

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON – Summer 2020

Volunteers answer the call just as they did 80 years ago

UNLESS you are in your 80s you will have experienced nothing like it in your lifetime.

In summer 1940, the RAF fought almost down to the last Spitfire and Hurricane to drive the Luftwaffe from our skies.

Eighty years on another Battle of Britain began, only this time the outcome against an unseen enemy is not yet in our sights.

But the national spirit that led us to victory through the dark days of World War 2 surfaced again when an army of volunteers and professionals answered their country's call.

Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward summed up local reaction: "We have lived through very difficult and unprecedented times. Council services have been stretched along with family budgets.

"Services that we all took for granted had to cease while the priority was to deliver the lifeline services such as refuse collection, environmental health, social services and education.

"There have been some fantastic examples of support throughout our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People have tirelessly helped to put together essential parcels and activity packs, delivered items to shielding residents, collected food donations, picked up prescriptions or just been amazingly good neighbours.

"Many hundreds of people in need have been helped across the



Acts of Kindness volunteers are using one of the business hangars at Solent Airport@Daedalus provided free by the Council.

Borough and it is right that your Council should express thanks to them all."

It was a privilege to add his signature to Mayor Pamela Bryant's on hundreds of letters thanking all the Fareham volunteers who stepped up through the COVID-19 pandemic to help their community.

They include Acts Of Kindness Community (Solent), Waypoint Church, Citizens Advice Fareham, AFC Portchester, One Community and Portchester Community Association.

If you know of any unsung heroes we may have missed, we'd like their names and a brief description of their efforts.

You can get a nomination form at www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer

BORIS REWARDS KERRY'S ACTS OF KINDNESS



Kerry Snuggs, leader of Acts of Kindness, was presented with a Points of Light Award from Prime Minister Boris Johnson by Fareham MP and Attorney General Suella Braverman.

How we helped over 100 small businesses to stay afloat

CRIS for help for businesses, industry and a host of other organisations flooded in from all corners of the UK.

But not all benefitted from Government schemes, including many in Fareham.

So the Borough Council hopes Discretionary Business Grants will make all the difference to those struggling with property-related costs.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said so far over 100 small businesses across the Borough had received grants up to

£10,000. Applications were invited last month and this round of the scheme is closed. A total of £1m has been paid out.

Types of business which have been helped include small manufacturing firms, businesses located in shared offices, dentists, a podiatrist and a nail bar.

"This funding will be a lifeline for businesses which had slipped through the net for Government support during the pandemic," he said.

Electronics business Lee Godbold Ltd

based in Fareham Innovation Centre received a share of the funding.

Managing Director Lee Godbold said: "We were at a loss how to manage this unprecedented situation.

"I'd especially like to thank the Borough Council for approving our application for the Discretionary Business Grant funding which kept us up to date with our payments to Fareham Innovation Centre."

The Council also gave market traders at Fareham and Portchester £2,500 each.

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



NEWS ROUND

Tributes to team work

East Ward residents have been praising the work of Steve Ingram and his Conservative team. Here are some recent comments:

“Great that you are reaching out. I have lived here for 51 years and love the place” – Steven John.

“Can I just say it is great that the Council are reaching out like this and personally I am completely happy with Fareham” – Phil Clark.

“Thank you. Sharps bin collected and waste bag delivered.” – Rachael Brander.

“Thank you for your help, the pothole is now filled” – Peter Stotesbury, Roman Grove.

“Thank you Stephen Ingram for all you and your team do. It is great to see the posts. Fareham is a pleasant place to live.” – Marcia Howard.

Squashed out of court

Squash players are angry with management for deciding to remove the courts from the Leisure Centre.

Unless they join a private club, it now means there are no public squash courts in the Borough. Management says they were not under-used and plan to replace them with a children’s soft play area.

Councillors opposed the plan when the Executive Member for Leisure and Community had to decide, but were unsuccessful and the squash courts will be removed.

Lockdown scams warning

There has been a large increase in scam phonecalls during lockdown.

You should never give personal details to an unknown caller and certainly not your card details.

Sign up to Hampshire Alerts to receive updates on common scams in our area.

Wallington speed signs

County Councillor Fred Birkett successfully petitioned the County Council to paint new 20mph markings along North Wallington and Wallington Shore Road.

Residents complained about speeding vehicles using the roads as a rat run.

