



InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – 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



Photos: Richard Davies Photography

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.”



Tigers give Seán a hairy biker experience

HE THOUGHT he was just there to see young bikers put on a splendid display at Solent Airport.

But the little dare-devils decided otherwise and used Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward as a prop.

“They placed me at the end of a ramp to jump over. Fortunately, they all made it across,” said Seán after surviving the ordeal.

The Tigers and The Rockets showed their skills, the latter enjoying their first day’s training at the airport where they are now based.

The Tigers donated cheques totalling nearly £4,000 to Wave 105 Cash for Kids and Sophie’s Appeal for cancer research.

After dusting himself down, Seán Woodward said: “We are pleased to have the Rockets join in using the community facilities at Solent Airport.

“It is good to see 40 children learning the importance of teamwork, leadership skills and discipline while wowing the crowds with their performances and raising money for good causes.”





New community fund

A £500,000 community fund has been launched by County Councillor Seán Woodward.

Hampshire's Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage says it will help local communities to thrive and organisations to be financially self-supporting.

Small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to boost community events and activities.

He said: "For the first-time young people's uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts, as well as sports clubs, will be able to apply for funding."

He hopes the fund will attract applications from hitherto unknown organisations which would benefit from extra support.

Christmas tree recycling

One of the Council's successes has been the annual Christmas tree recycling programme.

The Council provides this service by inviting residents to put out their Christmas trees to be collected by the green waste collection service free of charge.

The service has increased in popularity and it is estimated that over 10,000 trees are collected and turned into compost every year.

Deliverers needed

Ian and Simon would like to thank the local deliverers for their hard work delivering 4,200 InTouch newsletters in Park Gate 4 times per year.

If you are interested in becoming one of our deliverers please contact us and help us to communicate with residents.

Extra police tax hike

Hampshire Police Crime Commissioner Michael Lane has responded to residents' demands.

The Police and Crime Panel rubber stamped his recommendation and 200 new officers will be recruited, plus 65 staff police investigators and training for new PCSOs.

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

County refuses to deal with store exit peril

COMPLAINTS about dangerous driving around Sainsbury's in Bridge Road continue.

Councillor Simon Martin said: "The problem stems from an inadequately sized car park to deal with the demand, made worse by customers turning right onto Bridge Road across on-coming traffic – as our picture shows.

"Despite several discussions with Hampshire County Council, they have not seen it appropriate to take any action and the dangerous situation continues.



right."

A "No Right Turn" sign on the highway would also help in the absence of a central reservation.

"Let us know your thoughts and let's try to get this dangerous situation resolved," he added.

Brook Lane crossing demand

AN ELDERLY resident was knocked down and seriously injured in Brook Lane recently.

It led to demands for a pedestrian crossing, which are being pursued by Councillor Ian Bastable.

He said the stretch between Bridge Road and Brook Lane roundabouts was particularly dangerous as it was crossed by pupils attending Brookfield School and people going to the surgery and Community Hospital.

To make the area safer for pedestrians while maintaining traffic flow along the route serving Park Gate, Priory Park and Warsash, it has to be shown there is need for a crossing.

Residents wishing to comment or provide evidence should contact Councillor Bastable who is trying to ensure that HCC Highways are fully aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Council sets example with new single use plastics strategy

THE Government's new waste strategy launched in December is currently out for consultation.

This is timely as Fareham Council has been trying to increase the different types of waste that can be sent off for recycling. While the strategy is light on delivery, the key priorities include:

- Increasing all types of plastic recycling
- Helping customers to purchase sustainably
- Improving recycling rates to 65% of municipal waste by 2035
- Eliminating food waste to landfill and reducing the amount disposed
- Tackling waste crime and waging war on fly tipping

Councillor Simon Martin said: "We have recently completed a 'Love food hate waste' campaign and are looking at all cases of flytipping to prosecute those responsible for ruining our countryside.

"We already undertake many of these things and our strategy to eliminate single use plastics is being rolled out across the borough."

