



Caroline
DINENAGE MP for Gosport



Work is progressing on my Parliamentary campaign for a Childhood Cancer Mission alongside Stubbington's Charlotte Fairall, who founded Sophie's Legacy in memory of her 10 year old daughter.

Last month we met with the Secretary of State for Health, Steve Barclay and were really encouraged by his positive reaction to our proposals.

Locally, I have been raising concerns about accommodation standards for service personnel and their families. I met with the Second Sea Lord and was grateful that he visited HMS Collingwood and closed Vivian Block. I have lobbied on this in Parliament and the responsible Minister, Andrew Murrison, has accepted my invitation to visit our area to see the issue first hand. Our service personnel deserve our full respect & care.

I welcome the priorities for this year which the Prime Minister has set out; to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut NHS waiting lists and stop the small boats crossing the Channel. Measurable commitments against which we can be judged.

I also welcome the new settlement for Northern Ireland, the Windsor Framework, led by the Prime Minister. This is a positive step forward in making Brexit work. It will remove the customs border across the Irish Sea and ensure free flowing trade while protecting Northern Ireland's place in our Union.

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COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering In Touch in your street, then why not join Stubbington & Hill Head Branch of Gosport Conservative Association?
Contact details at the bottom of the page.

CROFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

- The Community Centre now accepts bookings for parties.
- An online booking facility is being developed so users can book and pay for the use of rooms or book activities.
- Further details on Crofton Community Centre are available on their website. <https://croftoncommunitycentre.org> or phone 01329 662821

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CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

Fareham Budget 2023-2024

Despite the toughest of financial pressures Fareham Borough Council Conservatives have managed to deliver a balanced budget with an increase for the average home in the Borough of just 1 penny per day giving a total council tax for all Fareham Borough Council services of just £3 per week. Of course to that figure needs to be added the spending plans of Hampshire county council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire & Rescue service. The combination of all precepts gives an increase of just over 4% over the current year.

Fareham Borough Council spends over £50m a year on all of its services however the council tax raises less than £8m which is just 16%. So 84% of what the Council spends is not paid by the council taxpayers. It is raised by the Council in other ways including fees and charges such as those for car parking and green waste collection. We also receive income from our commercial property rents. Without these we would have to make very significant service reductions.

The largest employment site in the Borough is Faraday Business Park at Solent Airport @ Daedalus and the site now makes a very significant contribution to the cost of running the Council's services.

While the Council's costs of service delivery are very tight there is still a very healthy capital programme including some £62m over the next 5 years, including £25m on building new council houses and improving the existing stock.

Fareham Live, the remodeling of the old Ferneham Hall, is a £16m project which will in due course be fully funded by housing developers' contributions. It will include a state of the art 800 seat auditorium and many other facilities. We will also be demolishing the 50-year old Osborn Road multi-storey car park and replacing it with a modern surface car park.

Other capital projects include the provision of air-ground lighting at Solent Airport to attract and retain more aviation tenants, a £1m children's playground refurbishment programme across the Borough and over £3m of disabled adaptation grants to people to enable them to make adaptations to their own homes.

There is also a £400,000 programme of works to improve our community centres across the Borough.

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Commenting, Fareham Council Leader, Councillor Seán Woodward, said

“Even in these straitened times and while almost the lowest district council tax in the country we are still able to deliver some of the best services to our residents. We are also proud to be able to deliver a capital programme the envy of all of our neighbours which will cater for the needs of our whole community whether it be for employment, children's play or arts and entertainment. It was of especial pleasure to be able to open the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park in honour of Her Late Majesty.”



The opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park at Solent Airport @ Daedalus.

Stubbington & Hill Head are safest in Conservative hands

Titchfield Haven visitor centre protected from being sold



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 (with their new charity, Titchfield Haven Community Hub) 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.

There are three scenarios under consideration which are described by the Wildlife Trust as:

Scenario 1: That the Trust takes on ownership and management of Titchfield Haven NNR and THCH takes on ownership and management of Haven House. In this scenario we will develop a joint proposal informed by two separate but, connected business plans. The charities will form a formal partnership so that some of the income generated by THCH from running Haven House will be donated to the Trust for managing the nature reserve.

Scenario 2: That the Trust takes on the ownership and management of both Titchfield Haven NNR and Haven House. In this scenario we will put in a single proposal and the Trust will probably lease the building to THCH.

Scenario 3: That the Trust cannot come up with a financially acceptable business plan and withdraws from the process. THCH may still proceed with a proposal for the building.

Given the huge local interest and support, especially for Haven House which, prior to its unnecessary closure by the county council, had 85,000 visitors annually, a funding page has been set up for contributions to the work of bid preparation <https://gofund.me/5be9c5a7>

I 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.

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park officially opened



On the 7th of December Cllr Mandry and Cllr Needham attended the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park, by Fareham's Mayor, Cllr Mike Ford. Originally referred to as Daedalus Common, the new 40-acre park is dedicated to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It features a network of accessible paths and cycle routes, a dog exercise area, and various habitats, works such as replacement and new tree and shrub planting will continue as the seasons allow to further enhance the park.

A memorial tree was also planted at the entrance adjacent to the children's aviation-themed play area which has also been renamed, to The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee play area. To date, around 21,000 trees have already been planted but the memorial tree planted by Cllr Seán Woodward is particularly special as the mulch used for the planting is the product of condoleance flowers left by the public as a tribute to our late Queen.

Councillors Jaquie Needham and Kay Mandry pictured next to the statue of Daedalus at the park.



NEWS UPDATE

Cllr Pal Hayre as been selected to be the Deputy Mayor for the 2023-2024 municipal year and we wish her luck in this important role.

The take up for Garden Waste bins continues to grow and there are now more people using the service than used the previous bags.

Stubbington & Hill Head are safest in Conservative hands

Many of you will have seen our newly refurbished War Memorial and I'm sure you will agree that an excellent job has been done. In 2022 it was the 100th Anniversary of the War Memorial and after a long wait it has been refurbished and brought back to its original standard. The work was carried out by T. Coleborn & Son to a high specification and we would like to thank them for all they have done and for taking the time to explain the process to us, nothing was too much trouble. The Trustees of Hammond Hall Memorial Trust, a local charity, unanimously agreed to donate the funds for this worthy cause, it was completed in time for the re-dedication which was held on Sunday 13th November 2022. The memorial has now been listed and continues to be looked after by FBC.

The wooden War Memorial was erected in 1922 by Arthur Tribbeck to form a shelter over the original pump and today his grand daughter still lives in Stubbington, this is a family who have worked in and supported the village for many years. The original War Memorial Dedication Service was held on the 12th November 1922 and was attended by many local residents, the service concluded with a blessing followed by the National Anthem.



Workers from T. Coleborn & Son preparing and fitting one of the refurbished name boards to the memorial.



2022 saw a dazzling display of knitted Poppies on the hedge surrounding the War Memorial in Stubbington village centre, forming part of the commemorative events for remembrance day.

Mrs Manon Burton had the idea and discussed the possibilities with local councillors who liaised with council officers to make arrangements.

Manon got together an excellent band of volunteer ladies who collectively knitted all the poppies on display. Their efforts certainly made a difference and we thank all of them for their dedication and hard work to achieve the stunning display.

They are currently planning a banner for the coronation in May, and a Teddys Garden on scarves wrapped around trees for June/July. The poppies will return for the remembrance day parade in November.



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