



Warsash in Westminster - Suella Braverman MP supporting our community

Local Transport needs to be smarter

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 have raised them directly with the Secretary for State for Transport, The Rt Hon Grant Shapps. 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.

You can read my recent speech on local transport issues where I raised these matters directly with Ministers here: <http://bit.ly/suellatransport>



Suella discusses smart motoryways with Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps

Thanks for your continuing support

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 front-line of our NHS.

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InTouch

with Warsash and Hook

THE LATEST NEWS
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Spring 2020



LISTENING TO YOU Planting Bonanza

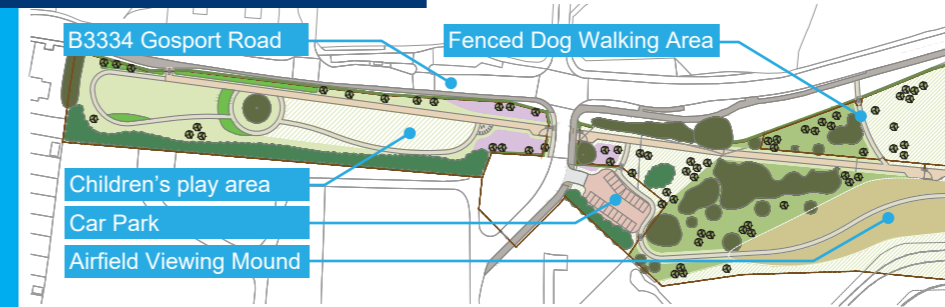
Fareham Borough Council's annual planting programme has seen a number of new trees appear in various locations around Hook and Warsash.

"Our local community will also benefit from the National Grid's interconnector project (IFA2) on the Daedalus site," said Cllr Mike Ford. "As part of this project, 38.5 acres of land that was previously within the airport perimeter fence is now being prepared for public use."

Lawned areas, footpaths, cycle ways, a state-of-the-art children's playground and dedicated car park form part of this superb project, along with the planting of over 30,000 shrubs and trees.

"The open space should be available to the public in the spring and I strongly recommend that you to pay it a visit," Mike concludes.

Below: Daedalus North will provide nearly 40 acres of public space, and provide a great location to go plane spotting



Low tax and a great place to live

Fareham Borough Council's element of this year's Council Tax will increase by just 1p per day for the average property, meaning that our district Council Tax remains almost the lowest in the country.

As well as benefiting from some of the best services, Fareham has once again been rated highly in quality of life surveys. The latest being the Halifax survey, which placed Fareham second across Great Britain as the best place to live. We scored particularly highly for general health, happiness and satisfaction with life.

The high ranking comes as no surprise to the people who live here, and Fareham Borough Council leader, Seán Woodward, is happy that what he "already knows to be true" is being echoed by others.

Seán 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 and we have access to both the sea and the River Hamble. It's a great place to live, work and bring up a family."

While Fareham collects just £6m in Council Tax, it spends £45m on services to residents and has a £93m capital programme. The forthcoming capital programme includes £7.5m building much-needed council houses for the first time in a generation.

It also includes further investment in Solent Airport at Daedalus to provide space for businesses to expand and move into the area, creating much-needed employment.

Ferneham Hall is also being rebuilt and modernised in a £12.5m project to provide a fantastic new entertainment and community venue for the people of Fareham and beyond.

Improvements to Fareham's two leisure centres will cost £6.3m. Fareham Leisure Centre will see:

- Expansion of the gym;
- Creation of an internal splash pad for children;
- A refurbished foyer area;
- Creation of a new studio space and climbing area;
- Conversion of the squash courts to a soft play area;
- Refurbishment of dry changing rooms and café;
- Additional parking.

Holly Hill Leisure Centre will see:

- The creation of a sauna and steam room;
- Improvements to main foyer layout.

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No more frosty courts



Warsash Tennis Club's members love playing year round, but nature has recently intervened!

The high conifers in the recreation ground were stopping the morning sun from melting the frost and hence preventing early games.

Helen Rawlins from the Club contacted Mike Ford to seek the Council's help. "I fully understood members' frustrations at not having their courts playable on frosty mornings" said Mike, "so I

arranged for the Council to reduce the conifers height on two sides of their courts by about half".

Helen (pictured with Mike) and the Club's members were delighted with the work and the sound of racquet on ball can now be heard on those cold and frosty mornings.



Detailed plans submitted for Ferneham Hall

Following the article in the last InTouch, the planning application for remodelling Ferneham Hall have been received by the Council.

The plans from the architects, Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios, include a Fly Tower that will enable scenery and the acting cast to be flown or carried above the stage. The building's façade will have striking red brick accents against a backdrop of grey and white for the new exterior, both reflecting Fareham's history of producing distinctive red brick and complimenting

the local Georgian architecture.

