

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



LOCKS HEATH – 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



Citizens Advice

The excellent Outreach Service provided in the Lockwood Library ceased at the end of 2019 as volunteer Val decided to retire.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "We understand that there is no current plan to reopen this service."

"But there are drop-in outreach services at Broadlaw Walk Community Centre, Wednesdays 10am-Noon; Highlands Hub, Highlands Road, Tuesdays 10am-2pm; Stubbington Library, Fridays 10am-2pm and Portchester Library, Thursdays between 10am-2pm."

Veterans' Railcard

The Government will introduce the UK's first Veterans' Railcard, which will provide a third off their fares.

Available from Armistice Day 2020, it will provide cheaper train travel for 830,000 veterans.

Saving an icon

One of the fast disappearing landmarks on British streets, the iconic red telephone kiosk, will be preserved on Sarisbury Green.

Locals say it's an important part of the conservation area and Sarisbury Residents' Association has agreed to repaint it this summer.

BT is offering up for adoption some of their iconic K6 red phone boxes for community use - for just £1 under 'The Adopt A Kiosk scheme'.

It's uncertain at this stage whether an alternative use can be found for the Sarisbury kiosk.

Können Sie deutsch sprechen?

Fareham-Pulheim Twinning Association will be holding a conversation evening from 7.30 to 9.00pm on Monday, March 23 in Fareham.

Why not come along and brush up your spoken German?

There is no charge for this event.

The association is also holding a German quiz and supper at Catisfield Village Hall at 7pm on March 27. Cost £7.50.

For details of both events, email ann.m.mellor@btinternet.com

Ex-Mayor's charity boosts hub opening

ONE OF Councillor Susan Bayford's mayoral charities was Acts of Kindness and she was delighted to be invited by AOK's founder, Kerry Snuggs, to open their new 'Solent Kindness Hub' before Christmas.

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.

Much of the work is carried out through their Facebook page.

Susan said: "I am very pleased to support this great local charity and wish the Hub every success."

PHOTO: Susan Bayford surrounded by AOK supporters at the official opening.



Every cup of coffee aids good cause

THE CommuniCare coffee shop in the foyer of Lockwood Community Centre offers a sociable way of supporting the charity.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "CommuniCare provides a five-day a week range of services including luncheon clubs, a car service and minibus shopping trips."

"Councillor Keith Evans and I acknowledge that we are very fortunate to have such a fantastic charity working in our area and a coffee shop that enhances the Community Centre."

It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings.

PHOTO: Susan Bayford chats to Lesley Chittenden, one of the hard-working volunteers.



Fareham may be spared County's libraries axe

FAREHAM residents have been assured that the Borough's libraries – including Lockwood – 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 and the 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%.

County Councillor Keith Evans 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, not one 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 HCC 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 or call at your local library where public drop-in sessions are being held.

Councillor Evans added: "Your views are important and we would welcome your input."

Litter pickers find blocked drain

RESIDENTS clearing litter in woods near Locks Heath stumbled across a blocked culvert that needed urgent clearing.

Luckily, County Councillor Keith Evans was with them and he is chasing the County Council to deal with it.

Keith Evans said: "Residents do a really good job in regular litter picking in Locks Heath area."

PHOTO (l to r): David Basson, Nigel Watts and Keith Evans litter picking.



Park access safety fears

WORRIED residents say the access to Locks Heath recreation ground is dangerous and are demanding more speed limit signs and new barriers.

They fear for the safety of children and dogs exiting onto Hunts Pond Road.

A delegation met Titchfield Common Councillor Sarah Pankhurst and InTouch team leader Kirsty Dawson to discuss the issue.

Resident Roger Hughes told them his dog, Archie, had been killed by a car after running

out onto the main road.

Hampshire County and Fareham Borough

Councils are monitoring the situation and discussions are ongoing.

A speed limit reminder was recently erected with new fencing at the access point, where owners were asked to keep dogs on leads.



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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 by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

Here's a tip – register your car and save a fiver

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.

Councillor Keith Evans 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.

Watch out – Speedwatch is back
NINE people have volunteered to join the resurrected Community Speedwatch scheme.

After receiving police training, they will be deployed in Sarisbury, Swanwick, Park Gate, Whiteley, Burridge and Priory Park.

They will focus on the following roads: Barnes Lane, Swanwick Lane, Barnbrook Road, Botley Road, Yew Tree Drive, Sweethills Crescent, Brook Lane and Lockwood Road.

Community Speedwatch is regarded by the police as an educational scheme and the teams have no power to issue a summons or a fine, but the registration details of vehicles travelling too fast are recorded on a police controlled database.

Motorists travelling significantly above the limit will receive letters advising them of their speed and persistent offenders could be prosecuted.

We've given plastics the push

SINGLE use plastics will be eliminated from Council buildings by the end of March.

It follows a motion to full Council in 2018 which was accepted unanimously.

Since then, SUP bottles and drinking straws were removed and a successful campaign 'Give Plastics the Push', combined with an education programme, will see the last old drinks machines replaced.

Locks Heath Councillor Susan Bayford said: "Fareham is setting an example as a coastal authority and we want you to follow by eliminating what plastic you can and recycle what you can't."

"We will be announcing new initiatives on recycling in the coming months, but for now we have eliminated plastic from our day to day life. How about you?"



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.

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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

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.

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** 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
REQUIRE names and addresses for road traffic

offences
CONTROL traffic except for escorting a load of exceptional dimensions
And they will be able to direct rough sleepers to the support provided by the Council's partner charity, Two Saints.

Councillor Keith Evans 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.

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

"Anti-social behaviour is already decreasing whilst rough sleepers are engaging more with the services that are there to help."

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% contin-

gency 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."