

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



FAREHAM NORTH WEST – 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

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 in Fareham and congratulate all the staff for this fantastic achievement.

Help prevent crime

Neighbourhood policing teams are passionate about preventing crime, and would like to reach more residents through email with Hampshire Alert.

Hampshire Alert covers the county - so anyone you know could benefit from hearing from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Sign up at: www.hampshirealert.co.uk

Report potholes

We are always on the lookout for those damaging potholes.

Obviously, we cannot view every single road, so please tell us if you see any in your road.

When they are aware, Hampshire Highways mark them out in white.

Weed spraying under way

The County Council was scheduled to start weed spraying in Fareham from the beginning of May in the Burr ridge/Swanwick area.

Contractors will work west to east through the Borough to complete Fareham by the end of May.

This is much earlier than the last few years and should be more effective.

Spraying can only take place in dry and calm conditions so there may be delays to the intended programme.

A community venue for all occasions

IF YOU want to hold a function, then Fareham NW Community Centre is the place to go.

Situated adjacent to Henry Cort School, its aim is to provide a venue for community events and clubs, but the building is also available for hire by businesses, private functions, weddings, parties, classes and group meetings.



Put simply, it is a space available for whatever you need it. Facilities include a main hall, coffee lounge, kitchen and toilets. The centre is also home to the Fareham Petanque Club, where they have two purpose-built terrains, each 15m x 24m and floodlit for evening play. Councillor Fred Birkett (pictured) said: "The centre is a good place to hold many different types of events, from social meetings, fitness classes, to children's birthdays."

Grants available for local groups

COUNTY Councillors Fred Birkett and Peter Latham 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 to them for a grant by completing an online application form.

The scheme opens again in June and runs until the end of February 2020.

Contact Peter or Fred on the telephone numbers below for more

information.

This year, Fred has allocated grants to the following organisations:

- Citizens Advice Fareham £2,000
- Fareham Men's Shed £1,500
- Fareham Bowling Club £900
- The Highlands Hub £500
- 1st Fareham Scout Group £2,100
- Acts of Kindness Community (Sole) £1,000
- Fareham Stroke Association £500
- Y Services Scrap Store (Frosthole Crescent) £2,000

Walking scheme is good way to keep fit

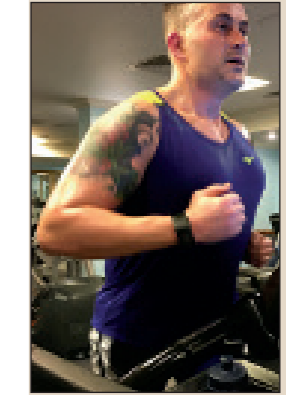
MARATHON runner Fred Birkett is recommending a great way to keep fit without joining a gym.

So what else can you do for a healthy lifestyle?

One option is to take part in the Fareham Walking 4 Health Scheme.

Via Community First, it's been delivering walks since 2004, all led by qualified and dedicated volunteer leaders.

One of the walks begins from the Fareham NW deviation line (meeting at the public car park next to Highlands Working Mens' Club) and takes you to Titchfield Abbey.



Fred, who successfully completed the 2017 London Marathon and is pictured during a training session and walking his dog, says the scheme offers a variety of walks each month, all of which are graded for different abilities and covering

Fred tries to unravel the Brexit jigsaw



WHETHER you voted to leave or remain, the topic of Brexit remains a very important issue to the people of

Fareham NW.

Although this is certainly not an issue local councillors can affect, the number of people requesting an explanation as where we currently stand prompted Councillor Fred Birkett to compile a quick guide of the options available to the Government.

The UK was originally due to leave on March 29, 2019, this was then extended to April, 12, but has now been further extended to October 31.

This leaves the UK with less than six months to decide what it wants to do.

The Government is continuing talks with Labour to

try to find a compromise.

If they can agree, MPs will be given a chance to vote on the deal; if not, a range of other options will be put to them instead.

No deal

This is still the default outcome if MPs can't agree anything else and there are no further extensions.

Leave the EU on the PM's deal

Despite the repeated rejection of Theresa May's deal, it has not been permanently ruled out.

Major renegotiation

The Government could choose to negotiate a completely new Brexit deal - perhaps in accordance with votes of MPs.

Another referendum

A further possibility is to hold another referendum.

Call a general election

Theresa May could decide the best way out of the deadlock would be to hold an early general election.

Another no-confidence vote

The Government survived a vote of no confidence on January 16. Labour could table another no confidence motion at any time.

If the Government were to lose a no confidence vote, this could lead to a General Election.

No Brexit

The European Court of Justice has ruled that it would be legal for the UK to unilaterally revoke Article 50 to cancel Brexit (without the need for agreement from the other 27 EU countries).

With the Government still committed to Brexit, it's very likely that a major event such as a further referendum or change of government would have to happen before such a move.

Curry on cooking, Madam Mayor!

FAREHAM Mayor Susan Bayford swapped her robes for an apron when she cooked up a tasty new curry dish in aid of her three charities.

It happened at the Ghandi Indian Takeaway in Anjou Crescent, where owner Abu once again showed his generosity by giving the evening's takings of £700. A cheque was also given to Cancer Research.

Abu has raised thousands of pounds for both charities over many years and his support to the community is phenomenal.

This year's charities are the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Abby's Heroes and Acts of Kindness.



Mental health issues? Consult your GP

CONCERNS over mental health issues and the stigma have been brought to Councillor Fred Birkett's attention by local people.

Up to one in four people will experience some form of mental illness in their lives.

Problems range from reactions to normal events such as bereavement, relationship breakdowns and depression, to more complex conditions such as schizophrenia.

He said: "Throughout our lifetime we may en-



counter a range of mental health needs, which can include the day-to-day worries and grief that we all experience to serious events or conditions for which we may need to seek expert support.

"It is important to speak to your GP if you believe you may be suffering from a mental health issue. There are several avenues that your GP may recommend, one of which is iTalk.

"It's a free service for patients with depression, anxiety or stress aged 16 and over who are registered with a local GP"

various distances.

"The walks also offer an opportunity to increase your fitness and manage your weight, and at the same time meet and socialise with friends," he says.

Before you join your first walk you will need to complete a Walker Registration Form, which can be downloaded from www.farehamw4h.org.uk or on request from Community First (Fareham).

For further information contact or drop into Community First (Fareham) 163 West Street, Fareham, email w4h.fareham@cfirst.org.uk or call 01329 231899.

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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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

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.



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.

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

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

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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 Froshole Crescent, which they had taken over from the Borough Council.

The dilapidated former Victorian isola-

tion 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 requir-

ing 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 chairman Andy Kennedy.



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.

