



Warsash in Westminster - Suella Braverman MP supporting our community

1000 attend Suella's Solent Festival of Engineering



Suella was delighted to hold the first ever Solent Festival of Engineering at Fareham Leisure Centre which was attended by over 1000 local children and students.

The aim of the event was to showcase the busy 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, the Royal

Navy, Air Force and many others 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 at the details below.

A brighter future for Brexit

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. However, 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 U.K. 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 that 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! And in some welcome personal news, I am expecting a baby in July. Rael and I are looking forward to becoming parents!



InTouch

with Warsash and Hook

THE LATEST NEWS
FROM YOUR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS AND MP

Winter 2019



Photograph courtesy of Adam Shaw

GIVING YOU A VOICE

Keeping Council Tax down - again

With a further loss of central government financial support Fareham Borough Council has increased its share of Council Tax by just £5 per year representing just a penny a day increase for the average (band C) property in Fareham. A band D property in Fareham will be paying £160 per year or just 44p per day for all of Fareham Borough Council's services.

Out of some £47m spent annually by the Borough Council less that £7m is raised via Council Tax. This means that 85% of council spending is not raised from Council tax but rather from the council's other trading activities. This includes a portfolio of mainly local commercial property which raises millions of pounds in rental income per year. For example most of the units at Southampton Road, Park Gate (B&Q, Dunelm, Halfords, Home Bargains, 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.

Council investments are also directed at Solent Airport@Daedalus where around £30m has so far been spent on infrastructure and new commercial buildings such as the newly extended Fareham Innovation Centre which having only been open for a matter of months is already 70% full in total. The airport operation is now starting to provide a financial return to the council while seeing flight movements increased to 30,000 annually and hundreds of new jobs created on what is the Solent Enterprise Zone.

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75th Anniversary of D Day landings

Councillor Cartwright, as Chairman of the Working Group, is pleased to announce that an event to celebrate the Anniversary is planned for Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2019 at Solent Airport in Lee-on-the-Solent. There will be funfair rides, children's activities, market stalls, stage performances by local groups and performances in the arena. There are also plans for air displays from the Red Arrows,

the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and parachute landings from Dakotas, as well as static displays of aircraft. More information on the Anniversary will be published on the Council's website in the coming months.



Funding for QA Hospital

Further to the article in our last In Touch, Cllr Cartwright is pleased to say that he received a letter from the Chief Executive of QA Hospital, informing him that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, had confirmed that Portsmouth Hospital's NHS Trust would receive

£58million to re-develop the urgent care facilities at QA hospital.

This re-development will enable them to transform the way their teams deliver urgent care services to patients, which will bring a huge opportunity to bring positive change to patients and our local community.

Get in touch

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In 2018, the group:

- Constructed a 'hibernacula' - a winter home for slow worms.
- Held a sell out event for families at Easter to discuss the Common's Owl population
- Undertook a summer reptile survey that discovered a good population of reptiles, including a Great Crested Newt - an endangered species not seen at this location in over 12 years
- Created a remembrance memorial, with two strips of red poppies flanking a strip of white. This reminder of the Armistice will provide a lovely show of colour between May and June this year.

- In addition the final stretch of the gravel pathway around Dibles Meadow has been laid along with a new woodland pasture.

Trevor and Mike, along with those many folk who enjoy the Common, have been hugely impressed with the work carried out by the Fareham Conservation Volunteers under the direction of the Council's Countryside Ranger Mark. Our thanks go out to this superb and dedicated team.

Mike and Trevor (far left), visiting the volunteers during a well-deserved break.



Keeping Council Tax down - again

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The target over the 25 year life of the Enterprise Zone for new jobs is 3,500 within 1,100 of those being on the Fareham part of the site. Already over half of the total has been reached in the first few years. Fuel sales alone at the airport are booming thanks in part to Spitfires based at the site having been flying regularly through much of last year. Fareham Borough Council has also transferred land to Fareham College for the building of a Civil Engineering Training Centre (CETC) to teach young people the skills they need to undertake civil engineering works in this area where there is a huge skills shortage.

Improvements that the council is looking to make in the future include a capital programme of £39m:

- Ferneham Hall refurbishment £10m

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

Councillor Seán Woodward, Leader of the Council, said "The pressures to set a balanced budget without reducing services become more challenging with every year that passes. We have plans for another £1m of annual savings found via efficiencies rather than service reductions."

University floats plans for Maritime Institute

Councillors Trevor Cartwright and Mike Ford attended a recent briefing meeting where Professor Graham Baldwin, Vice-Chancellor of Solent University explained their proposals for the Warsash campus.

