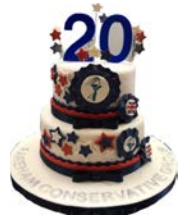


CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



PORTCHESTER – 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 and Portchester Councillor Sue Bell 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.

Sue Bell 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



No station funding

Fareham MP Suella Braverman had been pushing the Department of Transport for funding for improved access at Portchester Station

Suella said: "I supported this bid so I am disappointed that Portchester and Swanwick stations will not receive Government funding for disabled access.

"I'll keep pushing for this with the Department for Transport at the next funding 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.

Bloom competition launched

This year's 'Fareham in Bloom' competition was launched with a popular 'Bloom Day' in Fareham Shopping Centre.

Organised by the Council's Parks Department, over 1,000 wild flower seed packets were given away, children were able to make masks and grown-ups a bird feeder using willow.

Weed spraying under way

The County Council was scheduled to start weed spraying in Fareham from the beginning of May, working west to east to complete the job by the end of the month.

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.

Spot those potholes

We are always on the lookout for damaging potholes, so please tell us if you see any in your road.

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

Why not "like" our facebook page - In Touch with Portchester West.

Upgraded play areas thrill Portchester kids

CHILDREN from Big Discoveries Nursery were delighted to officially open a newly refurbished play area at Portchester Park.

It's one of four which has been improved by Fareham Borough Council with new play equipment.

Portchester Park, Sweethills Crescent in Sarisbury, Castle Street, Portchester and Eastern Parade, Fareham have been upgraded as part of a £500,000 five-year programme to upgrade 20 play areas.

Portchester Park in Westlands Grove has new toddler and junior play equipment, an inclusive swing

and roundabout.

At Castle Street play area, there's a new castle-themed climbing unit, an inclusive swing and a roundabout. Traditional games and graphics have also been painted on the ground and equipment repainted and cleaned.

Before work began, residents were consulted and asked to vote on what pieces of equipment they wanted in the play areas.

The children were given goody bags to mark the occasion by company Wicksteed, who supplied the play area equipment.

'Fantastic service' rewarded with new contract

THE CHARITY 'One Community' will continue to offer first-class services to Fareham residents after the Council renewed their contract.

The Council will carry on funding One Community to deliver a package of community services in the Borough after a strict tendering process.

The Council provides the funding to deliver the 'Big 3' initiative which provides a focused package of support for the benefit of individuals and local groups. The 'Big 3' are:

- Volunteering, skills exchange
- Funding advice, support
- Governance, building community resilience

Executive Member for Leisure and Community Councillor Sue Bell said: "One Community has offered an excellent service and made a difference to so many community organisations that operate for the benefit of people living in the Borough.

"We are delighted that One Community is going to continue to offer this fantastic service.

"There is so much evidence that people benefit from opportunities provided by volunteering and engagement with community groups, so it is of paramount importance to offer well-supported, effective community and voluntary activities."

Appeal lodged over Winnham Farm homes plan refusal

DEVELOPERS have lodged an appeal after their controversial scheme to build 350 homes east of Downend Road was thrown out by Fareham planners.

Miller Homes' plan for the Winnham Farm green field site had brought fierce objections from residents and councillors fearing traffic impact at the A27 junction and the Delme Roundabout.

And those fears were taken into account when the planning committee rejected it for two reasons:

1 A big increase in pedestrians using the narrow road bridge over the railway.

Drawings submitted by Miller Homes provided for an inadequate footpath to ensure pedestrians' and road users' safety.

Works to the bridge titled 'priority shuttle working' would result in unacceptable harm to safety and convenience of highway users.



2 The site is not sustainably located in terms of access to local services and facilities.

Planning committee chairman Portchester Councillor Nick Walker said: "I had concerns about this application from a highway point of view.

"This would be the impact for pedestrians across the railway bridge, the increase in traffic along Downend Road and on to the A27 and the increase of the potential for rat-running along side roads."

Portchester Councillor Sue Bell said: "Miller Homes indicated that they intend to request the Secretary of State for an inquiry process and that the appeal be put through a pilot scheme being run by the Planning Inspectorate with the aim of holding inquiries much earlier than usual!"

PHOTO: The appeal site is outlined in red.

200 more police to fight crime wave

HAMPSHIRE will get 200 additional police officers to combat the rise in crime.

This is in addition to the 150 police officers already safeguarded by the PCC.

That means there will be a total of 350 more police officers in Hampshire next year.

