

# Conservative-run Fareham Council: 24 years of outstanding civic leadership

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# Fareham North West InTouch

## Local News & Action

Spring  
2023

Cllrs. Fred Birkett & David Foot Reporting Back

### Orchard Lea School Improvements

Our local Councillors are delighted that the Department of Education has announced schools that are to be prioritised for its £1bn school rebuilding programme.

One of those schools is Orchard Lea Infant School. Funding for the Junior School already had been agreed. This means that the old buildings which have served the community well by generations of children over the years will now be replaced with new state of the art buildings. It will also bring both schools together into one Primary School.



The future plans will be consulted on with parents, school staff and the wider communities in the area.

### Inconsiderate Parking UPDATE

As local Councillors there are still a number of residents continuing to complain about inconsiderate parking in the area, especially on bends of the road, near to junctions, and on grass verges in narrow roads.

It is hoped that Highways will be able to address some of the concerns as roads are resurfaced when the summer programme of works starts.

Our local Hampshire County Councillor Pamela Bryant continues to request local roads to be included in the programme of works for 2023.



## The King's Coronation

Residents may well be planning events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III which will take place on Saturday 6th May.

Fareham Borough Council has produced a web page to help with ideas and guidance to hold an enjoyable and safe event.

Just scan the QR code!

Additionally, Hampshire County Councillors have a grant fund available to help with events.

If you are interested in knowing more about the grants, which will be available during April, please do contact our local County Councillors, Pam and Peter below.



We look forward to hearing of all the local events happening to celebrate the King's Coronation!

## Contact your local Fareham North West Councillors

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Pamela Bryant & Peter Latham

Fred Birkett & David Foot

# Wise Conservative investment and spending pays off - Fareham Council excels: Low taxes, Great services



Upgraded entertainment, open spaces, arts and leisure facilities



More jobs and investment opportunities for local people and businesses



In the face of the toughest of financial pressures our Conservative Borough Council has managed to deliver a balanced budget with a tiny increase for the average home in the Borough of just 1p per day, making your tax bill for all of Fareham Council's services just £3 per week. **Almost the country's lowest!**

While other authorities set record-high tax increases, the average home in Fareham will pay just **one penny per day** more in district council tax... meaning households will receive all of our Borough services & amenities for **just £3 per week**.

Councillor Seán Woodward, Fareham Council Leader, is proud of the Council's achievement in providing excellent services and infrastructure for residents at one of the lowest district council taxes in England.

With a budget of over £50 million per year, the council tax raised by Fareham Council is less than £8 million, which means that 84% of the Council's expenditure is covered by fees, charges and commercial property rents.

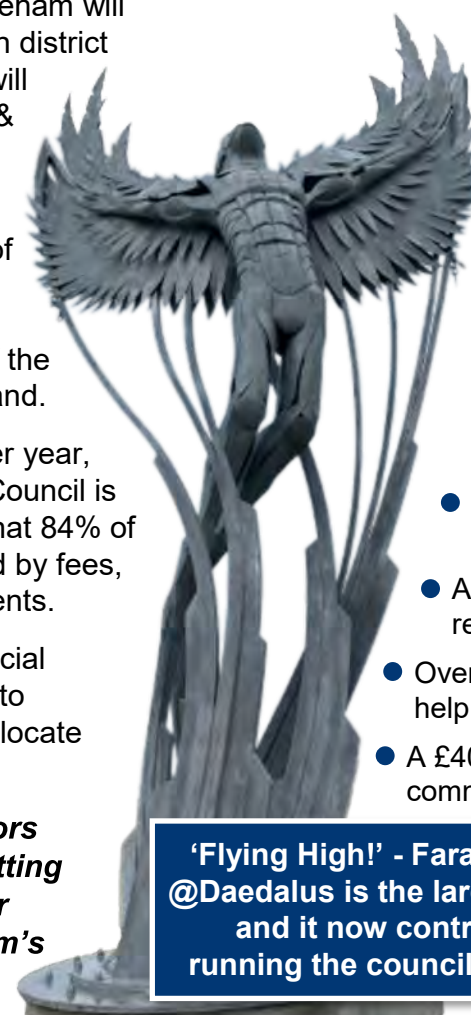
Fareham Council's impressive financial management is evident in its ability to deliver essential services and still allocate funds for ambitious capital projects.

**Our local Conservative Councillors Fred Birkett & David Foot are getting on with the job and fulfilling their election pledges to keep Fareham's Council Tax low.**

### So, what does £3 a week get us in Fareham?

Despite the tight costs of service delivery, Fareham Borough Council has an impressive capital programme of £62 million over the next five years, including...

