

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

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# Fareham West InTouch

## Local News & Action

Spring  
2023

Cllrs. Roger Bird & Tina Ellis Reporting Back

## Haven House at Titchfield Nature Reserve **UPDATE**

We are delighted to report that, following Fareham Borough Council's decision to protect Haven House at Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve from sale by Hampshire County Council for at least 6 months, work is moving ahead at pace with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hill Head Residents' Association to arrive at options and a business plan to present to the County Council with the intention of potentially taking over the nature reserve and Haven House.



Borough Council Leader Seán Woodward is calling for the County Council to hand over Haven House, Haven Cottage and the nature reserve at no cost to be run by the local community. Given the huge local interest and support, a funding page has been set up for contributions to the work of bid preparation at:

[www.gofund.me/5be9c5a7](http://www.gofund.me/5be9c5a7)

*Our local Councillors Roger Bird and Tina Ellis hope many people will offer their tangible support so that Haven House can rise phoenix-like from the ashes and that the management of the reserve will be secured for future generations.*

**Too good to lose!**

Haven House had 85,000 visitors annually prior to its unnecessary closure by the County Council.

## 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 Pal Hayre or Sarah Pankhurst.



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

## Contact your local Fareham West Councillors

### Roger Bird & Tina Ellis

Borough Councillors for Fareham West  
Tel: 07720 092151 E-Mail: [rbird@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:rbird@fareham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01329 843936 E-Mail: [tellis@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:tellis@fareham.gov.uk)

### Sarah Pankhurst

County Councillor for Fareham Titchfield  
Tel: 07701 393396 E-Mail: [sarah.pankhurst@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.pankhurst@hants.gov.uk)

### Pal Hayre

County Councillor for Fareham Crofton  
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Roger Bird  
& Tina Ellis

Sarah Pankhurst  
& Pal Hayre

# 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.

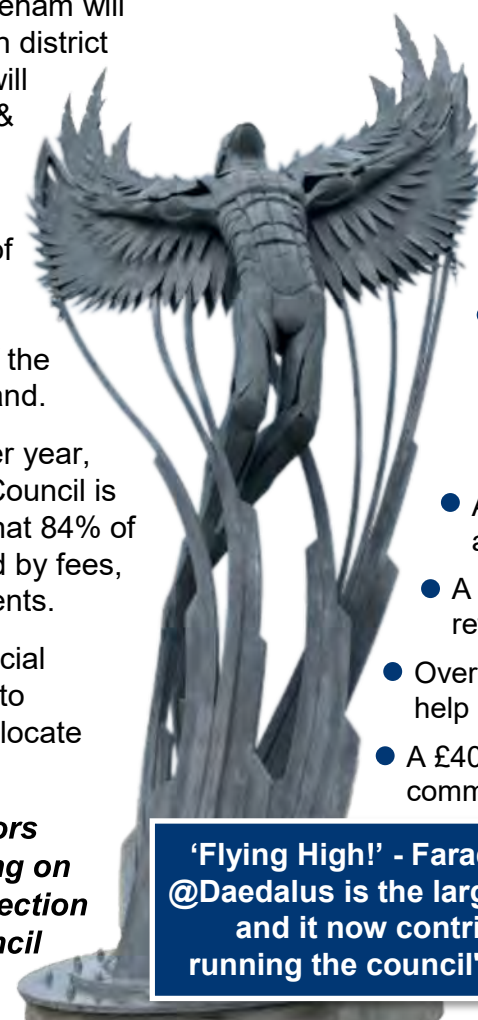
Fareham Council's impressive financial management is evident in its ability to deliver essential services and still allocate funds for ambitious capital projects.

**Our local Conservative Councillors Roger Bird & Tina Ellis 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 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.

