

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

FAREHAM 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

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

Our condolences

Fareham West Ward has suffered losses due to COVID 19.

Councillor Tina Ellis sends a personal message of condolence to the families of our residents who have sadly lost loved ones, friends or colleagues.

"It is never easy, but particularly difficult at this most surreal and challenging time in our community history," she said.

How have we done?

Borough Council staff have worked tirelessly, often with a much-reduced staff, to keep services at full strength.

Councillor Tina Ellis would like your views on how we coped locally and nationally.

To respond, e-mail TEllis@fareham.gov.uk with the subject heading IN TOUCH - COVID 19, also indicating if you are happy to be contacted.

A virtual VE Day celebration

Tina Ellis was pleased to attend a virtual VE Day event, a chance to dress up and join in a socially distanced tea in the front garden.

She said: "I'd love to hear the virtual events that have helped you through lockdown or did your street manage to organise any support events."



Share any great stories with us in our next InTouch.

Stagger journey times appeal

First Bus apologise occasionally they had to leave passengers in Blackbrook Road area due to COVID restrictions on numbers.

If you use this service, please consider staggering your journey time to avoid it happening during the crisis.

No weed killer for 18 months

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

Councillor Tina Ellis 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

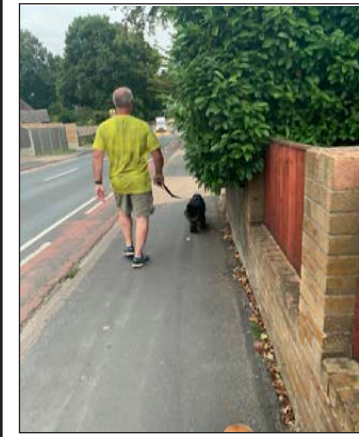
seen weeds growing over an 18-month period," she said. "It is not how we wish to see our Borough and we are very grateful to those residents who take the time to clear the gutters of weeds.

"However, we know that not all our residents can undertake this type of work."

Executive member for Streetscene Councillor Simon Martin has challenged the County Council on the issue.



The impact of overhanging foliage



YOU can help with social distancing by keeping your hedges trimmed.

Overgrown foliage often means people cannot pass safely on the pavement, but have to step into the road.

Councillor Tina Ellis says she's noted several examples in West Ward and has appealed to residents to cut them back.

"Overhanging public footpaths and highways can have a significant impact and at worst is taking up several feet of the paving in some areas."

It was particularly important since Government was funding active travel routes and more people were walking and cycling since lockdown.

Overwhelming response by Covid crisis volunteers



EFFORTS of volunteers who responded to the Covid-19 crisis have won praise from every corner of the Borough.

Fareham West Councillor Tina Ellis said it was a massive relief to know there were organised groups ready to respond when residents called for help.

"It has been a real personal privilege to be part of the team of volunteers with Acts of Kindness, One Community and Citizens Advice as our partner charities," she said.

"From the outset Kerry Snuggs, of Acts of Kindness Solent (AOK), and a dedicated team collected food and donations of essentials to give out to the community."

They quickly convened a COVID-19 response group with co-ordinators and What's App groups, efficiently collecting and delivering vital prescriptions and food.

As the Fareham Foodbank couldn't operate from their existing building, a huge operation was undertaken, co-ordinated by Fareham Council and AOK, so the operation could continue with safe social distancing.

Tina said Hayley Hamlett, of One Community, organised volunteers to do referrals, bespoke shopping, pharmacy trips and support phone calls to individuals.

"Being a hub for so many volunteer groups they have been at the forefront of helping with risk assessment and governance."

Hayley was overwhelmed with the generosity of volunteers and hopes those who enjoyed the experience of giving to others will continue to give their time.

Tina added: "The main message throughout is 'don't struggle alone', there is help out there and if you don't know where to go, reach out to one of the local volunteer groups."

"Details can be found on the Council website. Alternatively, ring or email me using the contact details below."



Tina, volunteering for One Community, delivers to Brian Misselbrook who was unable to shop.

"I don't know where I'd be without all you lovely ladies helping me," he said.

Litter bill runs into thousands

LITTER is a mounting problem across Fareham due to thoughtless people.

Councillor Tina Ellis often finds it out walking her dogs in West Ward and Blackbrook Park.

"I carry extra doggy bags just to pick up dog mess left by a few irresponsible owners.

"We have nearly 700 litter bins in our Borough, so use them and save thousands of pounds paying Streetscene staff to pick up after those who can't be bothered," she said,

Litter always carries a risk. A Portsmouth woman had to go to hospital recently after badly gashing her leg on metal that had been fly-tipped.

Over-the-fence tippers warned



PEOPLE who dump waste over their garden fences on to public land are fly-tipping and liable to prosecution.

Councillor Tina Ellis received several complaints on the issue and discovered the culprits' properties back on to public open space or parkland.

She said: "Be aware - if you wish to put any form of access from your own property, for example a side or back gate, out into public amenity space or throughway, then you need to get permission from the Council."



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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.

Survey reveals concerns about police presence on Fareham's streets



LACK of police on the streets, anti-social behaviour and speeding were highlighted in a survey of West Ward residents.

Conservative candidate in the postponed Fareham Council elections Stephen Child used his survey during canvassing to discover what mattered most to voters.

He said the overall response was better than expected, with returns from 219 homes out of 653 addresses and 311 survey forms - 29% - returned out of a possible 1,057.

By far the greatest concern (75%) was at lack of police presence followed by anti-social behaviour (52%), speeding (41%) and drug and knife crime respectively at 20% and 17%.

Conversely, 54% said Fareham was a safe place to live.

There were a variety of responses to other issues, where the main concern was homelessness and begging, followed by parking.

Stephen commented: "The high level of responses to the police question seems to indicate there is a problem, but may not take into account recent Government initiatives.

"It could also reflect a belief that the police should be doing more to address the present problems in society, ie anti-social behaviour caused by a general lack of discipline and poor parenting in some families - arguably not the role of the police."

PHOTO: Counting the responses.

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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Tina on 01329 843936.



£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.

Action call to stop Longmynd Drive ‘speed track’



THIS IS the devastation inflicted to a property in Longmynd Drive by a speeding driver.

Flying debris damaged the front window of the room where Kathy Beale and her husband were sitting.

“They were shocked,” said In-Touch team leader Stephen Child when Mrs Beale showed him the damage.

Longmynd Drive residents are angry about speeding drivers using their street as a rat-run.

Stephen Child, [Conservative](#)

candidate for Fareham West in this year’s postponed council elections, said there had been two major incidents in the past 3 years.

In a recent survey he conducted, Stephen said the problem wasn’t restricted to Longmynd Drive. Highlands Road had similar issues.

A petition to Hampshire County Council, with a request to address the issue, was begun prior to lockdown and will resume in the future with a view to include other roads where people have expressed their concerns.



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.”