

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



# InTouch



FAREHAM NORTH – Spring 2019



## ‘Here’s another fine mess they’ve gotten us into’

**IT READS like a Laurel and Hardy farce, but for Fareham planners the mess they have been gotten into by the Government is no laughing matter.**

In less than a year, yet more green fields have come under threat as Whitehall demands the Borough Council finds space for up to 2,500 extra homes.

And these come on top of the 2,300 houses we have already been forced to add to the new Draft Plan 2011-2036.

“What an awful Government-inspired mess this has been,” said Executive Member for Planning and Development Councillor Keith Evans.

To meet the original target of 2,300, the Council proposed having as much brownfield development as possible, plus large new greenfield sites in Warsash, Portchester, Titchfield Common and South Fareham, which sparked furious protests from residents.

The dust hadn’t settled before Whitehall moved the goal posts again with a new formula to calculate housing need, a stronger obligation to take up unmet housing need from nearby councils and severe penalties for non-planning approval or non-delivery.

The mess became a mire and led to the Council having to sus-

pend the Draft Plan and take it back to the drawing board.

Keith Evans led fierce Council opposition to the changes, but intensive lobbying of Housing Minister Kit Malthouse and senior civil servants by the Council Leader and Fareham and Gosport MPs fell on deaf ears.

He stated: “Government ignored our objections and is proceeding with the new mechanisms – although it conceded on one point and will introduce the measuring against new numbers effectively from 2020 rather than being backdated.

“We are working through the numbers, but it looks certain to be in the range of 1,800 to 2,500 more houses above the original additional 2,300 – an enormous increase and one which will have to be met in the main from further new greenfield sites.”

Fortunately, the suspended Draft Plan remains valid while the Council confirms the extra numbers and evaluates all the remaining green space in Fareham.

Residents are being consulted on site options which will be merged into the current Draft Plan before a new plan is issued for public comment in the autumn/winter 2019.

Keith Evans added: “Fortunately, we have a good knowledgeable team of planning officers who are helping to minimise delays and the additional costs.”

## Celebrating 20 years of outstanding Conservative administration

**FAREHAM Council is the envy of every local authority in Hampshire and way beyond.**

**Conservatives** have brought consistency, stability and prosperity since taking over running the Borough 20 years ago from the failed Lib Dem/Labour pact that left the Council facing bankruptcy.

The anniversary on May 4 was celebrated with a party at Portchester Parish Hall, attended by nearly 100 councillors, one former and two sitting MPs, party workers and supporters.

It also marked the date that Seán Woodward was elected as its dynamic Council Leader.

He said Fareham had steadfastly voted **Conservative** because the Council was seen to be delivering for local people.

“We have consistently set the lowest taxes and best services of



most district councils, high quality parks, leisure facilities, a good refuse collection service and, as far as we can, clean streets.

“We support local commerce and industry with fantastic business facilities, including our industrial estates and business parks at Solent Airport@Daedalus.

“We invest in commercial property to raise millions of pounds to deliver excellent services and work with others to bring huge road infrastructure investment in our Borough.

“We treat taxpayers’ money as it should be treated – to be spent only as necessary and always prudently.

“It takes a great deal of planning and delivery. We have an excellent team of officers who deliver for our residents day after day. I am so grateful to them for their work.”

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



## NEWS ROUND

### Nomads win again

Congratulations to Fareham Nomads swimming club on the success of winning the Jean Hillman Gala for the second consecutive year.

Six local clubs competed at Fareham Leisure Centre with more than 200 excellent young swimmers striving to win the beautiful cup.

### Leisure Centre 'outstanding'

Fareham Leisure Centre, which is managed by Everyone Active on behalf of FBC, has been recognised for its outstanding services following a thorough assessment by Sport England's leading national quality scheme, Quest.

It is the first leisure centre nationally to gain four consecutive outstanding judgements.

We are proud to have such a well-run centre within North Ward and congratulate all the staff for this fantastic achievement.

### Fred and Peter have grants cash

County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett each receive an annual budget of £8,000 to allocate to local projects and organisations in Fareham Town Division.

