

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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



Weed spraying under way

The County Council is scheduled to start weed spraying in Fareham from the beginning of May in the Burridge/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.

White lines repainted

St Margaret's roundabout on the A27 between Fareham and the M27 has for several years played its part in helping traffic to flow safely through the five joining roads.

Recently the white traffic lines on the roundabout started to diminish and need repainting.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley pursued the matter and received an apology and the work has now been done.

Planning appeal victory

Residents and Fareham Council are celebrating a notable planning victory.

Foreman Homes' appeal to build up to 150 new homes east of Posbrook Lane was dismissed by the planning inspector.

He stressed the effect of the development on the character and appearance of the area and the setting of Great Posbrook and the southern barn at Great Posbrook Farm, Grade 2 listed buildings.

He concluded; "The proposed development would result in material harm to the character and appearance of the area which would result in harm to a valued landscape."

Councillor Connie Hockley commented: "Well done Fareham Borough Council for successfully defending this appeal and to local organisations and residents for campaigning against this application."

New play treat in store for village kids

TITCHFIELD kids can't wait to get their hands on the exciting new equipment at Barry's Meadow shown in this illustration.

After last year's consultations, the Borough Council has awarded the contract to Wicksteed, who will carry out the works which will take place around autumn time.

The junior multi climbing unit will be replaced, the black stepping stones will be replaced with a 4 seater springy, and the rotator will be replaced with a new spinner.

Existing equipment will be painted and the play area will receive a general tidy up.



Seeds sown for this year's show

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.

The event was supported by St Margaret's Nursery.

PHOTO (l to r): Bridget and Geoff Thickett, Connie Hockley and Jean Kingdom.



30 new jobs to be created as top aviation company expands in Fareham



A FAMOUS British aero company is investing heavily in Fareham with a new plant.

Percival Aviation's new site in Cartwright Drive, Segensworth will create jobs and strengthen the Fareham economy.

The good news was welcomed by Titchfield Councillor Connie Hockley and Fareham MP Suella Braverman who attended the ground breaking ceremony in March.

Connie Hockley said: "The UK has a hugely successful aviation industry and I am delighted that Fareham is playing an important part in that, with our local aviation offering going from strength to strength."

It will double Percival Aviation's capacity as it continues to make significant investment in technology, staff training and development.

The company, established in the region for more than 40 years, expects to create around 30 new jobs over the next 5 years.

PHOTO (l to r): Managing director Chris Bench, Connie Hockley, Suella Braverman and CEO Neil Percival.



Fresh venture and a prestige award

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.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "Congratulations to everyone involved with this special charity – a very well deserved award."

Earlier, she had opened Y-Services' scrapstore in Frost-

hole Crescent, which they had taken over from the Borough Council, and is pictured below with chairman of trustees Andy Kennedy.

The dilapidated former Victorian isolation hospital and physiotherapy unit 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.

Volunteers are needed to expand the service. Contact Connie Hockley who will pass on your details to Y-Services.

MAIN PHOTO: Connie Hockley, Maria Calway-Kennedy, Dr Clifford Williams, Alderman Brian Bayford, Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford, trustees chairman Andy Kennedy (holding award), Prad Bains (a trustee) and Kyle Dear.

'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 Connie Hockley said: "We are hoping these smart bins will make a real difference and reduce the amount of litter in the Borough."



Bikers ignore Haven path cycling ban

THOUGHTLESS bikers are ignoring 'No Cycling' signs along Titchfield Haven canal path.

Councillor Geoff Hockley says the ban was made to prevent accidents.

The path has been greatly improved so walkers can enjoy it, but when they have pointed out the ban, the law breakers shout insults.

"It's only a question of time before an accident happens, so please observe the rules," said Geoff.

Titchfield Haven viewing area path has been repaired with gravel set into resin, which makes it very suitable for bird watchers,

PHOTO: A friend of Councillor Connie Hockley from Connecticut, USA views the signs at Titchfield Haven.



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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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RESIDENTS face yet another battle to preserve these green fields in Stubbington.

Battle looms over green field site

Controversial plans to build 261 homes in Oakcroft Lane have been submitted by Persimmon Homes to Fareham Borough Council.

It follows on the heels of the major victory in December for Hill Head residents who got an inspector to throw out Barge Homes' environmentally damaging scheme for 150 houses beside Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.

Residents say it's a strategic gap and must be protected at all costs.

Comments and objections will be considered right up to the planning committee meeting date.

Anyone can make a deputation in front of the planning committee although they must register to do so.

A spokesperson for the developers said: "The scheme proposes 261 dwellings, of which 104 (40%) will be affordable.

"In addition to required CIL monies and Solent Mitigation Strategy contribution, an education contribution of £1.284m has been requested from Hampshire County Council which Persimmon is happy to meet.

"The area of public open space to the north of the site is part of the application. Persimmon is happy for this area to be offered to Fareham Council as part of the proposal.

"As the potential landowner, FBC could use this space to retain this element within the countryside. Persimmon would also have no principal objection for this space to be used for leisure facilities such as sports pitches or allotments."

Full design, access and planning statements have been submitted and will be available to view once the application is registered.

Brickworks wins top transport award

BURSLEDON Brickworks has won the first Institute of Transport Administration award.

It was presented by IOTA national chairman John Egan and recognises work done at the brickworks by Hampshire Narrow Gauge Railway Trust, South

Hampshire Historic Steam & Engineering Society and Southampton and District Transport Heritage Trust.

It is the only steam-driven brickworks in the UK and holds regular open days. More information at www.bursledonbrickworks.org.uk.