Recognising the Council's desire to become carbon neutral by 2030, the building design will be thermally efficient and incorporate green technologies, such as air source heat pumps that will provide low cost heating, solar panels and LED lighting.

View the plans here: bit.ly/ferneham

Warsash's finest hour remembered

The information board alongside Warsash's D-Day memorial has been refurbished after Cllr Ford was contacted by local publican Sharon Brown.

Sharon, who with husband Gary have recently taken over the iconic Rising Sun pub, got in touch with Mike to see what could be done.

Mike takes up the story: "This is such a popular location and frequented by many visitors in the summer, that Sharon rightly felt that this unique

location should be properly preserved".

Mike has arranged for the plaque to undergo a refurbishment so that locals and visitors can be reminded of the huge part that Warsash played in bringing the war ultimately to an end.



Mike and Sharon inspecting the D-Day information board

Local hospital to get better A&E

Cllr Cartwright is pleased to report that the £58 million plans for the Accident & Emergency department at the Queen Alexandra Hospital is progressing.

The Leaders at Portsmouth Hospital's NHS Trust have drawn up three options for the £58M development that will replace the 1979 building.

Options include:

- An extension and refurbishment on the existing hospital
- A new-build on the East multi-storey staff car park
- A new-build on the North car park next to the Rehabilitation Centre

Importantly, any lost car parking spaces would be replaced.

Patients and visitors will get the chance next year to have their say on the options. Construction is scheduled for 2021 with an opening for patients by 2023.

Low tax and a great place to live (continued from front page)

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

"I am therefore delighted that we continue to provide the very best of public services at a cost lower than almost every other council in the country. We have a capital programme that is the envy of many and remain one of the very best places in Britain to live, work and to raise a family."

More funding to tackle rough sleeping

Fareham Borough Council has been successful in a bid to help tackle the issue of rough sleeping in Fareham, with an award of £141,450 for the year 2020/21.

The award follows short-term funding that the Council secured last year to increase the Outreach Service in Fareham, which is provided by the Council's partner, Two Saints.

Last year's funding allowed Two Saints to employ two outreach workers, complementing the service already provided in Fareham and Gosport. These posts have made a significant difference to the level of support provided to rough sleepers and have helped some individuals make a move into more permanent homes.

As a result, and in partnership with Two Saints, Gosport Borough Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Council has successfully secured funding of £141,450 for the next year.

This money will ensure that the excellent work undertaken can continue, as well as funding two further posts. The new posts will focus particularly on helping individuals leaving prison and those with complex issues such as substance misuse, mental health needs and behavioural

challenges to find and maintain longer-term accommodation.

The funding comes at a time when the Council has also introduced security guards to tackle anti-social behaviour in Fareham.

The security team carries leaflets to hand out to rough sleepers that provides information for them about where they can go to get help. This approach has worked well in other areas and the early indications are that this is a positive move for Fareham. Anti-social behaviour is already decreasing and rough sleepers are engaging more with the services that are there to help them.

Cllr Cartwright, Executive Member for Health and Public Protection said: "This funding is really good news for Fareham and will enable us to build on the good work we have already seen, particularly in Fareham Town Centre. It is important to take the time to understand the range of issues that has brought someone to sleep rough so that we can try to provide the most appropriate help for them."

Protecting Chilling Beach

Measures are being taken by National Grid to prevent cliff erosion.

After a number of complaints from residents about the erosion and debris from the cliff on land owned by National Grid at Chilling Beach, Cllr Cartwright contacted the company, who updated him on the work they are doing to manage the erosion.

During cable laying at Chilling as part of the IFA2 project, National Grid have erected a temporary sandbank wall to prevent erosion and buried debris being uncovered.

This had worked well to date, but the recent storms have caused part of the sandbank wall to collapse. The company have taken steps to manage the impact of the collapse and have installed additional warning signs

where the structure has become unstable.

They will soon replace the sandbank wall, which was always intended to be a temporary structure, with a more durable solution. In the meantime, Nation Grid will visit the beach more frequently to monitor and pick up any additional debris.



Help for horses

A local horse rider has contacted Cllr Ford after a nasty experience whilst riding through Warsash Common. Her horse was spooked by an out of control dog, causing her to be thrown from her horse resulting in significant injuries.

Mike explains, "The rider quite rightly felt that dog owners needed alerting to the presence of horses on the Common and asking that they retain necessary control over them to prevent such a re-occurrence. Following discussions with the relevant Council team and Countryside Ranger Mark, information signs have been erected at each of the four main entrances to the Common asking that whilst they enjoy their 'walkies', dog owners are aware of the possible presence of horses and their riders and exercise the necessary control of their dogs".

Mike concludes, "I hope this will ensure that dog-walkers and horses and riders can all enjoy this wonderful area of Warsash"

Deliverers and pictures needed

If you are interested in helping deliver InTouch, or have a picture of the area you'd like to share with the community on our front cover, please contact Trevor or Mike (details on back page).