A £26m investment is planned for the lower (river side) site that will include a Safety Training Centre featuring a live fire training ground with an innovative smoke filtration system and a state of the art survival pool.

It is anticipated that the enabling works contract and the main planning application will be awarded between

March and September 2019 with a main contract being awarded shortly afterwards.

On the upper, now surplus site, the University's indicative design shows there may be 64 new build homes, 30 conversions and a 46 bed care home within the listed buildings. The potential time line for this site sees a

Hampshire to get more Police Officers

Cllr Cartwright, as a member of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel, reports that, at the meeting in January 2019, the Police Crime Commissioner's recommendation to increase the Council Tax Precept by £24.00 per year for Band D properties was unanimously supported by the Panel. This was on the understanding that by doing so, all the additional money raised would protect local policing which would see the appointment of 200 new Police Officers, 65 Police Station Investigators, and training for a new cadre of PCSOs.

Cllr Cartwright welcomed the proposed additions to the Police numbers and felt that local residents would be very pleased to see additional Officers on the streets enabling neighbourhood policing to be strengthened.

Solar bin trialled in Warsash

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a futuristic looking bin in the Passage Lane car park. This Smart bin is being trialled in Warsash to see if they can help to reduce littering in the Borough.

This is one of two Solar powered bins that have been placed at two popular locations, Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane.

The Smart bins can take up to ten times more volume, as the waste gets crushed and compacted several times a day. With batteries which allow the bin to operate for 13 weeks without a



light source, the bin is able to email the council when full. The units are sealed to stop birds and vermin getting in and can only be opened using a foot pedal.

The Council will also be trialling an alternative version at the same locations between March 2019 and August 2019.

Game, Set and Match at Warsash

Councillors Mike Ford and Seán Woodward recently joined members of the Warsash Tennis Club at their Open Day. The Councillors were delighted to see the club's excellent new courts, which both Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils provided grants for, with Mike, Trevor and Seán supporting the club and their application.

Helen Rawlins from the Club said, "We would like to thank FBC and HCC for their grants in helping the club resurface our worn out courts and are excited to unveil our new Wimbledon

coloured courts. We are a small village tennis club with four floodlit courts so can play all year round. We have players, young, old, and everyone in-between and welcome non-members to come and play on our courts."

If you are interested in playing, contact the club's membership secretary for further information at Kirwan_264@hotmail.com.

Mike concluded that he may just roll back the years and dust down his racket!



Mike Ford and Seán Woodward enjoying a quick game with members of the Warsash Tennis Club.

A Life Saver at the Victory Hall

A new defibrillator has been installed to the front and outside of, the Victory Hall. Councillor Mike Ford, who is also a member of the hall management committee explains, "This has been a key objective for the Hall and has come about due to the generosity of the Earl of Southampton's Trust, the British Heart Foundation, the Co-op in

Warsash and donations from a number of local groups."

"The Hall and footpath outside are very busy areas, so this is an appropriate position for locating this life-saving device," continued Mike. "It is very straightforward to use and can be accessed immediately by anyone.

In brief

Cycle racks for Shore Road Car Park

Following on from the last issue of In Touch, Cllr Cartwright is pleased to inform residents that the cycle racks have now been installed and he is sure cyclists will be happy to know that they can now lock up their bikes securely.

Locks Heath Shopping Centre Update

County Cllr Keith Evans continues to engage with the Centre Management, including meetings with the Regional Director of the Shopping Centre owners (New River Retail) and the new Shopping Centre Manager, Sarah Cotton, with some very positive results.

The closed car park entrance that had been causing so much traffic confrontation has now been removed. Work with the retailers has identified some additional parking for shop staff which should help reduce the parking in adjacent roads. Improved signage is planned to help locate the centre and better distribute traffic within the parking areas.

The Centre was a little "drab" this past Christmas but there are intentions for a much improved "Christmassy" atmosphere for this year.

Deliverers and pictures needed

We are committed to keeping you all informed of what is going on, regardless of how you may vote in the election. We produce four In Touch editions a year in Warsash, which are hand delivered to the 3,200 properties in the Ward.

This takes time, and would be so much easier if we could expand our band of deliverers. If you are interested in becoming one of them (to deliver as many or as few as you could commit to) we would be delighted to hear from you.

We are also on the look out for images of Hook or Warsash for the next issue of In Touch. If you have a great shot you'd like to share, please send them in.

Please contact Trevor or Mike for further information.



The Warsash Maritime Institute has been a feature of our community for over seventy years. In its new guise, and designed in cooperation with the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service, it will become a unique safety training centre.