

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



# InTouch



FAREHAM WEST – Spring 2020

## Low tax, top-quality living – we're the envy of the nation

**FAREHAM'S got it all – thanks to the Conservatives. And we've every reason to blow our own trumpet.**

We're the envy of the nation when it comes to health, happiness and satisfaction with life. And much more.

Not our words, but those of the latest Halifax survey that rates the Borough the second best place in the UK to live.

What's more, we provide all-round first-class services for one of the lowest council taxes in the country.

And that still holds good, although we will be increasing our element by just 1p per day for 2020-21 for the average property.

Presenting the annual budget, Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "I'm not at all surprised, but it's good to have the place and community recognised.

"We've got it all, we're very well connected to London, we have access to the sea, the river Hamble and countryside. It's a great place to work, to live and to bring up a family."

Since taking over the near-bankrupt Council nearly 21 years ago, **Conservatives** have battled to maintain first-rate services in the face of Government support dwindling to zilch.

We've done it by prudent handling of ratepayers' cash and multi-million pound investments, all contributing to the low council tax envied by almost all councils nationwide.

While Fareham collects just £7m in council tax, it spends



£45m on services to residents and has a £93m capital programme, which includes £7.5m to build much-needed council houses for the first time in a generation.

It also includes further investment in Solent Airport@Daedalus to provide space for many new businesses to create more employment.

Ferneham Hall is being rebuilt and modernised in a £12.5m project to provide a

fantastic new entertainment and community venue, while improvements to Fareham's two leisure centres will cost £6.3m.

**Fareham Leisure Centre will get:**

- Expanded ground floor gym area by extending the building
- Internal splash pad added to the swimming pool
- New reception counter and refurbishment of the foyer
- New studio space and climbing area on lower ground floor
- Conversion of squash courts to soft play area
- Refurbishment of dry changing rooms and café
- Additional parking

**Holly Hill Leisure Centre will get:**

- Conversion of large pool store into sauna and steam room
- Improvements to main foyer layout.

Seán Woodward added: "While the government says austerity is over – and for many public services that may be true – for local government it certainly is not, so we continue to make savings while delivering excellent services as the revenue support grant has now fallen to zero."



**CONGRATULATIONS! She's done us and her family proud.**

Fareham MP Suella Braverman's loyalty

## Boris gives Suella the power of Attorney

to PM Boris Johnson during Brexit was rewarded in his Cabinet reshuffle with the prestigious post of Attorney General.

The 39-year-old barrister is now the chief legal advisor to The Crown, with several associated responsibilities such as overseeing the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office.

Her appointment has already ruffled a few judges' wigs as she was quoted recently stating the courts should stay out of politics and Parliament must 'retrace power

ceded to the courts'.

"In reality, repatriated powers from the EU will mean precious little if our courts continue to act as political decision-maker, pronouncing on what the law ought to be and supplanting Parliament," she said.

Fareham **Conservative** Association chairman Ray Hanslip said:

"We know she will undertake her new responsibilities with the same enthusiasm and attention to detail that she brings to her constituency work."

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



NEWS ROUND

**Stephen's survey**

A random survey is being carried out in West Ward by InTouch co-ordinator Stephen Child. Early returns indicated people wanted to see more Police on our streets. There are also concerns about the level of begging, rough sleepers, cyclists on the pavements, state of road surfaces, and block paving rainwater run-off creating safety issues when ice forms on pavements. "I will investigate these issues," he said. If you would like to take part and have not received a survey, call or text him on 0747 159 321 and he will deliver one.

**New branch chairman**

Councillor Tina Ellis has been appointed chairman of Fareham West Conservative Branch. She said: "We participate in the Conservative Policy Forum which discusses policy and issues of the day, feeding directly to No 10. "We shall be running some fundraisers and if you would like to join us or just come along to see what we are all about, please contact me on 01329 843936."

**Tina to the rescue**

Vandals kicked open this cable TV box in Oak Road, exposing the wires to the weather. Councillor Tina Ellis replaced and secured the door, noted the serial number and reported it.



**Abu's generosity**

The owner of the Ghandi Indian Take-away in Anjou Crescent has raised thousands of pounds for Fareham mayors' charities. Once again, on April 20, Abu will donate his evening's takings to current Mayor Pamela Bryant's charities – 1350 Air Cadets, Fareport Talking News and a jacuzzi bath for Rowans Hospice.

