

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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."



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."

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

Fareham MP Suella Braverman's loyalty

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

NEWS ROUND



In the national finals

Titchfield in Bloom team recently heard from the National Britain in Bloom Committee that they have accepted the South & South East England's nomination for their entry in the large village category in the national finals to be held later this year.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "We wish them good luck. This is very well deserved for not only the Titchfield in Bloom team, but for the village as this is a real community entry."

Youth club volunteers needed

The popular Oasis Youth Club, which is held at Titchfield Community Centre, is looking for more staff volunteers, particularly female.

It meets on Tuesdays for 10-13 years and on a Thursday for 13+ years.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either info@yservices.co.uk or call Connie on 01329 287365.

New church dedicated

Congregation and management of the new Waypoint Church have been thanked by Councillor Sarah Pankhurst for inviting her to its dedication and thanksgiving.

It marked the renaming of the former Locks Heath Free Church in Hunts Pond Road.

Most of the money for the £5m project was raised by the congregation, with Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils each contributing £40,000.

Sarah was enthralled by the folk group who accompanied the hymns. "They're brilliant," she said.

Register to recycle

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.

Recreation ground access danger discussed

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 ward 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.

Sarah said Hampshire County and Fareham Borough Councils were monitoring the situation and discussions were ongoing.

A speed limit reminder was recently

erected with new fencing at the access point, where owners were asked to keep dogs on leads.

Sarah promised to keep residents informed.

Blackout blamed for vandalism

BEVERLEY CLOSE residents have suffered a spate of vandalism, with several cars having their tyres slashed.

They say crime is being made easier due to the County Council switching off the street lights between 1am and 5am to save energy.

After meeting them, Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said: "I am worried that the residents that have been affected live on a sheltered housing complex and feel especially vulnerable.

"I have advised them to notify the police when an incident occurs as this could help to identify crime patterns within the Borough when the street lights are switched off.

"I recognise the environmental pressure on local authorities to save energy and pollution, but we need to ensure the safety of our residents is a priority."

If there have been incidents near you, please contact Sarah Pankhurst.

Brian logs off after 23 years in the editor's chair



BRIAN PATTEN, who has edited the 'Titchfield News' for the last 23 years, has announced that he will be retiring in April.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "We wish to thank Brian for his years of service to the community as volunteer editor of this monthly magazine which he has edited with great professionalism and dedication for so long.

"We know that for many residents who do not have access to the Internet this popular magazine kept them updated on local news and events.

"Enjoy your retirement and thank you from all your readers and friends."

Fareham may be spared County's libraries axe

TITCHFIELD residents have been assured their local library in Stubbington is 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%.

Alternatively, if no libraries were closed then opening hours would have to be cut by 25% across the board.

Catisfield resident Pat Luckham was concerned. "Use it or lose it. Its not just a place to borrow books; there are a number of groups that meet at the library, too.

"Being retired and a community volunteer driver, it is a central place to socialise at and information leaflets of other local groups and clubs around Fareham."



Titchfield Councillor Tiffany Harper (pictured) said if the first option were chosen, none of the 4 libraries in Fareham Borough – including Stubbington – would be closed.

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 will be 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.

Tiffany Harper added: "Your views are important and we would welcome your input."

By-pass work disturbance fears

WORK has started on the Stubbington by-pass and already villagers are complaining.

Councillor Tiffany Harper said they were worried about increased traffic volumes and vehicle speeds.

Rose Potter, from Titchfield, was grateful work was suspended during peak times, but was also fearful of disturbance during night work and increased pollution from vehicles idling at temporary traffic lights.

She also questioned whether the completed project would change the CO2 emissions in the village as a greater volume of vehicles could potentially travel through.

Tiffany Harper added: "The Borough and County Councils have worked closely to minimise the effects on residents from Stubbington and Titchfield and we will continue to listen to their ongoing concerns."

Happy days for kiddies in new setting

LITTLE Sunbeams Pre-school pupils were excited to move back into a new setting at Waypoint Church, Titchfield Common.



They were temporarily re-housed in a Portacabin during the refurbishment, a project part funded by Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils.

The Ofsted registered 'good' pre-school is

run by a volunteer committee on a non-profit basis with five permanent staff looking after 2 to 4-year olds and feeding many infants' and primary schools in the Western Wards.

The pre-school can now accommodate more children, with free-flow play into the garden behind the church.

PHOTO: Council Leader

Seán Woodward and Waypoint Minister the Rev Mark Madavan meet the youngsters.

Store closure fears

RECENT closures of major stores in Fareham Shopping Centre are worrying Titchfield shoppers.

They fear on-line shopping will turn it into a ghost town.

Retired Catisfield nurse Jan Hill, who has no on-line access, told Councillor Tiffany Harper there would soon be nowhere to buy clothes and food.

She hopes new security measures introduced in the centre will give shopkeepers confidence to remain in town, otherwise housing could be the only future option.

Tiffany Harper is also looking into complaints of speeding by HGVs on the A27 on nights when the M27 is closed for smart motorway works.

She said: "Speeding is a police matter."

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Now we can move on from Brexit the 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 our local economy.

Kevin's new home isn't all it was cracked up to be



A TITCHFIELD COMMON man says his health is suffering from poor building quality in his new home.

Kevin Towler told InTouch team leader Kirsty Dawson and ward Councillor Sarah Pankhurst: "I've lost weight and my health condition is being affected."

Kevin moved into his home in Louis Road in September 2018 and has made numerous complaints to the builders.

Now he's got Councillor Pankhurst and Fareham MP Suella Braverman looking into the issues.

He claims he's been 'brushed off' by the former First Wessex Housing Association and builders Vivid Homes.

Sarah Pankhurst said: "The ceiling throughout his flat is covered in cracks

and in some areas the plaster has diminished.

"Kevin made numerous complaints to Vivid, who made light repairs, but the problem is recurring."

And there's a problem with noise, not against his neighbours, but against poor sound insulation.

She advised him to continue gathering evidence and seek legal advice.

Meantime, Sarah said she would liaise with Suella Braverman regarding severity of the noise within the flat.

PHOTO: Kevin and Hannah Harris show Sarah Pankhurst the ceiling cracks.

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 Email: farehamconservatives@gmail.com