

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.

## Crackdown on abandoned vehicles across the Borough

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. Not only are our roads not appropriate for illegal car storage, but these vehicles make travelling and parking more difficult for residents and car owners who do tax, insure and MoT their vehicles."

If you would like to report an abandoned vehicle, please fill in a short form and upload an image on the Council's website where you can report its location and upload a photograph.

## News in Brief

### Roof repairs

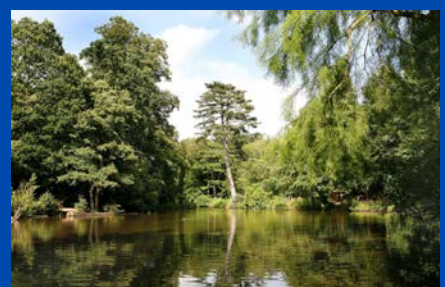
Burrige Village Hall is in line for some essential repair work this year after the Council set aside more than £400,000 for works to its 16 community centres over the next five years.

A schedule of work is due to begin this summer. Essential roof repairs will be followed by internal changes to upgrade and improve the washroom facilities for community users.

Burrige Community Association representative, Councillor Joanne Bull said: "Our community centres provide an important hub for social and leisure activities, these are valued assets to our community, offering a variety of activities, clubs and classes and it's the job of the Leisure and Community Team to undertake an annual 'Health Check' of all its facilities to make sure that they are being run safely and effectively."

## Your park needs you!

Are you free on Friday mornings? If so come along and help manage Holly Hill Woodland Park. You'll be involved in path improvement, controlling invasive species and keeping the site tidy. Just call 01329 824364 to sign up.



County Councillor Seán Woodward recently visited Holly Hill Early Years day school and nursery with Dave Meredith and trustee Councillor Joanne Bull following the grant he made to the Sarisbury Parish Rooms from Hampshire County Council of £1,400 for replacement fencing for the garden. They were welcomed by the Manager, Amy and the children.

## Farewell to Mr Stockton

Sarisbury Junior School has been in the safe hands of Andy Stockton for nearly 20 years, but at the end of the summer term he is standing down.

Andy turned the school around and as a result it is outstanding in every respect. Councillor Joanne Bull said:



"Being on the Governing body I feel privileged to collaborate with a dedicated team of Governors as we are tasked with finding a new head teacher.

"As one of the panel members I speak first-hand when I say the selection process has been time-consuming and intense but I feel privileged to be involved and part of the decision-making process."

Chairman of Governors, Lynsey Rose (pictured left along with Andy and Joanne), said: "Appointing a new Head Teacher is one of the most important decisions a Governor must undertake. Andy will be hugely missed by staff, children and governors past and present."

## Riverside coffee & cake

There is now a must-visit catering concession next to the River Hamble footpath.

Sarisbury Councillor, Seán Woodward said: "I was so pleased to catch up with the lovely Lisa and Corky, the amazing Mermaids of Botley refreshment van at Swanwick. They are there every day. I bought the best hot chocolate I have ever had and a lovely chocolate brownie. I am pleased to have been able to have helped them get the pitch and am grateful to Premier Marinas for making it available to them."



## News in Brief

### 90 not out!

Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Formed in 1932, the club has played cricket within Sarisbury at The Glen, on the iconic Sarisbury Green and at The Hollow (Allotment Road). It has gone from strength to strength in recent years and now has five adult men's teams, a women's W10 side and a thriving colts section. The club is actively looking to grow its relationship with the local community. Non-members can now access the clubhouse facilities. The bar is open on Fridays (from 5pm) and Saturdays (from Noon) showing live sport and putting on live music and comedy nights. Search 'Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club' on Facebook for more information. The 2022 season begins in May and the club is looking for new players across all age groups. Anyone interested in joining should email [sarisburyathletic@gmail.com](mailto:sarisburyathletic@gmail.com).



## 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