Legitimate groups, but not individuals, can apply for a grant by completing an online application form. The scheme opens again in June and runs until the end of February 2020.

Contact them on the telephone number below for more information.

### North Ward surgeries

Your councillors and county councillors hold surgeries for residents in the Leisure Centre café area on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

These surgeries are popular, so prior notice and an appointment with a councillor will be required in future.

Contact details are below.

We're on Facebook. Go to Councillor Louise Clubley and Councillor Pamela Bryant

## World trade is still not fair enough

'SHE deserves Fairtrade' was the theme of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight, which was again supported locally.

Fareham Fairtrade Group members Rachel and Jeremy Hicks set up a colourful stand in the Shopping Centre to spread the message that millions of farmers across the world are not paid enough to keep and educate their families or invest in better farming methods.

PHOTO: Councillor Pamela Bryant, who is the Council's representative on the Fairtrade Working Group, was joined at the stand by Councillor Louise Clubley, Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford, Council Leader Seán Woodward and Rachel Hicks to taste Fairtrade chocolates, bananas and homemade raisin bread.



## Plenty of bins, so why not use them?

THERE are litter bins all around Park Lane Recreation Ground, yet people can't be bothered using them.

The result is plastics, cans and other unsightly rubbish tossed into the shrubs and hedges.

"We urge residents to be considerate and either use the bins or take their rubbish home," said Councillor Pamela Bryant.

She and fellow ward Councillor Louise Clubley organised a litter-pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean in the never-ending task of trying to keep the park tidy.

At one stage, they were grateful for the help of a local dad and his young son.



## Pamela and Louise carry on family link to make mayoral history

HISTORY was made at this year's Mayormaking, when Pamela Bryant took on the first citizen's role for the second time.

She first put on the robes in 2002 when her late husband, Alderman John Bryant, who was Mayor in 2006, was her consort.

Now she has her daughter, Councillor Louise Clubley, as Mayoress and it is the first time in Fareham's history the Mayor's husband and daughter have been consorts.

Pamela and Louise look forward to meeting the numerous residents who work with the voluntary organisations in the town as

well as raising funds for three local charities – 1350 Squadron Air Cadets Fareport Talking News and Rowans Hospice.

The ceremony at Ferneham Hall was also the setting for this year's Citizens of Honour awards in recognition of their dedication to the community and voluntary services.

Two of the awards went to Fareham North residents – Eric Nixon, of Beaufort Avenue, and 16-year old Finn Webster.

Eric is well known for his 40-year association with Fareham Lions Club. Earlier, he had a distinguished career in the RAF.

Nine years ago, he was diagnosed with Al-

zheimer's, but has continued to help others by speaking to groups and explaining the challenges of the disease.

Finn is an amazing young man, who was recognised for his patience and kindness in looking after his mum after she was diagnosed with MS.

Despite the onerous duty as carer, he does well at school and still manages a daily paper round.

PHOTOS (top): The Mayor and Mayoress with Mayor's Cadet Emily McKnight.

(bottom): Eric Nixon is on the far left and Finn Webster second from right back row.

## 'Big Belly' digests loads of litter

TWO new smart bins have been installed in the Borough as part of a trial to help reduce the amount of litter.

The bins, nicknamed the 'Big Belly', replaced another brand of solar bins at Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane car park in Warsash.

They can hold up to 808 litres and compact the litter several times a day, so more can be disposed of and fewer collections are needed.

'Big Belly' is currently used by more than 80 councils and is operated by a handle or by using a foot

pedal. A sensor emails the council office when it's full, so the bin can be emptied.

The trial lasts until August 2019 and results will be monitored.

Councillor Pamela Bryant said: "We are hoping these smart bins will make a real difference and reduce the amount of litter in the Borough."



## Parking zones demand

FRUSTRATED residents are annoyed with the County Council's negative responses to repeated calls for residential parking zones.

They say it's the only way to solve town centre parking crisis and are backing a petition to the County Council. Many told councillors it was getting harder and harder to park outside their homes.

Often it was the elderly and disabled who suffered most, having to walk long distances to their doors.