**They're the community's watch dogs**

DOG walkers could be the community's eyes and ears, says InTouch co-ordinator Stephen Child. He said: "Vehicles exceeding the speed limit, especially along the rat runs of my ward, were first reported to me by two dog walkers. "It made me realise what a force for good we have in our Borough. There are hundreds, possibly thousands of observers out day and night whatever the weather. "Did you notice the driver who disposed of litter whilst travelling along Longfield Avenue? "Did you notice the lorry that turned and damaged the grass verge in Bishopfield Road?"

"Would you be willing to call and report so that we can improve Fareham for all?" Call or text Stephen 0747 0159 321. All calls will be treated discreetly and contact can be anonymous if you wish. **PHOTO: Dog walkers Mrs Stocks and Mrs Lee were concerned about speeding and water run-off from block paving.**



**Here's a tip – register your car**

IF YOU live in Hampshire and need to use recycling centres, you must register your car number before April. Cars from outside the county or those not registered will be charged £5 per visit. Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras will check vehicles entering recycling centres against registered number plates on the database. It's to make it fairer for county residents who contribute to the annual

£100m cost of dealing with waste. InTouch co-ordinator Stephen Child said: "It is important our waste tips remain free of charge for residents and only fair that those from outside Hampshire should pay for disposing of their rubbish." You can register up to 3 vehicles on the HCC website [www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc](http://www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc).



**Fareham may be spared County's libraries axe**

FAREHAM residents have been assured that the Borough's libraries are not on the County Council's closures list, but opening hours may be cut. It follows the controversial announcement that the County has to reduce its £80m budget shortfall to which libraries must contribute £1.76m in efficiency savings. The preferred option is to close up to 10 of the smaller, less-used Council libraries and reduce opening hours in the remaining 38 by 15%, so it could continue to run a comprehensive service. County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "Another option would be not to close any libraries, but reduce the opening hours by 25% across the board. "Either option would produce a saving of just over £1million per annum. "If the first option is chosen, none of the 4 libraries in Fareham would close because they are all so heavily used. "The Council would prefer not to close any libraries, but savings have to be made." However, fewer people are visiting libraries, preferring digital options. In the past 8 years, there was a 27% reduction in



visits from 7 million to 5.1 million, but virtual visits increased 270% from 460,000 to 1.7 million. There is a public consultation – deadline March 18 – for which Hampshire County Council identified 3 priorities:

1 Promoting reading with a particular focus on children's literature,  
2 Establishing the libraries as hubs to support healthy and thriving communities.  
3 Investing in digital services to help people access information and services online.

The consultation is available at [www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation) or call at your local library where public drop-in sessions are being held. Councillor Hockley added: "Your views are important and we would welcome your input."

**Mayor's charity boosts new hub**

ACTS of Kindness opened their new 'Solent Kindness Hub', thanks to funding from the former Mayor's Charity. The unit, at 130 Gosport Road, Fareham, will be used to help people in need and others referred by local support groups. AOK aims to relieve the effects of poverty, provide support to the vulnerable and recognise those in the community who have served beyond expectation. **PHOTO: Former Mayor Susan Bayford surrounded by AOK supporters at the official opening.**



**It's the rutting season in West Ward**

AN EPIDEMIC of and ruts on grass verges and potholes in the streets is infuriating residents. Councillor Tina Ellis found the one pictured (left) while walking her dogs in Oak Road and is pursuing the issue. InTouch co-ordinator Stephen Child discovered a churned-up verge in Blackbrook Road and was informed by a resident about the potholes pictured (right) in the same street. He said: "Potholes on our roads lead to thousands of compensation claims following damage to vehicles." **NOTE: You can report potholes by going to Hampshire County Council's website or by calling Phone 0300 555 1388**



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**They'll be able to wing their way between the wings**



INSTEAD of flitting across the stage, panto fairies will be able to fly above the boards when the new Ferneham Hall reopens in 2022. Architects' plans include a fly tower – a rigging system enabling scenery and cast to be flown or carried between the wings. It's just one of the exciting new additions to the £12.3m rebuild, for which a planning application has been submitted to the Council. The new multi-purpose venue's exterior will feature striking red brick accents reflecting the town's history of brick-making and building of the iconic Royal Albert Hall which was constructed with Fareham 'reds'. There will be a landscaped entrance facing Osborn Road and it will incorporate the latest green technologies in line with the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.