Pleased to be back in business

TOWN centre shopkeepers and staff are relieved to be able to reopen after a 12-week lockdown.

InTouch team leader Steve Ingram chatted to some to get their reactions.

They were summed up by Hayley Whitlem, manager of Yours (pictured), who said closing was one of the hardest decisions they’d ever made.

“We deep cleaned our stores, put



protective measures in place and followed the guidelines of the Council. We were then able to set up our latest products.

“Our customers can rest assured that it is safe to come back and shop for the things they love.

“We have found that customers are happy to be back and are more than happy to follow the safety measures.”

Wrong time to spray weeds

RESIDENTS from all over Fareham East have complained to Tom Davies about weeds spreading along their roads.

Weed spraying is a County Council duty and they’ve scheduled Fareham in for September.

Tom contacted the County to ask why the spraying was happening so late in the season when it was done at the start of summer last year, just as weeds were starting to grow.

He has requested that Fareham be done in May or June next year and awaits a response. It is likely next year that the Borough Council will fund an additional weed spray to keep our

area looking nice.

If your road is suffering particularly badly from weed growth, particularly brambles and hanging weeds which could cause harm, please don’t hesitate to drop Tom a message and he’ll get it attended to.



Asda responds to plea to support local community

A FAREHAM supermarket answered an urgent appeal to help during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Asda was contacted by InTouch team leader Steve Ingram when people, many of them vulnerable, couldn’t get enough supplies due to safety measures stores had imposed.

Although the Government and Borough Council were trying to help as many as possible, Steve said some were falling through the cracks.

A phone call to the local Asda solved the dilemma.

Store manager Dean Glasspool (pictured with Steve) immediately set up a system which allowed him and his team to shop within the store using more than one trolley at a time.

This enabled them to do a complete shop in one visit.

Steve said: “This was the breakthrough we needed. Without the help from Asda we would not have been able to help a lot of the people who needed it.”

Asda has helped many groups within the community during the pandemic.

Dean set up a group headed by Heidi within the store to support groups who were providing help to local people.

“This help was invaluable and a big thank you must go out to Dean and his team,” added Steve.

Groups they have helped include Acts of Kindness, Gosport & Fareham Homeless Support, Hampshire Food Revolution, Wallisdean Infant School, Fareham District Nurses, Locks Heath Day Care Centre.



Steve’s ward survey reveals some shock results



A COMPREHENSIVE survey carried out across Fareham East Ward produced some real surprises from residents.

Steve Ingram, who is the Conservative candidate for next year’s postponed Borough Council elections, decided to sound out the opinions of the 5,800 voters.

So he delivered his survey to every household in the ward and published it on his Facebook page and website.

He said: “The results have been truly amazing as I have received back over 2,017 responses and they are still coming in.”

“I really needed to know your concerns so that I can truly represent you and know that we are all ‘on the same page’.”

Empty shops in the town centre topped the list with 75% of responders concerned, followed by 65% wanting more life skills to be provided in schools and 62% demanding an increased police presence.

Despite the current wave of anti-social behaviour and drugs abuse (with a surge in dangerous inhaling from NOS canisters), these prompted responses of 46% and 39% re-

spectively.

Other priorities included providing more youth clubs (49%), protecting green spaces (49%), keeping council tax low (44%) and road repairs (44%).

Other issues raised included job opportunities, affordable homes, parking, litter, weekly rubbish collection, libraries and provision of school places.

Steve’s survey also listed the Conservatives’ most important pledges where, not surprisingly, the NHS (48%) and Brexit (35%) were well ahead of schools (28%), immigration (21%), income tax cuts (19%), pensions (18%), defence and national security (15%), welfare and benefits (9%) and house building (5%).

He added: “I really want to represent your wishes and feel that this survey has gone a long way to ensure that this will happen.”

Contact Steve at stephen@stepheningramconservative-party.co.uk if you want to see the full report.

Police consultation to address local issues

HAMPSHIRE Police have launched a consultation to help them better understand the needs of local areas.

Different areas have different needs and with a large volume of responses from Fareham our police will know what we want sorted.

The increased police portion of the council tax allowed the force to hire an extra 275 staff across the county, which will allow them to increase enforcement in key areas that arise from the consultation.



Tom Davies spoke to the Commissioner about local priorities and said that, while he believed our local police were doing a great job and people felt safe in the community, there was concern from residents who frequented the town centre at

night about anti-social behaviour.

