

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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

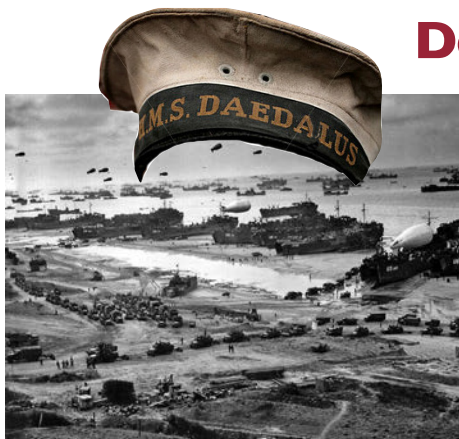
programme for future improvements includes:

- 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



D-Day 0441 hours, June 6, 1944.

The first aircraft take off from HMS Daedalus to support Operation Over-

lord – 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.

Don’t miss Daedalus D-Day spectacular

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.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: “Council officers are planning to make it a day to remember, so make sure you don’t miss what will be the biggest

Almost England’s lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES

NEWS ROUND



Volunteers needed

Oasis Youth Club, which meets at Titchfield Community Centre, is urgently looking for volunteers to help.

If you enjoy working with young people and are able to spare 2 hours on a Thursday evening once or more a month, then you would be welcome.

You would be supporting 2 professional youth workers.

If you are interested please contact Connie on 01329 287365. Training and DBS checks would be arranged.

New surgery ideas wanted

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst is seeking Titchfield Common residents' views as to how they would like to meet her regularly to discuss local issues.

Sarah said: "I had a monthly surgery at the Locks Heath Free Church, but with very low numbers of residents attending.

"I am thinking of a quarterly evening surgery to be held locally, perhaps in the form of a local 'Question Time' meeting with guest councillors and MP Suella Braverman.

Please email me on spankhurst@fareham.gov.uk with ideas."

Who's up for a panto part?

Abshot Community Centre Committee is looking for volunteers to support the centre by becoming trustees.

You will have a positive say on decisions made for the day-to-day running of the centre, including event planning, spending decisions and the chance to take part in the annual pantomime.

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.

Parishioners' 9-year dream is coming true

NINE years of planning and fund raising are about to become a dream come true for Locks Heath Free Church.

A new building is taking shape beside the church which will give parishioners a splendid new meeting venue.

It was originally planned to link the building to the church, but this was ruled out due to cost.

Senior Pastor Mark Madavan, pictured on site with ward Councillor Sarah Pankhurst, said they hoped to move in during the summer, while upgrading the church building.

"There will also be additional parking facilities available at this time which will subsequently be incorporated with upgraded existing parking."

Sarah Pankhurst said: "It's an exciting addition to Titchfield Common Ward, giving increased scope to the church's valuable work in the community and providing new facilities for the locality to enjoy."

Most of the cost was raised by the congregation, with grants from the Borough Council.



True grit from Connie and Geoff



WINTER'S icy blasts can come at any time.

But unless the grit bins are full, you won't be able to clear your paths and streets.

So Connie and Geoff Hockley decided to make sure the ones around the village were topped up.

They advise anybody

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



Earl's village trust thrives after 400 years

IT WAS founded by Shakespeare's patron Henry Wriothesley, Third Earl of Southampton, in 1597 and it's still going strong.

But it's not widely known outside the parish that needy cases can call on The Earl of Southampton's Trust for help and friendship.

For over 20 years, Councillor Connie Hockley has been one of its 9 trustees and she writes:

"The Trust is an amalgamation of 5 charities, the oldest – Godwin's Charity – dating from 1597 and the largest is The Earl of Southampton's Charity.



"The charity owns 19 almshouses in Titchfield which are available at affordable rates to residents of 'The Ancient Parish', it runs a day centre for older folk at 24, The Square.

"It also provides relief-in-need grants to qualifying individuals, who must live within the ancient parish.

"Recipients of relief grants will usually be referred to the Trust by social services, doctors, district nurses, health visitors, local councillors or local church ministers.

"It can cover anything from help with furniture for the disabled, motorised wheelchairs, stair lifts, respice care,

carpets, household equipment, outstanding services bills, decorating and many other needs not supplied by the state."

Over 60s can enjoy a delicious lunch for £4 in the day rooms, provided they call 01329 847923 to give 24 hours' notice. The rooms are open daily from 9.30am-4pm if you want to pop in for tea, coffee or a chat.

To recommend a person in need for consideration, contact the Clerk to the Trustees at 24 The Square, Titchfield PO14 4AF or email earlstrust@yahoo.co.uk or call 01329 513294 with details of the applicant to include name, address and contact number.

You can also go on line to www.eost.org.uk where you will find further details and a grant application form.

PHOTO: John Solly and Yvonne Howe relax after lunch in the day rooms.



Village author launches vivid tales of Titchfield through the centuries



TITCHFIELD is one of England's oldest villages, its rich panoply of history tracing back 1,500 years.

Where a tribe called the Meonwara once roamed, 8 monarchs, including Henry V, Queen Elizabeth I and Charles I, have also trodden and the aura of William Shakespeare pervades.

Its history has been vividly brought to life in a captivating book 'The Birth of Titchfield' by local author John Hiatt.

Perhaps it should be 'Tales of Titchfield' as it comprises 12 fictional stories, set in different times from the Dark Ages to the 1950s, but historically accurate.

John Hiatt said: "For example, a Titchfield doctor wrote a story which follows a family when the plague struck the village in 1348.

"Another story based in 1943 covers a submariner and is written as an epistolary tale, with letters he exchanged with his wife while he was serving in the Mediterranean where his submarine becomes lost.

"His wife was pregnant with his only child when he died, so the story calls back the anguish of those separated by war."

'The Birth of Titchfield' is available from Amazon, Waterstones and Magic Flute Publications for £14.95 in hardback and £9.95 in paperback.

PHOTO: John Hiatt discusses his book with Fareham MP Suella Braverman and Councillors Geoff and Connie Hockley and Tiffany Harper and Bryan Dunleavy,

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.

Dirty dog owners face tougher penalties

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.

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 owners 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.

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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.



Odds heavily biased against Tory 'old bowlers'

IT PROMISES to be a fund-raising event with a difference for Titchfield Conservatives.

They have challenged Titchfield Old Bowls Club to a match.

But the odds are heavily against them as they will have to learn the rules of the ancient game that dates from the 13th Century.

After 'training' to use the bowls, which have a different bias from modern ones, 16 Conservatives will play 16 club members on Saturday, June 1 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "We will then adjourn



to the club house and an appropriate prize will be presented to the chairman of the club for allowing us to attend."

The 16 non-players will be able to watch a game few have seen, as there are only 5 such clubs in the UK. The oldest, in Southampton, dates from 1299.

Tea will be provided for the 48 people present. Fareham MP Suella Braverman will chair the event.

If you want to play or watch, tickets cost £15 and Geoff advises early booking as the match is raising much interest.

To book or find out more details, contact Geoff or Connie Hockley at geoff.hockley@hants.gov.uk or call 01329 287365.

J9 upgrade will slot into multi-million M27 project

ANOTHER component in the massive 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 Hampshire County Council scheme has been designed to reduce traffic con-

gestion, improve access for residents and businesses and support future development. It includes:

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

Work ties in with other local investments, including £14m to widen Whiteley Way and the £244m Smart Motorway scheme now underway.