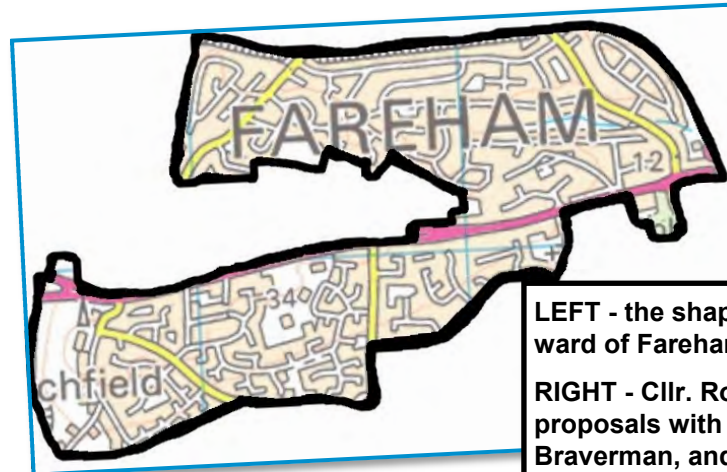
These apprenticeships provide students with paid opportunities to gain industry knowledge and build new skills.

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 West all-year-round



LEFT - the shape of the new 'Avenue' ward of Fareham Borough Council.

RIGHT - Cllr. Roger Bird discussed the proposals with our MP, Suella Braverman, and they have her approval.



## Our Fareham West ward is changing...

### Two sets of boundary changes are altering the electoral map of Fareham in 2024.

Parliamentary boundary changes will divide the area, with the western wards forming part of Hamble Valley constituency, while the central wards, Portchester and Denmead will become Fareham & Waterlooville constituency. Each will elect its own MP at the next General Election.

Separate changes affect the wards on Fareham Borough Council. From May 2024 onwards, Fareham West will become Avenue ward. The new ward is centred on The Avenue and also includes the southern end of Gudge Heath Lane and the area either side of Hollam Drive.

Roads south of Longmynd Drive will in future be included in Fort Fareham ward, while Catisfield continues to form part of Titchfield ward.

Fareham Council is reviewing polling station locations this year in preparation.

Our local Councillor Roger Bird commented: "I was pleased to be involved in drafting the new ward boundaries and delighted that the Local Government Boundary Commission accepted the Council's proposal. Changes can be disruptive by breaking up long-established community links.

"I wanted to preserve and enhance those links, and avoid boundaries simply being arbitrary lines on a map."

## Fishers Hill: what do YOU think?



Both our local Borough Councillors are opposed to the permanent closure of Fishers Hill

### Hampshire County Council has again been consulting on the closure of Fishers Hill.

Our local Councillor Tina Ellis opposed the original closure during the COVID Pandemic and objected to the new proposals.

HCC's previous consultation, only 18 months ago, showed that nearly twice as many people opposed the road closure as supported it. More than 2,000 people responded to the survey.

Our other local Councillor Roger Bird says: "The County Council closed the road in 2020 during the pandemic. That situation no longer applies. Now we find the Council offering different reasons this time.

"I'd prefer to see HCC promote safer streets across Fareham by putting in double yellow lines to stop dangerous parking."

The official consultation ended on 12th March, but you can still contact the County Councillor for the Fishers Hill area, Sarah Pankhurst, to make your views heard.

## Vigil for Ukraine



Councillor Tina Ellis was among those who gathered in Fareham West Street for a candle lit vigil remembering those caught in the conflict in Ukraine.

It was held on Saturday 25th February, marking one year since the Russian invasion in 2022.

Hearing the harrowing experiences of those families being hosted in the area makes you realise how important the international support is.

We would like to thank Lauren Brown and Fareham Borough Council for organising the event.

## Action on Potholes

The very wet weather we have had over the last couple of months mean that potholes are more likely to form.

Water penetrates cracks in the surface of the road during rain, when it freezes it expands, causing the structure to break down, and as vehicles pass over it that weakness gets worse until such time as the surface breaks away creating the pothole.

Hampshire Highways can't fix them unless we know about them, so please, if you see a pothole in your road or when you are out and about, take a few moments to report it to the Hampshire County Council online system. The link to do so is here: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes)

Reporting it here is the best way to ensure it is fixed as quickly as possible.