

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

PORTCHESTER – 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 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



Portchester housing plan

The first social housing project in the Borough Council's new programme has been completed and there is more in the pipeline

Families were preparing to move into 5 new properties at Park Gate, but Portchester is also high on the list.

In the next few years land at Station Road will be developed by the Council and Assheton Court in Castle Street is planned for redevelopment.

Virtual planning meetings

The Council's philosophy during these challenging times is for councillors to continue to be involved in the decision-making process as much as possible rather than relying on officers to take decisions using emergency powers.

Planning committees, therefore, have been carried out using these powers via virtual meetings.

The first virtual meeting of Fareham's planning committee was held on May 13, using Microsoft teams and with residents able to join remotely.

Committee chairman Councillor Nick Walker said: "I was pleased we were able to continue with the democratic process of determining planning applications, with residents able to make deputations and also view the deliberations."

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.

Why not "like" our facebook page - In Touch with Portchester West.

Spray these weeds in the spring

RESIDENTS from all over the Borough have complained to about weeds spreading along their roads.

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

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 have requested that Fareham should be done in May or June next year and await 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 contact Sue Bell or Nick Walker and they will get it attended to.



Council grants towards bowling club's new facilities

PORTCHESTER Bowling Club is a thriving sports club, with 155 members.

In addition to providing opportunities to improve bowling skills and enable competition in leagues, the club holds regular social events for its members and their guests, many of whom are widowers.

The organisation is also developing a junior section through links with local primary schools.

In July we were pleased to take a look at the new improvements which extended the facilities in the club room and revamped the toilet area.

The club received grants for the work from Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils.

PHOTO: Club chairman Ken Gibbs(r) shows Portchester West Councillors Sue Bell and Nick Walker the club's improvements.



Key cash contributor delays coastal protection plan

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

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.

Portchester Councillor Sue Bell said: "Unfortunately, at present, despite intensive negotiations between Portsmouth City Council and the private developer, a



mutually agreeable method for securing the contribution has not been identified.

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

She said Fareham Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council remained 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 unlikely 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."

"Tackling coastal flooding and erosion remains a key priority for the Council and we will continue to work with our partners to find best way forward."

Lockdown sparks rise in nuisance complaints

BARKING dogs and bonfires are among the causes of alarming increases in nuisance complaints to Fareham Council.

Domestic pollution complaints rose by over 50% from 290 from April to July 2109 to 437 for the same period this year, with lockdown a contributory cause.

Councillor Sue Bell said: "We urge residents to be considerate with their neighbours."

Issues such as loud music, shouting, barking dogs and bonfires are high up the list.

Complaints about loud voices have nearly

doubled this year, while complaints about bonfires are nearly three times higher.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Health and Public Protection, said most residents were good neighbours and issues could usually be resolved with a conversation between the two parties.

However, the figures clearly showed an increase in inconsiderate behaviour.

"My message to residents is please think about others, and for those who cause persistent problems, we can and will take action," he stated.

Nick praises crisis response



DURING these challenging times, the Council is working with local organisations to provide essential supplies to vulnerable residents.

Councillor Nick Walker (pictured) said: "There has been an amazing response to donations, enabling these groups to deliver food parcels to those in need, whether they are shielding or struggling financially."

"We thank residents, businesses and supermarkets that have made a generous donation, but the crisis isn't over yet and we will need to supply people with essentials for many weeks to come to ensure nobody goes hungry."

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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 Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Nick Walker or Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

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.

Bid is launched for cash share to expand rapid transit 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 transport 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.

Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "A funding decision has not yet been made on the Portsmouth city region bid. Instead, Portsmouth has been invited to bid for a share of £117 million with Norwich and Stoke-on-Trent."

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

Portsmouth transport boss Councillor Lynne Stagg, who chairs the SEHRT Board, commented:

"We are disappointed that we will not be able to progress our plans at this stage."





£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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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.

Mayor raises the flag to honour Armed Forces



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 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, Peggy Gardner, inspects a guard of honour during the freedom ceremony.



Portchester loses village stalwart and activist

TRIBUTES have been paid to Portchester village activist Julia Orr, who has died.

Councillor Nick Walker said: "I was truly saddened to hear of the death of Julia who passed away at home on the 16th July."

"Julia was the Secretary of the Portchester Civic Society since its inception in 2000, retiring in November 2009 when she was

made an Honorary Member.

"Previous to that, she had also been the Secretary of the Portchester Society since its beginning in 1978."

"Julia represented the Society and residents on many planning applications within Portchester and upheld the values of the Portchester Civic Society which are to promote

high standards of planning and architecture."

The Society also aims to educate the public in key aspects of the area and to secure the preservation of places of historical and environmental interest.

Nick Walker added: "Our thoughts are with Julia's family and friends at this sad time."