

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

COUNCIL TAX REMAINS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

Despite the difficulties of the past two years we have set a budget for Fareham that keeps our Council Tax the fifth lowest in the country and the second lowest in Hampshire.

Our prudent investments in recent years along with sensible spending decisions means residents of Fareham will not be facing some of the tax increases those in other nearby council areas may be facing.

The bottom line is that Fareham Borough Council will be increasing Council Tax this year by just **1p per day** for the average home - which will receive all of our services for less than **£3 PER WEEK**.

Increases from Hampshire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service will be added which will mean a total Council Tax to the average home of £32 per week (£1,669 per year).

This year the Chancellor has announced a council tax energy supplement of £150 which will be paid by the Council in April to all households in council tax bands A – D (75 per cent of properties) with a discretionary fund for helping those in bands E – H experiencing financial hardship.

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Spend on Services

£46.7M



Funding Sources

OTHER £0.4M	INVESTMENTS £3.4M	
RESERVES £1.1M	RENTS £3M	NEW HOMES BONUS £0.1M
COUNCIL TAX £7.7M (16%)	SALES/FEES & CHARGES £7.7M	BUSINESS RATES £3.1M
SPECIFIC GRANTS & REIMBURSEMENTS - £20.2M Examples: Housing Benefit Subsidy		

In addition there is a discount on energy bills of £200 in October which will be reclaimed over the following five years via energy bills.

During 2021 we refurbished Fareham Leisure Centre and made some improvements to Holly Hill Leisure Centre. We plan to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by opening Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park at Daedalus, planting the Queen's Copse in Titchfield and lighting a beacon at Portchester Castle.

We will be continuing our massive programme of refurbishment of children's playgrounds and community centres.

In addition we hope to see the Fareham Live entertainment complex built on the site of Ferneham Hall open at the end of next year.

We will continue with our council house building programme to provide much needed affordable housing.

We are also continuing to invest to create new opportunities for highly skilled, highly paid advanced engineering jobs at Solent Airport at Daedalus which we are delighted is now producing a surplus to use towards Council services.

Community Centre thriving

Following re-opening after the pandemic the Priory Park Community Centre now has many groups re-started including a Pre-school, Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Rangers, Gilly's Pilates, Singasational Choir and Sonrise Church.

However, some groups will not return, notably In Time Dance which used the community hall for more than 28 years. The hall is maintained to a high standard with all repairs undertaken quickly to ensure a good environment for those hiring the hall.

Specific recent improvements include improved outside lights in the play area and professional strip and polish of the large hall floor.

This local community resource is available to hire for all and enquiries should go to priorypark.locksheath@gmail.com or call 01489 582568.



Cllr Simon Martin joined parents and babies at Tabnabs toddler and baby classes and some of the children at Priory Park Pre-School

Crackdown on abandoned vehicles

Fareham Borough Council is cracking down on abandoned and illegal vehicles in the Borough after a sharp rise in reports.

A vehicle can be classed as abandoned if it is stored on land without the authority of the landowner, or any land which forms part of the highway. The Council is able to use its licensing and regulatory powers to remove these vehicles, but it needs the help of Fareham residents to identify them.

If you suspect that a vehicle has been abandoned, you can check its current status on the DVLA website.

Once a complaint is received, the Council will visit the site and a statutory notice will be issued if appropriate. If a vehicle is deemed to be abandoned, checks are undertaken to ascertain whether the owner can be traced and endeavours are made to contact the owner, who can then be charged for action taken in respect of the vehicle.

Depending upon the type of notice served on the vehicle and/or the progress of the ownership checks, the vehicle can then be removed and crushed.

Councillor Seán Woodward said "Abandoned vehicles are a growing issue in the Borough and I encourage residents to report any vehicle which they suspect has been abandoned. Part of this problem is related to unscrupulous business owners parking unregistered or SORN vehicles on the highway, which cannot be tolerated.

News in Brief

Green waste

The new Green Waste Scheme began in February. Those households who chose not to subscribe to the brown top bin collection service, known as Clip & Collect, can still take their garden waste to the Segensworth household waste recycling centre for free.

For those needing more information on home composting please see the Fareham Council website.

We will be working with the Council to determine how the Christmas tree collection scheme will work in future years for those residents not subscribed to the Clip and Collect service.

HWRC booking system

The booking system implemented during lockdown has demonstrated that managing customer throughput is an effective means of enabling the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to operate more efficiently.

