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Good news for the Leisure Centre!

Fareham Leisure Centre and Holly Hill Leisure Centre, both run in partnership with Everyone Active, have reported significant membership and footfall increases for the year 2022/23.

When compared with pre-covid figures from 2019/20, membership at Holly Hill Leisure Centre is up 6% and Fareham Leisure Centre up an impressive 39.5%. Annual footfall at Holly Hill is up by 4% when compared to 2019/20 and up by 39.5% at Fareham. This is attributed to the significant capital investment works which have been completed in both locations in recent years.

Fareham Leisure Centre has been performing particularly well, visitors to its newest features such as the splash pad, climbing wall and soft play areas are up by more than 220% when compared to their first six month of opening from October 2021 to March 2022.

Our local campaigner Manny Martins said: "I am delighted to see that Fareham Leisure Centre is thriving, following the turbulent years caused by Covid-19. This centre not only has gyms or pools, but a social hub for so many residents and the new facilities are clearly enticing more and more people through the doors."

Ryan Grant, Contract Manager at Everyone Active commented: "We're so pleased to see all the investment and hard work from the team here translated into these impressive attendance figures. We were delighted to welcome people back following the pandemic and it's great to see the local community benefiting from all the fantastic facilities we have to offer. Long may it continue!"



Your local Conservative Councillors are here all-the-year-round, tackling local issues and getting things done. If Nick, Susan, Pam or Peter can ever be of help to you, please do get in touch.

Contact your local Wallington & Downend Councillors

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Grants still available for good causes!



Our local County Councillors Pamela Bryant & Peter Latham have funds available to allocate to charities and organisations helping with projects.

Amongst those who have been supported recently are:

- * Brendoncare senior citizens lunch club (Pamela is pictured with local Manager Tania Darnton)
- * The Friday Night club who give so much pleasure to young adults with learning difficulties
- * Fareham Musical Society
- * Fareham Town Youth F.C.

Any charity meeting the criteria can apply by visiting the Hampshire County Council website and searching for the County Councillors Grant scheme.

Local Campaigner Manny Martins Reporting-Back

Huge £30m investment to regenerate the Town Centre!

Fareham Borough Council is taking another big step forward in its plans to breathe new life into Fareham Town Centre through a comprehensive programme of investment and regeneration.

The new community, arts and entertainment venue, Fareham Live, with a total of around 1,000 seats, is already set to become a hugely important asset for the town with new modern parking alongside, and the Council is now considering the acquisition of a series of other assets, one of which is Fareham Shopping Centre.

Town centres across the country have been affected by the collapse of the department store sector, shifts in customers' shopping habits, and many high street brands either moving online or disappearing altogether.

While Fareham town centre has much to offer residents and visitors, with many national outlets and independent traders along with food and entertainment, it has been affected by national trends.

The Council wants to ensure that the town centre responds effectively and takes the opportunity to re-invent itself by offering a wide range of uses alongside vibrant and well-connected public spaces in order to ensure its success in the long term.

The Council has recently decided to take the bold step of setting aside over £30m of funding to support a significant regeneration programme.

Major investments are currently being made with the development of Fareham Live and the forthcoming demolition of the decaying Osborn Road multi-storey car park in favour of a new surface car park. The Council is now in active discussions with the owners regarding the possible acquisition of a series of town centre properties including Fareham Shopping Centre.

Work will be undertaken over the coming months to create a draft Regeneration Framework for public consultation and partner engagement.



Conservative Councillors are seizing the opportunity to regenerate our Town Centre!

Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of the Council, said: "We are committed to the long-term regeneration of Fareham town centre and have been making plans over several years for how this may be achieved. People now look to town centres to provide a broader mix of leisure and social activities, as well as retail outlets offering products and services that are not so available online, together with opportunities for town centre living.

"We need to acknowledge that the private sector alone will not bring forward the regeneration of Fareham town centre. The Council will be leading on harnessing the resources of both the public and private sector to help deliver effective regeneration over the coming years.

