

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

SARISBURY & WHITELEY – 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



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.

Being well prepared

Salisbury Junior School has been praised for its preparations for the September return. InTouch team leader Joanne Bull said: "I've been impressed with the use of social media from Sarisbury Juniors. "They have embraced social media providing updates and video tours in preparation for the children's return; it's certainly reassuring to watch. "Here's wishing all the children of the borough a safe and welcoming return to much needed education."

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 Seán Woodward said it was disappointing that festivities were cancelled to commemorate the victories and pay tribute to those who gave their lives. To help people celebrate, the Council provided a 'Stay at home street party' pack, which was a huge success.



Cemetery extension

AN EXTENSION will provide 350 more burial places and 240 plots for ashes at Holly Hill Cemetery. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev Christopher Foster, in an ancient ceremony with the minimum number of participants during the lockdown. It cost the Council £300,000 and the grave space should last 30 years, with first burials in the autumn. Councillor Seán Woodward said:

"The graves will not be available for pre-purchase, ensuring the cemetery's life is extended as far as possible." PHOTO: Poignant moment during the consecration, with Seán Woodward (right) The Bishop and his Diocesan Registrar Miss Hilary Tyler.



Conflicts with local plan policies

RESIDENTS are urged to object to an application to build 38 homes in countryside at Eversdown Farm, Botley Road, Burr ridge. Councillor Seán Woodward said the site, adjoining the recreation ground and village hall, was contrary to several Local Plan policies.

The applicants were warned the area was not earmarked for development in any existing or draft Local Plan and there were serious concerns about their proposals. "It sits on a road which, despite being a 30mph limit with flashing speed repeater signs, has a poor accident record. "Bizarrely, the application transport assessment claims the road to Botley is unrestricted, but it is a 40mph limit outside Burr ridge." He asked residents to send him copies of any comments.

Planners stop ancient woodland becoming a car park

ANCIENT woodland has been saved from being wrecked by a car park extension plan. Borough planners rejected an application by the NHS to add 44 spaces to the inadequate car park at Whiteley's over-stretched surgery. Councillors said it would have destroyed a priority habitat and complex ecosystem. And it would have had an unknown impact on bats and doormice, species that live in the woods and are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The NHS insists Whiteley will have to make do with the current surgery and for the expected extra 9,000 patients generated by the North of Whiteley development. But the surgery already handles over 5,000 Whiteley patients, plus 8,000 from the closed Locks Heath surgery. The Council blames Winchester City Council for the acute problem. Councillor Seán Woodward welcomed the refusal, say-



ing: "The right way to increase medical provision for the North of Whiteley development is to build a new surgery. "Squeezing a quart into a pint pot is not the right ap-



proach. Winchester City Council should have insisted on extra medical provision. "There are ways to improve the layout and capacity of the existing car park which the surgery owners have consistently refused to address such as having a dedicated IN and OUT. "We remain keen to work with them to improve matters."



New council homes welcomed

PHASE 1 of the programme to step up building of new council homes is complete. Councillor Seán Woodward, pictured with Park Gate Councillors Ian Bastable and Simon Martin, said: "There is a growing need for affordable housing in Fareham, and delivering these homes was one of our key priorities for 2020." 18 one and two-bedroom apartments for social rent on the former Hampshire Rose site in Highlands Road, should be finished in early 2021. Plans for affordable housing over the next few years include Station Road, Portchester, the former Cold-east Scout Hut, Stubbington Lane, Wynton Way and redevelopment of Assheton Court.

Green 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 to get rid of your green waste. InTouch team leader Joanne Bull 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," she said.

Work begins at last on delayed £12.3m primary school for Whiteley



THIS IS an artist's impression of the new £12.3 million primary school we're building in Whiteley, near Fareham. The relocated Cornerstone Church of England (Aided) Primary School is being built in response to the forecast need for more school places arising from housing development in the area. It means that children in those families can go to school near to where they live. The original start date of April 20, 2020 was postponed due to the Covid-19 response. Work is now underway, with contractors Midas following national guidance to maintain social distancing on-site, so that the new building can be completed ready for opening at the start of the academic year in September 2021. Cornerstone will provide 630 places for children aged 4-11. County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "This school has been much delayed by delays to the commencement of the development North of Whiteley. "I know it will be welcomed by Whiteley families who are either attending the existing Cornerstone or will attend in the future."

Huge response from public

COMMUNITY spirit is very much alive and we have seen people come together to support those in need. Many individuals and charities have been working incredibly hard ensuring help is at hand. InTouch team leader Joanne Bull (pictured) said: "I was delighted to work with Acts of Kindness (AOK) in the mammoth task of moving tons of donated food from Fareham's foodbank to the AOK storage and distribution centre provided by the Borough Council at Solent Airport. "I was amazed at the turnout of volunteers and team effort. I'm sure many of us appreciate and will long remember people's kindness and generosity during the crisis. Long may it continue!"



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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, why not join Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Call Joanne Bull on 07956 081 239 or email joanne.sarisbury@outlook.com

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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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.



Hook Lake: A popular walk

A STRATEGY to manage and compensate for erosion and loss of inter-tidal habitats has been sanctioned.

East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESP) proposes a project to evaluate all options and aims to produce a viable remedy.

Hook Lake, Warsash, comprising 44 ha (108 acres) of grazing land and reed marsh has been identified as a potential key area for compensating habitat.

Meantime, the County Council's Coun-

Protecting paths and habitats

tryside Service is undertaking 3 phases of work to improve the Hamble Causeway between Warasah-Swanwick, which floods at spring tides.

Hook Lake: Councillor Keith Evans said the Environment Agency was legally obliged to mitigate against losses or replace them with new lands.

Agency policy is not to replace coastal defences which are in serious decline, but to create protected new habitats.

He said the project fell within the Borough Council's strategy to protect and enhance the environment and a comprehensive management structure would be set up to include all interested parties.

It won't cost Fareham a penny and will be fully funded by the Agency and the ESP.

Hamble Causeway: County Coun-

cillor Seán Woodward said it was critical to repair the Hamble Causeway.

Phase 1 (Universal Marine to Crabbleck Lane) completed but needs a few repairs.

Phase 2 (Crabbleck Lane to Chinese Bridge) includes installation of rock rolls, repairs where water is scouring the bank and overtopping the path.

Phase 3 (Chinese Bridge to Pink Ferry terminal) received external funding and will be carried out in 2021 to include a new circular route.



Hamble Causeway



Long-awaited renal unit opens at Community Hospital

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 dif-

ferent 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.