

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



# InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH WEST – 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](http://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

**CRIES 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

### Emergency budget meeting

Fareham Council's finances have taken a massive hit through the Covid-19 pandemic and are still falling.

An emergency budget meeting will be called in September.

Over £300,000 was lost in car parking revenue in 3 months.

Estates officers have been trying to work out leases with commercial tenants struggling to pay rents.

This, plus loss of income from both Leisure Centres, has contributed to the losses.

Services are beginning to resume, but it's estimated income could be over £1m below forecast levels.

### Commemorative benches

Specially designed benches have been commissioned by the Council to mark the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.



The first bench was installed at Daedalus Common at Solent Airport@Daedalus and the second will be ready to install in August.

It's hoped Daedalus Common will be open to the public in the spring.

### Hospital renal unit opens

After many years of planning, the renal home therapies unit opened to patients at Fareham Community Hospital in May.

It comprises two teams of nurses who manage patients dialysing at home on two different types of renal dialysis.

There is a haemodialysis room and a peritoneal dialysis room. In both cases, community-based nurses visit home therapy patients for their ongoing care. The Community nurses are also based in the Fareham Community Hospital.



## Where's the weed killer?

WEEDS are running riot across the Borough due to the County Council's reduction in spraying.

Councillor Fred Birkett said the service had been reduced to once a year, but the County Council then put Fareham bottom of its list.

So instead of spraying being carried out at the optimum time in spring, it won't now be done until September.

"This means we will have seen weeds growing over an 18-month period," he said.

"It is not how we wish to see our Borough and we are very grateful to those residents who take the time to clear the gutters of weeds.

Executive member for Streetscene Councillor Simon Martin is pursuing the issue with the County.

## New rules for waste recycling centres

CALLS have been received by Councillor Fred Birkett from residents trying to find out how the Segensworth recycling tip is operating.

He said: "All Hampshire household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) are operated by Hampshire County Council and up-to-date information can be found at the following website: [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres).

"However, a pre-booking system for residents to access HWRCs was introduced on June 15.

"You must now have an appointment to visit any Hampshire HWRC. Ad-

ditionally, Hampshire residents must register their vehicles online for continued free access to them from August 1.

"You can register online at the link above. While a restricted service is available, residents should limit themselves to one visit a week, as you may be turned away if you make a second visit within this period."



## Volunteers praised for selfless efforts during pandemic emergency

PEOPLE across the Borough have pulled out all the stops to volunteer help during the Covid-19 crisis

They 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.

Hundreds of people in need have been helped across the Borough and it is right that the Council should express thanks to them all.

Mayor Pamela Bryant and Council Leader Seán Woodward wrote scores of letters to thank people for their selfless efforts.

But some may have been missed, so the Council is asking residents to nominate volunteers who deserve recognition.

Nominations can be made by filling out the online form at [www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer).

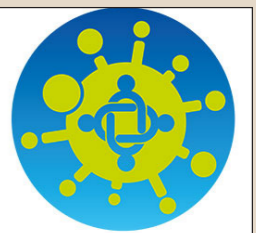
Nominees will receive a special letter of thanks from the Mayor and the Leader of the Council.

Fareham NW Councillor Fred Birkett said: "Council officers have continued to assist residents in what has been a clearly worrying time for many, be it from a medical, social or financial perspective.

"I have spoken to several residents over this pandemic period, worried about their safety and what the future may hold.

"Although we certainly do not have all the answers there are organisations out there that can support at this difficult time."

For information and links to what help is available go to [www.fareham.gov.uk/coronavirus/intro.aspx](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/coronavirus/intro.aspx).



COMMUNITY HELP

## Covid crisis slows progress on new council flats



BAD WEATHER and the Covid-19 crisis have delayed progress on development of the former Hampshire Rose site.

Roof trusses and windows have begun to appear, but work was slowed down by Government emergency restrictions and delivery of materials from suppliers.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "Even with this disruption the contractor has continued to work well, but delivery of the site is now looking to be early 2020. "Clearly any delay is disappointing, but with the difficulties COVID-19 has afforded the whole community this delay was only to be expected.

"We will continue to work with the contractor and if possible, try and pull forward the delivery date."

It was hoped people could start moving into the 18 homes in the building, to be known as Rose Court, in the autumn, but this may have to be revised,

The flats will be wheelchair accessible.

The delivery of the Hampshire Rose site is part of a wide-ranging strategy of delivering Council-built houses across the Borough.

Families moved into 5 new Council homes in Park Gate in July; Portchester will see plans put forward in the next few weeks for a new block of sheltered housing accommodation in Station Road.

Next year there will be plans for a further housing project to be delivered within Fareham NW ward.

This will be at Wynton Way where it is planned to develop several council houses while still allowing access to the Kershaw Day Centre.

Fred Birkett added: "Although yet to be determined, ideally we would like these all to be for social or affordable rent as NW Ward has higher need on the Council's waiting list."

## 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 used enough.

They plan to replace them with a children's soft play area. Councillors received several protests from Fareham North West residents.

Other councillors joined her to oppose the plan when the Executive Member for Leisure and Community had to decide, but were unsuccessful and the squash courts will be removed.

## Pandemic gives rough sleepers new hope

SOURCING alternative accommodation for rough sleepers to keep them off the streets is taxing Borough Council officers.

Executive member for housing Councillor Fred Birkett said the task was often complex as most needed support, at least temporarily, as well as housing. Despite Government aid of £7,500, it cost a lot more to accommodate rough sleepers.

"But many do not fall within the definition of those we have a statutory homelessness responsibility to accommodate," he said.

The Council collaborates with all relevant partner

agencies to find the right solution and every individual went through comprehensive needs assessment to find the most appropriate accommodation.

"Packages are drawn up to ensure those with support needs have the best chance of sustaining their tenancies.

"The reasons for rough sleeping are varied and complex and every rough sleeper has their own story as to why they are on the streets."

The pandemic had afforded the opportunity to engage with those previously not wishing to do so and work towards finding suitable, sustainable homes.

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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 North West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

**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.

## Coastal defence plan falters

A DEVELOPER is holding up the proposed £10.7m coastal protection plan along the Portchester-Paulsgrove shore.

East Solent Coastal Partnership had secured the Environment Agency's approval in 2018 to deliver a 1 in 200-year standard protection for the next 15 years.

But the developer at the Trafalgar Wharf site is currently unwilling to stump up their key contribution.

So the £5.1m Government grant will not be paid unless the developer contributes £3.075 towards the wider defence scheme and £2.3m towards defences on the Trafalgar Wharf site.

The project team has, however, secured £400,000 from Southern Water.

Without 3rd party contributions the planned scheme will not go ahead in its current form.

Fareham Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council remain committed to trying to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and would investigate alternative delivery models for the future.

Fareham's Executive Member for Planning and Development, Councillor Keith Evans, was disappointed that the scheme was un-



likely to be delivered as planned.

He said: "A great deal of work had gone into planning and designing a scheme that would protect our coastline from flooding and erosion, so that our residents can continue to enjoy these areas in the future."

Work would continue to find a solution.



## 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."