

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

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Titchfield Common InTouch

Local News & Action

Spring
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Councillor Sarah Pankhurst 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

Our local Councillor Sarah Pankhurst hopes 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.

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**.

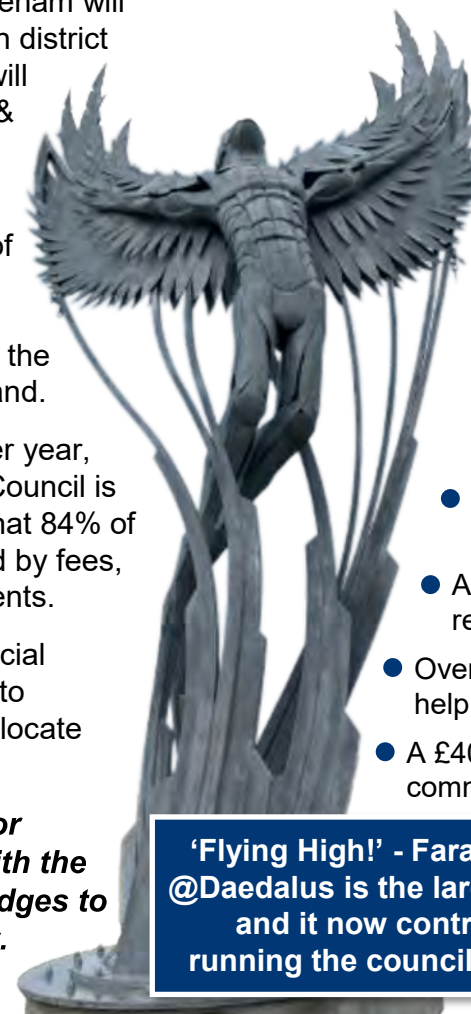
So, what does £3 a week get us in Fareham?

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 Councillor Sarah Pankhurst is getting on with the job and fulfilling her election pledges to keep Fareham's Council Tax low.



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!

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, Sarah or Mike below.



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

Contact your local Titchfield Common Councillors



Sarah Pankhurst

Sarah Pankhurst

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Mike Ford

Local Titchfield Common 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 Titchfield Common all-year-round

Trees, Trees, Trees!

Our local Councillor Sarah Pankhurst was pleased to meet up with Nick Girdler and residents of Titchfield to see the start of tree planting at Barry's Meadow on a sunny Winter's Sunday morning in early February.

The Titchfield Village Trust in partnership with the Earl of Southampton Trust, who own Barry's Meadow in the centre of Titchfield, began their 3 year project to plant a copse at the top of the meadow when over 50 volunteers from various village organisations turned up to plant over a thousand pounds worth of trees. The Village Trust had raised funds from individual village contributions and a grant from Sarah's County Councillor grant helped to prepare and clear the site before planting began.

Nick Girdler, Chairman of the Trust said "This was a truly magnificent turn out to create what we think will be a lasting legacy for the whole village to enjoy in the future."

HCC's Tree Planting Programme will fund the next planting area. The Earl of Southampton Trust will help fund the lower area of the meadow, with fruit trees at a later stage of the planting plan.

If other organisations would like to discuss a tree planting site, please feel free to get in touch with HCC Officer Emily Roberts who is the HCC Tree Planting Senior Project Officer at treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

Sarah said: "I am so pleased to see residents of Titchfield coming together to improve Barry's Meadow and I look forward to enjoying the beauty and nature these new trees will provide".



New schemes for safer roads

The Government is funding a new scheme for safer roads which help cyclists and walkers safe access alongside motor vehicles. The "LCWIP" scheme is identifying suitable roads for consideration as part of this scheme. The HCC Public Survey began on Monday 16th January and ended at midnight on Sunday 12th March.

If for access reasons certain people were unable to complete the survey online, they could have contacted the County Council by telephone to request a paper copy be sent to them. Local people were strongly urged to complete the survey online as soon as it went live on Monday 16th January. We await the results...

20MPH OR 30MPH?

That is the question!



Following a public consultation on decisions as to whether urban areas should have a reduced speed limit of 20mph, a report has been presented to the Universal Services & Environment Select Committee on 23 January.



Officers are to make recommendations to the Hampshire County Council Cabinet in the Summer with a decision to be made in July.

The difficulty is that of proper enforcement and reducing speed limits won't necessarily slow down the traffic. But consideration is being given to 20mph speed limits in new and existing developments with slow speed environments.

The full report to the Committee can be viewed online:

www.democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s104348/Report.pdf

Ambassador for Charity Spotlight: helping support victims of abuse and mental health problems

Cllr Sarah Pankhurst is proud to be the Ambassador for the Charity Spotlight who help support child and parent victims of abuse and those with mental health problems.

Spotlight's Director and representative Michaela Riley can be seen with Cllr Sarah Pankhurst handing over gift bags to Deputy Head Seb Olway at Titchfield Primary School.

Sarah said "I was very pleased to be able to fund the gift bags at Titchfield Primary School from my County Councillor Grant and to hear of the good work that Spotlight has been doing in Hampshire Schools. Spotlight have started receiving referrals from Fareham schools starting with Titchfield Primary School and I am sure other Fareham schools will be contacted by Spotlight soon."



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

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

Local people know that Titchfield Common is safest in Conservative hands