**Apprentice award**

As part of the National Apprenticeships Week, Fareham MP Suella Braverman met the team from Fullers Brewery, who run Cams Mill pub in Fareham. Suella is pictured presenting a certificate to Fareham apprentice Paloma Thukani who works there. If you're interested in starting an apprenticeship check out [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)



**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.

**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 Tina on 01329 843936.



Now we can move on from the Brexit paralysis

Thank You to everyone who voted for me at the General Election in December.

We secured a record-breaking result for the Conservatives, with an increased majority and share of the vote since 2017.

I am humbled and grateful to be re-elected to serve as your MP again and, regardless of your political preference, I am honoured to serve ALL Fareham constituents in my capacity as your voice in Parliament.

Above all we can move on from the divisions and paralysis of recent years.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised that he would take the UK out of the EU and this he did on 31st January.

With stability in Government, we can now look forward to investing in more local police (156 in Hampshire initially), more real terms funding for every school pupil in Fareham and record levels of investment to the frontline of our NHS.

# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Whilst I was delighted that Fareham was judged to be one of the best places to live in Britain, I am aware that we still need to work hard to improve our local transport infrastructure.

There are increasing concerns about the safety of Smart Motorways and the ongoing construction on the M27 has worried many residents, thousands of whom use it as part of their daily commute.

On some smart motorways, the refuge points are too far away and the technology is not responsive or effective.

I share those concerns and you can see me raising them directly with the Secretary for State for Transport,



Grant Shapps, in the picture.

I am pleased that the Government has now decided to review the projects with a view to increasing the safety measures.

I will keep working with central government to ensure that a solution is found that prioritises passenger safety.

Junction 10, as part of Welborne Garden Village, also needs vital upgrades to convert it into an 'all-moves' junction.

I have been working with local, regional and national government to identify the funding to ensure that the delivery of the upgrades is guaranteed.

Once delivered, this will significantly reduce congestion, lower journey times and support our local economy.

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## New measures to tackle louts and drug addicts

THE BOYS in Red are reinforcing the Boys in Blue to target louts and drug addicts in Fareham town centre.

Two security officers in distinct red uniforms are patrolling with powers conferred by Hampshire's Chief Constable.

It's a pilot scheme operating varying hours Mondays to Fridays.

And it complements the Council's successful bid to tackle rough sleeping, for which it has secured an extra £141,450 funding for 2020-21.

The new security officers' powers can:



- REQUIRE** names and addresses for road traffic offences
- CONTROL** traffic apart from escorting a load of exceptional dimensions
- And they will be able to direct rough

- REQUIRE** giving of names and addresses for anti-social behaviour and drug taking
- ORDER** persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- SEIZE** tobacco from persons under 16
- DEAL** with begging

sleepers to the support provided by the Council's partner charity, Two Saints.

Councillor Tina Ellis said Two Saints were able to employ two outreach workers with the short-term funding the Council was given in 2019.

This year's extra cash will pay for two more outreach workers, who will focus on those leaving prison with complex needs such as substance misuse and find them suitable accommodation.

She added: "The security team has leaflets to hand out to rough sleepers with information about where they can get help. This has worked well elsewhere."

## Fareham could be forced to take Portsmouth, Gosport homes shortfall

FAREHAM could be called upon to help absorb a shortfall of 4,000 houses in Gosport and Portsmouth.

It means the Borough's new development plan, recently issued for public consultation, had to add two highly controversial Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs).

These could lead to the farmland gap between Fareham South and Stubbington and an area south of the M27 west of Downend Road being swamped with hundreds more houses.

Executive member for planning and development Councillor Keith Evans said: "We are required to include a 10%-15% contingency and we have to show the planning inspector that

we have positively considered any unmet need in adjacent authorities.

"Fareham's base requirement is to provide 520 homes a year over the 2020 to 2036 plan period which, including a 15% buffer, is 9,500 – 100 more per annum than the original draft plan.

"After discounting sites already approved such as Welborne, plus those provisionally approved but on hold, and including the estimate for future 'windfall' development, the net number of additional dwellings we have to find over this 15 year period is under 200."

Full details are on the Council's website.

Website: [www.farehamconservatives.org.uk](http://www.farehamconservatives.org.uk) Email: [farehamconservatives@gmail.com](mailto:farehamconservatives@gmail.com)