

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

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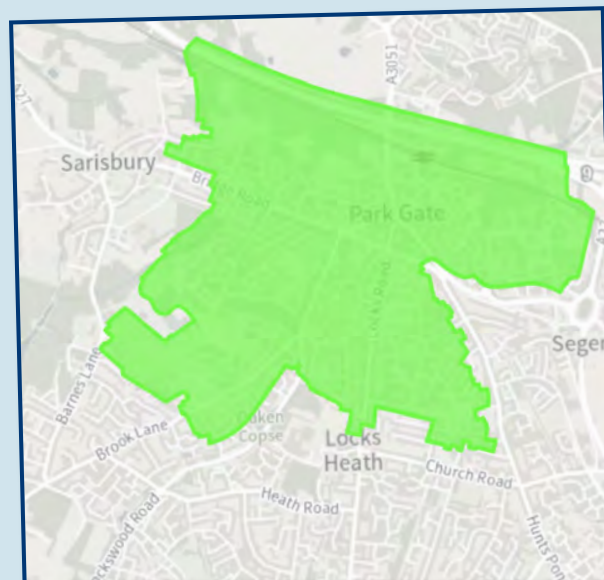
Park Gate & Priory Park
InTouch

**Local News
& Action**

Spring
2023

Cllrs. Ian Bastable & Simon Martin Reporting Back

Park Gate ward boundary changed by national quango



The Boundary Commission has completed its decision-making process and changed the ward boundaries for Fareham Borough Council.

This involved the decrease in size of the Park Gate ward and its reorientation to better take account of housing developments over the past 20 years. The insert map shows the shape of the new Park Gate ward, which now includes roads that were formerly in the Locks Heath ward, but more naturally sit in the Park Gate area.

The map also shows the large areas to the south that are now moved into the Locks Heath ward. The result will be that those residents living outside the green shaded Park Gate area will change their borough councillor at the 2024 "all out" elections - Ian Bastable and Simon Martin will no longer be your Councillors.

Councillor Ian Bastable said "It is a shame to lose contact with those areas that we have built up a relationship with. Together Simon and I have knocked on every door in Park Gate & Priory Park during the past 2 years to reach out and listen to our residents' views, and of course get your vote."

For a more detailed, online map of the new Borough Council wards, please visit:
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32652

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 Councillor, Seán Woodward below.



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

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.

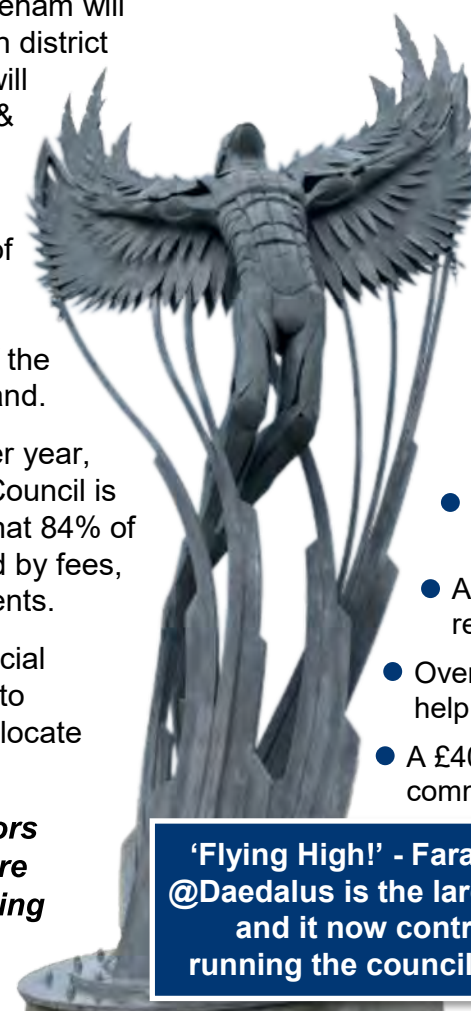
Fareham Council's impressive financial management is evident in its ability to deliver essential services and still allocate funds for ambitious capital projects.

