

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



FAREHAM 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

Woodvale pavement work



This sinking service manhole in Woodvale was reported to the County Council by your local councillors

Tina Ellis kept an eye on progress (pictured) until completion.

Many more pavements in Woodvale need repairing and Tina and Leslie keep reminding Hampshire Highways of the need .

Highways sized up the path on the north side of Highlands Road for future repair after being contacted by Tina Ellis.

Shelter cleaning

Pictured here in Blackbrook Road a member of the contract cleansing team hard at work sprucing up the shelter.

Please let Tina or Leslie know if any shelter near you needs attention.



West Street post boxes

It took quite a while to get action from Royal Mail, but at last one of the two post boxes

has now been moved from the front of the old post office to a new site by the telephone box, as pictured here.



'Big Belly' has huge appetite for 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 Leslie Keeble said: "We are hoping these smart bins will make a real difference and reduce the amount of litter in the Borough.

"But we need to monitor the trial to see if they work well, with a view to introducing them across the Borough."



MoD clears up open space at last

RESIDENTS are pleased to see that MoD Estates have cleared the open space around their properties off Peak Lane.

They were particularly concerned by the state of the area in Prinsted Walk and a busy access to the crossing at the traffic lights.

Councillor Tina Ellis had raised concerns that the trees were on MoD land – not the Council's – and were not being maintained.

"Finally, I got them to raise a work number and I'm pleased to say we



got there in the end," said Tina, who's pictured sitting on what's left of the fallen tree.

Repairs needed to help Sian to get her wheelchair on and off the bus



A DISABLED lady was spotted by an Oak Road resident having great difficulty manoeuvring her electric wheelchair at a bus stop.

Sian Barker (pictured), from Blackbrook Road, struggled when the bus could not let her down on the tarmac section at Margarita Road south bus stop.

Councillors Tina Ellis and Leslie Keeble were alerted and found there was also a problem at the north side stop which is overgrown, uneven and makes it hard to lower the bus ramp.

Tina and Leslie supported Sian in a bid to get the path resurfaced and weeded, with the asphalt section on the south side extended by a couple of metres.

But the County Council's Highways are dragging their feet. "They came 8 months ago to take photos. Hopefully something will be done soon," said Tina.

What a curry on! Mayor serves up a tasty dish for charity



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 in April at the Ghandi Indian Takeaway in Anjou Crescent, where owner Abu once again showed his generosity by giving the evening's takings of £700 to the Mayor's Charities.

A cheque was also given to Cancer Research.

Abu has raised many thousands 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.

Earlier, the Mayor's annual charity quiz at Palmerston



(Right) They liked it. Abu, local hairdresser Caroline Pryke, the Mayor, Leslie Keeble, Jayne Bowater and Sarah Porter of CancerResearch and charity worker Ahmed Hussain.

Indoor Bowls Centre had raised £640.

After a two-course meal, 16 teams entered the battle of the brains run by quizmaster Steve McSevich.

Instead of a wooden spoon, the bottom team received a packet of Smarties.

PHOTOS: (Left) Abu shows the Mayor the secrets of a good curry.

A card to use at your leisure

THE COUNCIL has introduced the 'Fareham Leisure Card', offering discounts on a range of leisure activities from 44 outlets around the Borough.

To join the scheme, pick up a leaflet and application form from Fareham Leisure Centre, Holly Hill Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Cards cost £8, £19 for a family membership, £5.80 for students or free to some residents on a low income.

For a list of participating organisations, or if your company would like to join the scheme, contact the Leisure Card officer on 01329 824894.



Pothole spotting

WE ARE always on the lookout for these 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.

Here Leslie Keeble is showing that the tarmac from the disintegrating pothole, which is down to the concrete underneath, is blocking the drain grill.

Team change

EX-RN submariner Stephen Child has joined Fareham West InTouch team.

He lives locally and teaches science and maths at HMS Collingwood.

Stephen has been married for 44 years and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.



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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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339 or Tina on 01329 843936.

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 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 chairman Andy Kennedy.



Appeal to catch fly-tippers using WI building as dumping ground

FLY TIPPERS are costing the Women's Institute in Oak Road a lot of money.

It's all happened since a dropped kerb was installed outside their building.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "The WI are very pleased with the dropped kerb, but it seems that some people believe it was done to provide them with easy access to dump their rubbish around the building."

WI member Margaret Hicks told Leslie they had to pay



£168 to have builder's rubble removed and £25 to the Council to take away the freezer (pictured)

Blockage of the drive around the building denies members of the Stroke Club access to the building as well as depleting their vital funds.

Leslie and fellow Fareham West Councillor Tina Ellis urge residents to keep a weather eye open and report any suspicious activities.

"If possible, please jot down the vehicle registration, give it to us and we will do the rest," they said.