Congestion has historically been commonplace at many HWRCs on busy weekends throughout the year and public holidays, which created delays on the local road network and increased vehicle emissions. Booking enables residents to deposit waste swiftly and easily. The booking system has now been made permanent and slots are available up to seven days in advance.

There is no limit on the number anyone can book in a week.

More details from -

<https://customer.bookingbug.com/?client=hantsrecyclingcentres>

Park Gate is safest in Conservative hands

Eyesore made safe

Local residents will be familiar with the eyesore of the old Threshers building on Botley Road.

After many years of the building lying empty, it has fallen into significant disrepair over recent months. Before Christmas the building was open to the elements and to unauthorised trespass.

Following action by local councillors, the Council served notice on the owner to secure the building and undertook those works when the owner failed to comply with the notice. These works are now complete and the next stage will be to serve notices requiring the owner to improve the building and tidy the site.



Housing needs across the Borough

Part of the work the Fareham Housing department has undertaken over the past few years is understanding the type of housing needed within the Borough.

With finite resources at our disposal it becomes even more important to ensure there are choices available for different ways into housing.

Like the new homes built in Rose Court, the old Hampshire Rose pub site, social housing will remain the most difficult to fund. However, the council work with house builders to ensure a percentage of new builds are offered at affordable rents.

Additionally Shared Ownership avenues are also available, along with the new First Homes initiative.

Visit the Fareham Housing website:

(www.fareham.gov.uk/housing/intro.aspx), or ring and ask to speak to a Housing Officer, to enquire about what options may be available to you.'

News in Brief

ASB update

As reported in our previous edition, instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are much reduced since the height of the pandemic.

However, there remains some small pockets of problem areas.

The Council continues to patrol and take action to resolve these issues.

Councillor Ian Bastable said: "Anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour should contact Fareham's Environmental Health team to ensure any incidents are logged.

"This enables us to properly follow up any issues. We take any reporting to local councillors seriously, including where anonymous.

"Please don't hesitate to continue to report problems."

Ash die-back

Ash Dieback Disease is expected to kill more than 80 per cent of ash trees over the next five to 10 years.

There are presently around 1,800 ash trees in the borough and so the potential impact of this disease on our trees is significant.

We are having to cut down those trees that are failing although we will be seeking to plant more trees in the borough.

Contact your Councillors



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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.

Sustainably fuelling our green waste vehicles

With the introduction of the new Clip and Collect green waste service Executive Member for Streetscene Ian Bastable didn't want to increase the Council's net carbon emissions with the use of three additional collection vehicles.

An alternative solution was found by fuelling the new vehicles with a renewable replacement for diesel, known as HVO, so we have signed up to a year-long trial.

We use only the most renewable sources of the fuel, used vegetable cooking oil from certified renewable sources.

We may be able to extend the scheme to other refuse collection vehicles if the trial is successful.

Cllr Ian Bastable and Cllr Seán Woodward with one of the sustainably-fuelled vehicles



Ecological disaster risk to River Hamble

Drainage from the bridge that carries the M27 over the River Hamble threatens 'an ecological disaster', National Highways has been warned, but despite the concerns the strategic operator said there was no cash to carry out improvements.

The motorway's drainage system currently sees pipes discharge directly into the River Hamble.

Councillor Seán Woodward, Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board, said: "This issue has been a concern for decades now, because the drainage is literally just pipes through the bridge that lead straight into the River Hamble.

"The worst case scenario could be that gallons of petrol or diesel or some other spillage could pour into the river in the event of an accident - it's an ecological disaster waiting to happen."

National Highways had initially told the Harbour Board, that it planned to deliver works to move the outfall as part of the Smart Motorway scheme and had secured funding. However, in 2020 the cash was returned to the central pot because the cost of the work was too high.

In February 2021 National Highways' route manager, Greg Stone, acknowledged that it 'has a duty to uphold our environmental standards which includes drainage and pollution issues from the M27 bridge into the River Hamble'. He said: 'It remains our intention to deliver improvements to the drainage in the area. We will continue to work with the Environment Agency to try and find the right solution to this issue.'

Events to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Fareham Borough Council has planned a series of community events and activities to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, including the formal naming of the public open space at Daedalus as Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park.

In addition a sponsored commemorative tree planting scheme will be open to individuals, clubs, schools, community groups and businesses who can purchase trees to be planted at Abbey Meadows in Titchfield.

English Heritage has been approached for a beacon lighting ceremony to be hosted at Portchester Castle and the Council will promote the Big Jubilee Lunch. A thanksgiving service was held at St Mary's Church, Portchester on the anniversary of the Queens accession to the throne