It aims to set an example by:

- Stopping use of plastic straws and stirrers in Council buildings
- Stopping use of SUP cups in drinks machines in the Civic Offices, Broadcut Depot and Ferneham Hall by 2020
- Ceasing sale of drinks in plastic bottles in the Civic Offices and Broadcut Depot by 2020
- Phasing out sale of drinks from SUP bottles at Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres, Westbury Manor Museum and Ferneham Hall by 2020.

PHOTO: Simon Martin, Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford, Streetscene Officer Paul Hutchinson and SUP Engagement Officer Barbara Cowie.



J9 upgrade ready to slot in

ANOTHER component in the major programme to upgrade the M27 and its access junctions is ready to start fitting in.

It's the £22m project to improve Junction 9 and Whiteley Way/Solent Hotel roundabout.

The County Council scheme is designed to reduce traffic congestion, improve access and support future development. It includes:

Junction 9: Carriageway widening to provide an extra lane on both motorway off-slip roads, the westbound on-slip road and the Whiteley Way approach, plus additional lanes on the northern and southern sections of the circulatory carriageway.

Solent Hotel Roundabout: New,

larger fully-signalised roundabout, with carriageway widening to provide additional traffic lanes on all approaches.

Work ties in with other local investments, including £14m from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to widen Whiteley Way from the Solent Hotel to the shopping centre, connecting Bluebell Way to Botley Road at Curbridge, extending Whiteley Way and the £244m Smart Motorway scheme now underway.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "The entire regional package of measures being implemented on the M27 is a fundamental supporting part of the 'improving access to Fareham and Gosport' strategy which I introduced in 2015."



Use it at your leisure

THE COUNCIL has introduced the 'Fareham Leisure Card', offering discounts on a range of leisure activities from 44 outlets around the Borough.

To join the scheme, pick up a leaflet and application form from Fareham Leisure Centre, Holly Hill Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Cards cost £7.75, £18.35 for family membership, £5.60 for students or free to some residents on low income. For a list of participating organisations contact the Leisure Card officer on 01329 824894.



'Take your homes elsewhere' say angry residents

DAMAGE to an ancient hedgerow infuriated residents in Beacon Bottom.

Now they have been inflicted with a planning application by Foreman Homes for 35 properties on the site.

Councillor Simon Martin, who reported the issue in our summer edition, said: "The layout will result in the complete destruction of the hedgerow, impact on an already congested area – particularly pulling out into Botley Road and Beacon Bottom, an inadequately sized road forced to accommo-



date up to 100 more vehicles." Fellow ward Councillor Ian Bastable is on the planning committee and so is unable to comment. Councillor Martin stated: "I have always made clear my objection to this application and will be making a deputation to the Council when it is considered. "If anybody has any comments they wish to pass on to me, then please feel free. Now is the time to stand up."

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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 everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

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 Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Contact Simon Woodhams 07971 288993 or simon@sjwuk.com



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

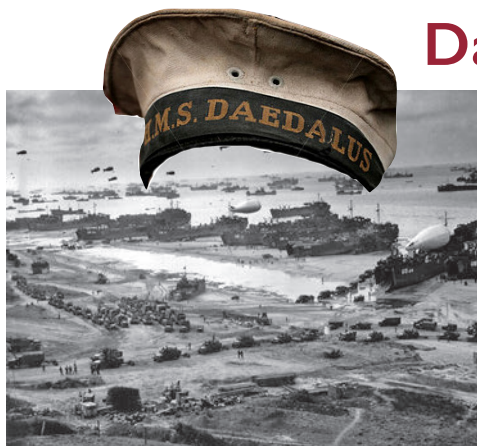


Royal Navy and RAF to enable young people to learn more about the opportunities from further study and careers in the field.

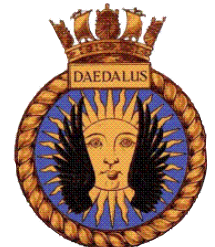
From virtual reality, rocket cars, coding challenges, 3D printing, Lego building, drones, model railways, AI, learning about wi-fi, jet engines and gas turbines to life

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



tory 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.

Park Gate Councillor Simon Martin 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.

It was a pivotal moment in the his-

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."

Website: www.farehamconservatives.org.uk Email: farehamconservatives@gmail.com