- £25 million for building new council houses and upgrading existing stock.
- Plans to demolish the 50-year-old Osborn Road multi-storey car park and replace it with a modern surface car park, electric car charging points and solar panels to generate power.
- Air-ground lighting at Solent Airport to attract and keep more aviation tenants.
- A £1 million children's playground refurbishment programme across Fareham.
- Over £3 million of disabled adaptation grants to help people make adaptations to their homes.
- A £400,000 programme of works to improve community centres.



'Flying High!' - Faraday Business Park at Solent Airport @Daedalus is the largest employment site in the Borough, and it now contributes significantly to the cost of running the council's services - **reducing YOUR tax bill!**

**Local Fareham North West news - see inside...**

## An update from Suella Braverman KC MP



### Suella Braverman writes:

As Fareham's MP and Home Secretary, my goal is to have more police, less crime, and safer streets.

By the end of March, 600 new police officers will join

Hampshire's police force, part of our national programme to recruit 20,000 new officers.

We've also invested in Fareham's safety with millions of pounds for new CCTV cameras and street lighting through the Safer Streets Fund.

We're committed to tackling domestic burglary and anti-social behaviour, and our excellent PCC, Donna Jones, is leading the way in making Hampshire safer for everyone.

## 5,000 new apprentices in Fareham since 2015

Since 2015, over 5,000 new apprenticeships have been created in Fareham, thanks to the Conservative government's focus on improving skills and productivity.

As Fareham's MP, I've hosted annual apprenticeship fairs that have connected talented young people with businesses. My most recent fair was extremely well-attended at the Fareham Job Centre with Mayor & Mayoress Anne & Mike Ford below.

These apprenticeships provide students with paid opportunities to gain industry knowledge and build new skills.

I'm proud to have contributed to this effort and to see so many people choosing apprenticeships as a viable career path.



## Local News & Action from your Conservative Councillors...

# Working for Fareham North West all-year-round

## £800,000 secured to tackle local deprivation

Following the successful application for funding from the Government's Prosperity Fund, £800,000 has been allocated to deliver improved community facilities in two areas in Fareham.

The most significant project in this plan is the creation of a community-led Masterplan for the Henry Cort Drive area in Fareham North West. This site could provide up to 55 much needed affordable homes alongside enhanced community buildings and sports provision.

Experts in community-led planning will be appointed and it is anticipated that engagement with local residents, partners and Ward Councillors will begin in the summer.



## Slow down!

Speeding on our roads continues to be an issue that residents within North West have contacted their local Councillors to discuss.

Our local Councillor Fred Birkett succeeded in obtaining a Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) camera to be positioned on Gudge Heath Lane, this after residents had reported several cars speeding along this road.



## David reports-back

*Our local Councillor David Foot writes:*

"Since becoming your Councillor last year I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to grips with everything that entails!

"I have had a number of successes, ranging from helping people with their accommodation needs, assisting with unsightly buildings, unsafe walls, cleaning-up litter and listening to residents' concerns on a number of other topics.

"It has been a steep learning curve, but also an immensely rewarding experience and I look forward to meeting more of you whilst I am out and about in the ward."

## Dog Owners Clean up!



**In recent years, the popularity of dog ownership has increased, and as a dog owner himself, Councillor Fred Birkett knows first-hand the happiness and amusement a furry companion can bring to a household.**

However, for those who use public paths, sidewalks, and even playing fields, the sight of dog excrement can be quite repulsive, not to mention the potential health hazards it poses.

If a council enforcement officer witnesses a dog defecating and the owner fails to clean up after it, they may issue a fine to the owner.

Although the number of enforcement officers in the entire borough is low, it is imperative for dog owners to take responsibility for their pets and clean up after them, as there is a reliance on them to do so.

Owning one or more dogs can be a delightful experience, but it also comes with certain responsibilities. Clearing up after one's dog is a necessary duty that should not be considered optional. Public areas are meant to be enjoyed by people of all ages, and it is essential to be considerate and pick up after one's dog by placing the waste in the bin.



**The shops and businesses in Highlands Road provide a vital service to the local community.**

A typical example is "Dave's Family Butchers", which has been serving the residents of Fareham North West and beyond for over 28 years.

In these difficult times it is important for us to do all we can to support our local businesses.

## New Telegraph Poles

**New telegraph poles have been installed in Fareham NW under 'Permitted Development' license issued by Hampshire County Council.**

As it is classed as 'Permitted Development' the companies erecting these poles do not require to apply for individual planning permission from Fareham Borough Council or undertake a period of consultation.

Councillor Fred Birkett commented: "A high number of these pole installations have already been carried out, and although I will continue to push for greater consultations with affected residents in the future, it would appear there is little that can be done to stop or even alter this tranche of work.

"Although not the news I am sure residents would like to receive, I do hope it at least explains the process these companies are following".