Proportionally that's an extra two dozen po-



lice officers for Fareham Borough.

Councillors had been campaigning for the last year to ensure Fareham gets the level of resources it deserves, including liaising with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The exact figures are still to be published but Fareham should end up with an extra two dozen police officers from this.

Clean up dog mess or face a fine

A CLAMP-down on dirty dog owners came into force on April 1.

The Council's new Public Spaces Protection Order was introduced to encourage dog owners to be more responsible.

It allows the Council to continue to tackle dog fouling and request dogs be put on leads if causing a nuisance in public.

They must be on leads in sensitive places such as cemeteries and are excluded from certain places such as play areas. The PSPO also limits the number of dogs a person can walk at any one time to four.

Blind, deaf and those who rely on assistance dogs are exempt.

People who don't clean up dog mess face a fixed penalty of £100 or a £1,000 fine if they are taken to court.

Citizens of Honour awards for two brave Portchester residents

TWO PORTCHESTER residents who inspired others while battling serious handicaps received Fareham Citizens of Honour awards.

Sadly, one of them, Robin Chawner, died before he could be presented with his medal by retiring Mayor Susan Bayford at the mayor-making ceremony in Ferneham Hall.

Robin, who was seriously affected with Parkinsons, founded a local public speaking group with affiliation to Toastmasters International called Solent Speakers 16 years ago.

He helped hundreds of people to develop self-confidence and improve their public speaking and communication skills.

He was also involved with the local Prince's Trust, helping attendees to present their final project.

Despite battling Parkinsons, he continued to promote Toastmasters and assist with the club as far as he could.

His family will receive his award privately.

Nine-year-old Lewis Heaysman (pictured), attends Wicor Primary School and has serious hearing problems, wearing two hearing aids at all times.

Despite his profound disability, Lewis has refused to allow it to stop him from doing what he wants to do.

He had piano lessons and has become so competent that he recently won a piano competition in Birmingham.

He has also learnt to tap dance and this year has a speaking part in the Aladdin pantomime.

Lewis gives a wonderful example to others like him who have a disability.



BOROUGH COUNCILLORS Portchester West



Nick Walker
Turret House, Hospital Lane
Portchester, Fareham PO16 9LT
Tel: 023 9238 4943
Email: nwalker@fareham.gov.uk

Sue Bell
Turret House, Hospital Lane,
Portchester, Fareham PO16 9LT
Tel: 023 9238 4943
Email: sbell@fareham.gov.uk



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 Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Nick Walker or Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

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.

CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN

Tel: 01329 233573

Email: suella@suellabraverman.co.uk

Facebook: [fb.com/SuellaBraverman](https://www.facebook.com/SuellaBraverman)

Speed camera demand for Portchester school



A SPEED CAMERA should be installed near a school in White Hart Lane.

The call came from InTouch new team leader for Portchester East Lindsey Sach, who was quick to respond to complaints about speeding outside Castle Primary School in White Hart Lane.

The issue was raised by Mrs Carol Cotton, who lives in Windsor Road opposite the school's back entrance.

She said: "I hear cars zooming past every morning.

"Clearly something needs to be done to enforce the speed limit, especially at peak times when children are arriving for school."

Lindsey promised to contact the Council to request installation of a speed camera.

"Having spoken to residents, I believe it is important to do all we can to prevent a potential accident and installing a speed camera outside the school should encourage drivers to drive safely."

PHOTO: Lindsey Sach (left) discusses the speeding issue with Carol Cotton.

Fareham MP sparks Parliament inquiry into fireworks law change

THERE'S been a bonanza of support for MP Suella Braverman's lobbying of the Government to change the law on private use of fireworks.

A current petition by Amy Cullen, signed by nearly 300,000 people, calls for a ban on the sale of fireworks to the public and for fireworks displays to be restricted to licensed venues.

She wrote: "Every year fireworks are

set off unnecessarily. Fireworks are a nuisance to the public. They scare animals, young children and people with a phobia.

"They injure thousands of people every year. They cause damage to buildings, vehicles, emergency vehicles and kids are still being sold them."

There are 11 other petitions calling for stricter fireworks regulations.

They have raised concerns on the

impact on veterans, particularly those suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), public nuisance and noise effects on children and animals, concerns about fireworks used as weapons and the effects on the emergency services.

An inquiry into the law on fireworks has been launched by MPs, with the case for banning their sale to the public to be examined.