 Use the printable 'Report It' form. Just complete the form and post or hand it in to the Civic Offices.

The web link to this form is www.fareham.gov.uk/report_it/ReportItform.pdf

2 Click on one of the online forms at the following link to report a specific problem: www.fareham.gov.uk/report_it/intro.aspx

First it was leaves, now it's the 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.

Network Rail is working with the Council's chief arborist and The Tree Council to make the line safe.

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.



Council's 'banish plastics' example

GIVE Plastic the Push!

The Council has launched a campaign to reduce use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in the Borough.

It will set an example with the creation of a new policy on SUP with a commitment to:

- Stop using plastic straws and stirrers in Council buildings
- Stop using SUP cups in drinks machines in the Civic Offices, Broadcut Depot and Ferneham Hall by 2020
- Cease selling drinks in plastic bottles in the Civic Offices and Broadcut

Depot by 2020

• Phase out sale of drinks from SUP bottles at Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres, Westbury Manor Museum and Ferneham Hall by 2020.

A publicity campaign is under way to spread the message, providing tips on how use of plastic can be reduced.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "I'm glad FBC is taking environmental issues seriously. If you know of an event or group which the FBC plastic engagement officer could visit, send us your suggestion to publicity@fareham.gov.uk."

Fareham takes the lead with tougher law against dog fouling



A NEW law to tackle dirty dog owners is proposed.

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 will replace the 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 will also enable Council officers to issue on-the-spot fines to irresponsible owners, but will not apply to people registered blind who rely on assistance dogs.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "Most dog owners are responsible, but there are some who clearly are not being considerate to their community.

"Dog fouling is not only unsightly but can be a health issue to children playing in green areas."

We will keep you updated.

PHOTO: Fred sets an example by cleaning up after Woody.

Call for more police heeded as crime rate soars



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

North West Ward and the rest of the Borough has 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 the second lowest crime rate in Hampshire, but it experienced a steady rise during the past 3 years.

But 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 High-

lands 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 anti-social behaviour, including rowdy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti, street drinking, littering and inappropriate use of vehicles, was unacceptable and harmed the community and environment.

"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

College will address skills shortage

FAREHAM MAYOR Susan Bayford cut the first turf for Fareham College's CETC groundbreaking ceremony at Solent Airport.

The project is a fit-for-purpose training college to provide apprenticeships for civil engineering, construction and groundworks.

It is being built on land sold by the Borough Council, supported by a grant from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and opens in September.

Supported by local employers, CETC will help address the country-wide skills shortage.



Highlands Hub is a community success

HIGHLANDS HUB is the focal point of Fareham North West and for nearly 8 years has pursued the vision of 'connecting our community'.

With Jim Palmer at the helm and Penny Raymond managing the day-to-day activities, the team of volunteers at the community café offer a place where people of all ages can meet, make new friends, have a drink and read the paper.

The idea of the Hub is to provide a place where people can easily access advice and services needed to cope with everyday challenges.

Facilities include several desktop computers to get online and free WiFi with many of the tables situated next to power sockets.

There are also two meeting rooms that can be hired out, but are also used by a variety of organisations, including Citizens Advice which visits the Hub on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm.

PHOTO: Hub volunteers take a break.



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COUNTY COUNCILLORS Fareham Town

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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

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.



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!

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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.



Daedalus D-Day Diary Dates



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 weekend spectacular at what is now Solent

Airport on June 8 and 9, from 10am to 4pm, and 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.

Councillor Fred Birkett 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."

D-Day 0441 hours, June 6, 1944.

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

£1.2m cash injection pushes Hampshire Rose development closer to starting line

A BIG cash grant has boosted delivery of 18 social housing units at the derelict Hampshire Rose site.

Hard work by Fareham's housing team secured a grant of £1.278m from Homes England, representing 40% of the cost.

Councillor Fred Birkett, Executive Member for Housing, commented: "Since being elected, I was determined to drive forward the Hampshire Rose site's delivery, providing Fareham North West with much needed social housing."

"Over many years, the site had remained empty, but soon we will see the development take shape."



"It is not only good news for this project, because the money already allocated to this site from the capital development fund can now be reallocated to projects elsewhere in the Borough."

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