



InTouch

PORTCHESTER – 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."

Downend homes decision delayed



A DECISION on a controversial bid to build up to 350 homes at Winnham Farm, Downend was deferred by Fareham planners.

There were fierce objections by

residents and councillors about the impact on local roads, particularly Downend Road, the A27 and Delme Roundabout, and rat-running.

A hybrid scheme for 225 dwellings and a conservation area is still outstanding.

Portchester West Councillor Sue Bell said: "The proposals for the Downend Road railway bridge caused concern for pedestrian safety with both schemes.

"Councillors deferred the application asking the developers to look at a

separate footbridge over the railway lines separating pedestrians from cars."

Here is an update on 3 other Portchester planning matters:

- Permission was given for 48 dwellings and open space south of Tattershall Crescent, west of Seafield Road and Moraunt Drive, with strict conditions regarding site clearance.
- An application for landscaping for 120 homes at Cranleigh Road with new access and public space to include an equipped play area was approved after the developer agreed to remove the need for 2,140 heavy lorry trips.

NEWS ROUND



Solar bins trial

Smart bins are being trialled in Fareham to see if they can help to reduce littering in the Borough.

Solar powered bins have been placed at Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane car park in Warsash.

They have 10 times the capacity as the waste is compacted several times a day, and when the bin is full a sensor emails the office so it bin can be emptied.

The units are sealed to stop birds and vermin getting in and can only be opened using a foot pedal.

It is part of a nationwide trial being carried out in five local authority areas.

More police, higher tax

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

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.

Tories' winter social



Portchester Parish Hall hosted a winter social held by Fareham Conservatives in January.

Apart from enjoying good food and drinks, guests were able to question Fareham MP Suella Braverman and Council Leader Seán Woodward.

Check your grit bins

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

Anybody who finds an empty or damaged bin should contact the County Council by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk.

Why not "like" our facebook page - In Touch with Portchester West.



War declared on single use plastics

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 to reduce use of plastic.

Councillor Sue Bell said: "I'm glad FBC is taking environmental issues seriously. If you know of an event or group which the plastic engagement officer could visit, email us at publicity@fareham.gov.uk."

Church war memorial unveiled

RELATIVES and civic dignitaries attended a moving ceremony in St Mary's Church where a memorial to 144 service personnel killed in World War 2 was unveiled.

The Princess Royal's husband, Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, performed the ceremony.

Local historian Kate Tame came up with the idea while researching her family and wanted to ensure Portchester's war dead were remembered locally.

The Portchester Society, 2nd Portchester Scout Group, Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils and Portchester Civic Society donated to the memorial, as well as local businesses including Steve Willis Training, Portchester Home Hardware and The Cormorant.

PHOTO: The Mayor and Consort, Councillor Susan and Alderman Brian Bayford, are flanked by Portchester Councillor Nick Walker and Kate Tame.



New play gear will bring joy to Portchester youngsters

PORTCHESTER kids will be whooping with delight when a fantastic array of new play equipment arrives soon.



The Conservative Council allocated £500,000 in a 5-year programme to improve 20 play areas across the Borough.

And two of them will be in Portchester, where work is due to start this spring.

Portchester Park:

Toddler and junior multi-climbing units to be replaced, an inclusive swing will replace a flat swing and an inclusive roundabout installed.

Existing equipment will be repainted and the area tidied.

Castle Street:

Trim trail equipment will be replaced with a large castle themed junior climbing unit and a roundabout installed. Existing equipment will be repainted and a tidy-up undertaken.

Residents and children were consulted on each scheme. The cash comes from developers' contributions.

Executive Member for Leisure and Community Councillor Sue Bell said: "Young people spend so much time these days indoors on devices and we want to encourage children to get outdoors and play."

"Not only does it keep children active and healthy, but it also helps them socially."

"But they need to have equipment they like, so it is vital that we get the views of our residents and work together to get it right."



Festive cheer for the lonely

ELDERLY and lonely people were entertained to lunch in Portchester Parish Hall on Christmas day.

It was arranged by St Mary's Church and 75 guests and volunteers enjoyed the feast cooked by Ron and Lynne Prior.

Councillor Sue Bell thanked church volunteers who served the meal and businesses and individuals who donated.

She said: "It's sad to think of people being alone at Christmas and this event brightened up the day for those who attended."

Former Fareham Mayor Councillor Geoff Fazackarley, pictured with the Rev Ian Meredith, donned Santa Claus robes.

He said: "It doesn't matter where we serve as Borough councillors, we are there for the whole community."



A card to use at your leisure

THE COUNCIL has introduced the 'Fareham Leisure Card', which offers discounts on a range of leisure activities from 44 outlets in and around Fareham.

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 a family membership, £5.60 for students or free to some residents on a low income and are renewable annually.

For more information and a list of participating organisations, or if your company would like to be part of the scheme and offer discounts, contact the Leisure Card officer on 01329 824894.



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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 Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Nick Walker or Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

Residents' views heeded in amended multi-million Ferneham Hall revamp



PLANS to transform Ferneham Hall have been amended after the Council listened to residents' views.

The arts venue is to undergo a multi-million-pound investment and the Council shared its vision for Ferneham Hall with the people of the Borough.

Following the consultation, the Executive agreed to alter its plans to reflect the views of residents, regular hirers and industry experts.

The changes include:

- Main auditorium to have 800 seats rather than the 400-500 originally proposed
- A flexible studio space that can be used for a range of activities instead of a studio solely dedicated to dance
- Making the secondary performance space more flexible to encourage a range of uses
- The remodelled venue will also act as a community centre

Executive Member for Leisure Councillor Sue Bell said: "We have listened to a range of views and changed our plans to reflect what people want at Ferneham Hall."

"These plans will totally transform Ferneham Hall and it is an exciting time for the venue."

Once reopened, the remodelled venue will provide a great choice of entertainment as well as first class community facilities.

Further information about the proposal can be found on the Council's website at:

www.fareham.gov.uk/leisure/newvenue.aspx

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

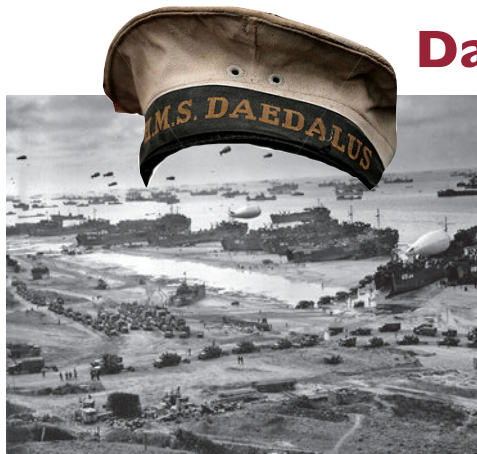


Royal Navy and RAF to enable young people to learn more about the opportunities from further study and careers in the field.

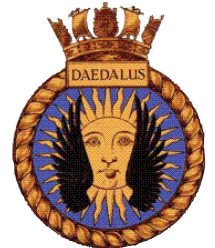
From virtual reality, rocket cars, coding challenges, 3D printing, Lego building, drones, model railways, AI, learning about wi-fi, jet engines and gas turbines to life

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 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.

Portchester West Councillor Sue Bell 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.

Irresponsible dog owners face stricter controls and penalties

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 Sue Bell said: "We want to ensure that irresponsible dog owners don't spoil people's enjoyment."