Tom also discussed speeding traffic down residential streets and the concern that some roads turn into racetracks for boy racers late at night, as well as the increased activity of online and phone scammers.

Giving to beggars won’t help

MOST of Fareham’s homeless have been helped into self-contained accommodation during the Covid-19 crisis.

But one couple flatly refused help from the Council and charities and preferred to beg in the street.

Councillor Tom Davies said: “Sadly, the Council cannot force people to accept help.

“The best way you can help homeless people in Fareham is to support StreetAid and charities working with rough sleepers by donating money, sleeping bags or anything else.”

The advice is not to give to street beggars.

Tom added: “We want to help vulnerable people off the streets, not help them to live on the streets.”

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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 us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham East Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please call Tom Davies on 0783 299 1436

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.



£30bn plan to create jobs and support jobless

I know that many people in Fareham are anxious about the future as we emerge from Coronavirus.

People are worried about losing their jobs. As a Government, we will not just accept this.

Our Plan for Jobs, worth £30bn, is about supporting people to find the jobs that are out there, creating new jobs through investing in infrastructure and housing and finally protecting jobs by revitalising hard-hit sectors upon which many jobs depend.

Whether it is the Jobs Retention Bonus Scheme, the temporary VAT cut for tourism and hospitality sectors, the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500k, the new Green Homes Grant or creating hundreds of thousands of new fully subsidised jobs for young people through the new £2bn Kickstart scheme, I am optimistic that there will be opportunities for all as we embark on the next phase of recovering from the crisis.

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Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Our Plan for Jobs provides a wide-ranging package of measures to support everyone in protecting their incomes at this very challenging time.

From July 15, the Government cut VAT for hospitality, accommodation and tourism businesses in Fareham from 20% to 5% until January 12, 2021.

We have also launched the new Eat Out to Help Out scheme – giving people up to 50% off meals out, encouraging you back into restaurants, cafés and pubs.

Anyone who eats at a participating business, Monday to Wednesday during August, can receive the discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks, up to a value of £10 per person.

Businesses can claim the money back



Celebrating the reopening of this Titchfield café with ward Councillor Tiffany Harper.

from the Government weekly, receiving funds within 5 working days.

We are also creating new jobs by temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500,000 until March 31, 2021. Everyone in Fareham buying a main home will see their tax cut, saving up to £15,000. Nearly 9 out of 10 people buying a main

home will pay no stamp duty.

We will also provide £2bn to allow people to apply for a voucher to fund at least two thirds of the cost of upgrading the energy performance of their homes, up to a maximum of £5,000. Low income households will be eligible for up to 100% of Government funding, up to £10,000.

This will reduce energy bills by up to £300 per year and help to save carbon.



ARMED Forces Week was marked in Fareham when the Mayor, Councillor Pamela Bryant, raised the flag outside the Civic Offices.

She said: "I was honoured to be part of

Flag flies to honour Armed Forces

this year's flag raising ceremony, which highlights the important contribution made by our dedicated Armed Forces.

"This is especially true in current times when the Armed Forces have stepped up to play a key part in the national response to Covid 19.

"By flying the flag we are showing our appreciation for everything they do."

The ceremony was attended by the Commanding Officer of HMS Collingwood, Captain Catherine Jordan RN.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the first hostilities-only trainees being drafted to the new base.



The Maritime Warfare School has maintained close relations with Fareham and was granted the Freedom of the Borough in April 1975.

Archive photo: Fareham's first Mayor, Councillor Peggy Gardner, inspects a Collingwood guard of honour during the freedom ceremony.



Bid for cash share to extend rapid transport system

EXPANSION of the rapid transit system across the Portsmouth area depends on 3 cities sharing the spoils.

Portsmouth region was invited to bid for a share of £117m with Norwich and Stoke-on-Trent under the Government's Transforming Cities Fund.

Its bid focuses on developing the next phase of SE Hampshire Rapid Transit (SEHRT) – a network of bus priority routes designed to improve public trans-

port links with 3 new routes between Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Waterlooville and Portsmouth.

There would also be a new transport hub at Ryde to improve links between the Isle of Wight and the mainland.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "A funding decision has not yet been made on the Portsmouth city region bid.

"We submitted our bid to the Department for Transport on Friday, July 3."