

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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RISK

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.

Titchfield and Titchfield Common are safest in Conservative hands

Titchfield in-fill site traffic concerns

Cllr Sarah Pankhurst has been notified of a planning application with Hampshire County Council for a proposed solar panel farm at the Titchfield Infill site in Titchfield Lane - part of Winchester City Council area.

The development could mean up to five years of HGVs travelling along Mill Lane, Funtley Lane and Titchfield Lane to the site.



Cllrs Sarah Pankhurst (right) and Tiffany Harper in Titchfield Lane

Sarah and Ward Councillors Connie Hockley and Tiffany Harper are opposing the HGV routes along Mill Lane bearing in mind the narrowness of the road at Place House Cottages and the cycle and walking route from Fishers Hill and the effect on historic buildings along the lanes. Sarah said: "I am very concerned that the amount of extra lorry traffic will cause further problems along a route which already has a dangerous lack of sight of oncoming traffic at Place House Cottages.

"I have suggested an alternative route through the Segensworth Industrial Estate onto Funtley Lane and have expressed my concerns recently to Hampshire County Council."

Cllr Peter Latham, Chairman of the Regulatory Committee at HCC, said: "The public consultation in this matter has now closed and HCC officers are reacting to the many letters received from the consultation. They will be in further discussions with the applicant on the merits of the application. An update will be given as soon as received via HCC."

Any comments, please email Sarah on sarah.pankhurst@hants.gov.uk.

News in Brief

Grant support for the Waypoint Hub

Cllr Sarah Pankhurst met up with Claire Johnson at the Waypoint Hub recently.

They discussed progress with activities at the Hub after Sarah was able to make a Hampshire County Council grant to support the service. The money has been used to help with costs for the food bank vegetable supplies and has been a significant benefit for the Hub and its customers.

Sarah said "I am pleased to have been able to help with a contribution towards costs for such an important service in the Western Wards.

"I want to thank Claire and her team at the Waypoint Hub for working so hard in supporting those needing that little extra help.

"There are also regular access times to the Citizens' Advice Bureau service and meeting times can be arranged."

Aspiring politicians ask the questions

Barton Peveril College students from Fareham took the opportunity to discuss politics with Suella Braverman, MP for Fareham and the Attorney General, and County and Borough Councillor Sarah Pankhurst.

Cllr Pankhurst, who is a governor of the college, said she had been delighted by the aspiring politicians.

"I am impressed at the aspirations of the students and am sure that they will be successful in their careers."



Titchfield and Titchfield Common are safest in Conservative hands

New copse of trees to mark Jubilee

The Titchfield Village Trust, in partnership with the Earl of Southampton Trust, will be joining forces to plant a whole copse at the top of Barry's Meadow. The initiative is to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year.

Chairman of the Village Trust Nick Girdler has called on the whole village to support the plan.

"We are hoping to get the entire village behind this by getting streets, organisations and individuals to sponsor a tree," said Nick.

"It also fits in perfectly with Fareham Borough Council's project to green the village."

In the photo are Connie Hockley and Tracey Kenney, Clerk to the Earl of Southampton Trust, viewing the area proposed to be turned into a copse.



News in Brief

Litter picking

In Touch team leader Sarah Jolliffe has been out and about in Titchfield Common picking up litter, sorting things that can be recycled and removing drug paraphernalia including one plastic bag containing the remnants of white powder. Sarah said: "I was shocked on one of my recent litter patrols to discover large quantities of empty alcohol bottles and cans and remnants of drugs in our local woodland.

"There are bins located nearby and there is no excuse for this antisocial behaviour.

"Please use the bins or take your rubbish home with you."



COVID heroes honoured

Earlier this year, Fareham Borough Council launched the COVID Heroes Awards - a special recognition scheme dedicated to the organisations and individuals who worked tirelessly to support those in need during the pandemic.

The Council received 85 nominations. The winners were:

Adults (over 18): Julie and Clint Sexton ; Sean and Caroline Whelan; Richard Marrington; Bev Shelsher; Helen Osborn

Young People (under 18): Kaelem Cull; William Doyle

Organisations: 1st Fareham Scout Group; Fareham Meon Rotary Club; Richards News; One Community.

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