Our local Conservative Councillors Ian Bastable and Simon Martin 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!



Ian Bastable & Simon Martin

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Borough Councillors for Park Gate

Tel: 07444 552194 E-Mail: ibastable@fareham.gov.uk
Tel: 07711 172238 E-Mail: smartin@fareham.gov.uk

Seán Woodward

County Councillor for Sarisbury Division

Tel: 07825 300637 E-Mail: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk
Facebook: www.fb.com/CllrSeanWoodward



Seán Woodward

Local Park Gate & Priory Park 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 Park Gate & Priory Park all-year-round

Welborne Update

Welborne Garden Village is progressing well and funding for the junction 10 motorway improvements has been approved with detailed design work now underway. As part of the current work Fareham Borough Council has obtained funding to deliver a business case for a proposed railway station at Welborne.

To help keep up with all the changes taking place, the Council has set up a Community Forum to provide open communication and an understanding about the development with residents local communities, businesses and the voluntary sector. The group has met twice so far and includes all interested parties together with surrounding local Councils.

Meanwhile Buckland Development, which is the developer of the village, has recently held a 2 day to show how the development will look and introduce the companies who will be building the houses going forward.



Mark Thistlethwayte of Buckland development with Seán Woodward at the recent Welborne exhibition.

Action on Anti-Social Behaviour at Holland Park

Just after Christmas, Councillors Simon Martin and Ian Bastable were notified by local residents in Holland Park about an incident where a driver in a 4x4 decided to drive through the middle of the community green causing serious damage to the grass and depositing mud all over the road.

The land is owned by the Borough Council and our enforcement officers identified the culprit who admitted to the damage and that he was just trying out his vehicle "offroad". They have agreed to pay for the cost of restoration. The Council is making good the damage and all will be repaired and ready for enjoyment by the spring.

Local Plan Update

The Council is in the final stages of delivering a local plan for Fareham which is currently in the examination stage.

Following the public enquiry the Council has undertaken a further consultation which ended in December 2022 and submitted its amended Plan with modifications that were required by the Inspector in order to make it sound.

We are now waiting for a final report from the Inspector which will complete the process. A response from the Inspector is expected at any time and this will ensure that we can control development, protect the environment and provide employment opportunities which are so important to those living in the Borough.



Many residents have communicated with us about how much they value Holly Hill Leisure Centre since it opened 8 years ago.

There were almost 49,000 visits to Holly Hill in January 2023 compared to 44,000 in January 2022.

The number of members has increased by 660 to 4,308 and the enjoyment covers all aspects of the Centre from swimming, fitness centre as well as the extensive number of classes that are offered every week.

Interested in finding out more?
Come on down and see for yourself!

Funding for Priory Park Community Centre

Priory Park Community Association is the latest centre to receive carbon reduction funding from Fareham Borough Council.

The money will be used to replace the outdated fluorescent lights in the community centre with LEDs and install light sensors in the toilets and corridors. Every little helps and we look forward to these improvements to help reduce the financial burden to the community centre of the increase in energy costs as well as reducing the impact on the planet.



Fareham Pursues Greener Recycling

The UK government recently passed the "Environment Bill" which sets new waste collection and recycling targets.

As part of the national initiative, Fareham Borough Council is taking steps to meet these targets, including preparing to implement a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) over the next two years. The DRS will allow people to recycle aluminium cans and plastic drinks bottles at shops using reverse vending machines that convert waste into money.

The Council also aims to increase its recycling rate from 33% to 65% by

introducing separate food waste collections, which will be converted into energy using Anaerobic Digestion (AD).

This new service is set to be introduced in 2025, along with changes to add glass collection to recycling bins and a separate paper and card collection.

To reduce waste in the meantime, the council encourages residents to reuse and waste less. Stay tuned for updates on progress towards these targets.

PICTURE: Councillor Ian Bastable with a food waste caddy.



Fareham Council is taking action to improve recycling rates and reduce food waste.