HCC has refused several times to consider the issue. To sign the petition please go to <https://tiny.cc/wzr65y>

### BOROUGH COUNCILLORS Fareham North



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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 Fareham North Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Pamela Bryant on 01329 281427.



### Prepare for a 'No Deal' and just get us out

Like many residents in Fareham, I am disappointed and frustrated that the Government did not deliver Brexit on March 29 as promised.

As a Brexiteer, in Parliament I have consistently voted against extending Article 50, against holding European Elections and against a 2nd Referendum.

Instead, I voted in favour of No Deal so that we could just get out.

Sadly I was in a minority in Parliament. The solution is clear: the Government and Prime Minister need to prepare for 'No Deal' and take the UK out of the EU.

The relevant plans are in place and by providing certainty to the country and businesses, we will be able to move on from this damaging impasse.

I will keep working for this in Parliament and will do all I can to ensure that we deliver Brexit, ie leaving the Customs Union, the single market and taking back control over our borders and laws.

### CONTACT SUELLA

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# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

### Campaigning for better social care

Many residents are worried about social care for their elderly and vulnerable relatives.

The Government is committed to improving social care. £1.8 billion is allocated for 2019-20 through the improved Better Care Fund, ie a 23% increase on last year.

For Hampshire, an extra £4.7m has been allocated for winter pressures, and in Fareham, I have visited excellent residential care homes like Gracewell, Hamble Heights and Abbeyfield where residents are brilliantly cared for.

Despite the good work, there are many people who find the Continuing Health Care system slow,



bureaucratic and unfair.

John White, from Fareham, (pictured) came to see me about caring for his sister-in-law who was suffering with Alzheimer's

disease.

Funding applications were rejected by West Hampshire CCG and the appeals process was delayed so that funding was only granted after 6 years – too late for his sister-in-law who had sadly passed away.

I am working with local residents, Ministers and Hampshire CC to improve the system. I also spoke about the issue in Parliamentary debate on April 24, which you can read here:

[www.theyworkforyou.co.uk](http://www.theyworkforyou.co.uk)

If you would like support on this matter, please get in touch with me.

## High Sheriff's award to Fareham Y-Services

### Y-SERVICES started the year with two high profile achievements.

After hearing about their work, Hampshire High Sheriff Mark Thistlethwayte visited the charity, meeting volunteers, workers and trustees.

As a result, Y-Services for Young People received a High Sheriff of Hampshire Award at a ceremony in the Great Hall in Winchester on March 20.

Y-Services' opened their scrapstore in Frosthole Crescent, which they had taken over from the Borough Council.

The dilapidated former Victorian isolation hospital had lain empty for 5 years and needed an immense amount of work to restore, which was achieved by the Y-Services team and local volunteers.

Among the facilities, it will provide:

- Community scrap store. Local companies donate surplus materials to be reused for art and crafts projects by nurseries, schools, youth clubs.

- Training facility for young people, including opportunities to enhance their CVs, learn new skills and develop confidence to be 'job ready'.

- Drop-in facility for young people requiring support by a youth worker or other professional.

- Creative arts and crafts sessions for the community.

Opening times are Monday 1-3pm, Tuesday 4-6pm, Wednesday 1-3pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 9-10.30am.

PHOTO: Councillor Connie Hockley, who opened the store, with trustees



## Lights out! Blackout returns to save the council money



### OLDER residents will remember the wartime 'Blackout'.

It's main function was not to give the Luftwaffe easy targets and it also saved precious fuel.

Now it's back. Nothing to do with air raids, but street lights are switched off every night between 1am and 5am, saving the cash-strapped County Council £243,000 a year.

Hampshire had to make savings of £140m and County

Councillor Peter Latham said a public consultation in 2017 resulted in 85% of people backing the idea.

FLASHBACK: An ARP warden adjusts one of the the strictly enforced wartime blackout times.

Even the slightest chink of light through blackout curtains would spark the cry 'Put that bloody light out!'

Dame Vera Lynn's 'When the lights go on again' was the glimmer of hope for the war to end.

