

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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

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

But not all benefited 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

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.

Garden waste solution

Green waste has piled up during lockdown as many residents worked in their gardens.

Although recycling tips are now open and the Council collects one green waste bag each fortnight free, it is necessary to book a slot at the tip.

Geoff Fazackarley says there is an alternative and you can buy disposable bags for extra green waste, costing £40 for 25 bags (including delivery) or £10 for 5 bags from the Civic Offices.

"There is no restriction on the number of these bags that can be put out on collection days," he said.

Call 01329 236100 or order on line at customerservicecentre@fareham.gov.uk

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.

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Community Hospital's new renal unit

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

Our thanks go to the Rotary Club of Locks Heath who funded the window and to other local charities who have generously donated.

The home therapies unit 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.



Spray in the spring

RESIDENTS from all over Fareham South have complained to Geoff Fazackarley about weeds spreading along their roads.

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

Several councillors have 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.

They requested that Fareham should be done in May or June next year, and a response is awaited. It is likely next year that the Borough Council will fund an additional weed spray to keep our area looking nice.



Plans for 1,400 homes, but who can afford them?

MASSIVE opposition is expected to two new planning applications for a total of 1,409 houses which will devastate the strategic green gap between Fareham and Stubbington.

Persimmon Homes submitted an application for 209 houses south of Oakcroft Lane, Stubbington (previously 261 houses).

Hallam Land submitted an application on Newlands Farm for 1,200 houses, an 80-bed care home, two-form entry 420-place primary school, local centre including a community centre and healthcare facility.

Fareham South Councillor Geoff Fazackarley (pictured) described the plans as 'not wanted under any circumstances'.



He said: "We need housing, but we need affordable housing not £300,000 plus houses that our children and lower income earners certainly cannot afford. "Right across this country we see a homeless crisis, so let's not turn a blind eye to the endless greed from developers.

"We must take a stand and work together to produce a place where we become more of a community and consult with our residents and produce a new village, if you like, where people have affordable rents, affordable housing and a way of life that takes away the

stress." Mrs Pat Bailey, of Bishopsfield Road, said: "How can our children live and work in this area without af-

fordable housing affordable rents?

"Most jobs are paying £9/£10 pounds an hour, so how are they getting the £40,000 deposit? Government schemes don't cover this or the repayments." There would be a new country park, sports facilities, drainage, walking and cycling infrastructure and other associated works.

Access would be via Longfield Avenue and Peak Lane, but no access onto the Stubbington by-pass which is now under construction.

Geoff Fazackarley said the applications were premature to consideration of public comments on Fareham's emerging Local Plan (including the supplement consulted upon in early 2020) and to the Council approving a Publication Plan for statutory consultation later this year.

This would be followed by independent examination by a government inspector at a public inquiry.

Asda responds to plea to help community

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

Asda was contacted by InTouch when people, many of them vulnerable, couldn't get enough supplies due to the safety measures stores had imposed.

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

A phone call to the local Asda solved the

dilemma and store manager Dean Glasspool immediately set up a system which allowed a team of volunteers to shop using more than one trolley at a time and complete a shop in one visit.

Without Asda's support we would not have been able to help many of those who needed it.

Asda has helped many groups within the community during the pandemic and Dean set up a group headed by Heidi within the store to support groups who were providing help to local people.

Victory memorial 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 put in place in August.

It's hoped Daedalus Common will be open to the public in the spring. Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said it was disappointing that festivities were cancelled to commemorate the victories.



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'Support your local businesses' says Geoff as lockdown eases

With the lockdown restrictions starting to lift, Councillor Geoff Fazackarley went out to meet businesses owners in South Ward and residents who owned businesses elsewhere to ensure they were in time to receive the grants and benefits from the Government and Borough Council.

Owners were very grateful for Geoff's involvement.

He said: "I like to see residents support our local business. It's all about community and helping one another.

"We've seen so many marvellous people coming together during the lockdown, so let's support each other by using our local businesses.

"Fareham South has a melting pot of different residents which challenging at times, but by coming together we can make our area a wonderful place."

If anyone is in need of support just contact Geoff and he will try to help.



Geoff meets Fran who's glad to be back in business at Redlands Café.



Jill and Jackie had to take extra precautions before reopening Hair@41 hairdresser's.



Amanda and Marko Marfelli will welcome back customers at their Garden Shed Café.



Back in action, but Jackie at Gent's Barbers in Fairfield Avenue now wears a visor.



£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."