"This injection of over £30m of funding is just the start of ensuring that the town centre delivers what the residents of Fareham need for the future. Looking ahead we will be taking the important step of seeking early views from all parts of the local community on the regeneration opportunities that lie ahead."



Action to improve our local area - see inside...

An update from Suella Braverman KC MP



Suella Braverman writes:

There would be no NHS without the staff who run it.

But as with other healthcare systems across the world, the NHS is facing significant challenges that mean patients are still waiting too long to get the care they need. So, in the NHS's 75th anniversary year, the Conservative government has set out a long term plan to staff our NHS.

First, we'll train more staff right here in the UK including doubling the number of medical training places and increasing the number of nursing and midwifery training places.

Second, we'll ensure that retention is prioritised and third, we'll modernise how NHS staff spend their time by increasing productivity to get more patients seen more quickly. Our long term NHS Workforce plan - the largest expansion in its history - will mean more staff, better care, shorter waiting time and better use of British technology.

Shovels hit the ground at Welborne!

It was a momentous occasion to welcome the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to Fareham to see work begin at Welborne.

After more than 17 years of planning, the first of many hedges was planted and work has begun. Welborne will deliver 6,000 new homes and will include new schools, retail, business, healthcare and leisure facilities.



Local News & Action from your Conservative Councillors...

Working for the new 'Wallington & Downend' Ward

Here are details of some local issues taken-up by our local Councillors and campaigners. If **YOU** know of any local issue or problems our team may be able to help with, please get in touch.

Action on Speeding Traffic

Speeding traffic and 'rat-running' continue to cause concern. Our local campaigner Manny Martins wants the Council and Police to consider the following:-

- (i) A 20mph speed limit on narrow residential roads,
- (ii) A 'SpeedWatch' scheme in Wallington & Downend, and
- (iii) The use of mobile dot matrix signs to warn drivers of their speeds and urge them to slow down.

We need **action** to reduce traffic speeds and make our roads safer *before* a serious accident occurs.



Action on litter, dog fouling & fly-tipping

Litter, dog-fouling and fly-tipping continues to cause concern throughout our local area.

If **YOU** know of anywhere that could do with a good clean-up, please let us know.

Sadly litter, dog-fouling and dumped-rubbish blights many of our streets and beauty spots, despite there being many litter bins which are regularly emptied by the Borough Council.

Our local Councillors and campaigners say: "Despite being quite a built up area Fareham has a number of lovely walks.

"We will be organising various litter picking sessions around Fareham, Wallington and Downend, with the aim of getting the whole community involved."



Overgrown Vegetation

Our local campaigner Manny Martins has been busy getting overgrown hedges, nettles and weeds cut-back around Wallington, Fareham, Cams and Downend.

If you know of any overgrown foliage that needs to be trimmed-down, please tell us where by contacting us overleaf.

There is an agreed timetable for weed removal, but some areas need extra action due to unusual growth between scheduled clearance, an to prevent damage to roads and pavements.



Local campaigner
Manny Martins
Working for **YOU!**

Blitz on Potholes

This winter has seen some of the worst potholes on record, putting unprecedented strain on Highways Engineers.

Many people have contacted our local County Councillors Pamela Bryant and Peter Latham to complain how recently-filled potholes are breaking-up within days of repair.

The Highways Authority will carry out temporary fixes to make the pothole 'safe' while they prioritise the most dangerous potholes.

Usually, they will return when the weather permits to undertake a more permanent repair.

If the pothole section hasn't been correctly resurfaced after a couple of weeks, **please let Pamela and Peter know** so they can chase it up and **make sure** it gets repaired properly.

Conservative Councillors don't just talk about filling the potholes, we get on and make sure they get sorted!

Mayor's Charity Tea Parties

The Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Fred Birkett, holds regular charity tea parties in the Council Chamber to raise money for good causes.

The cost payable on the day is just £5, including a guest speaker and cold buffet. A raffle is also available at a small additional cost.

These events all commence on a Thursday at 2.30pm and will be held on the following dates:-

- * 14th September * 12th October
- * 9th November * 7th December
- * 8th February * 13th March * 11th April

For further details please telephone the Mayor's PA on 01329 824300.

Remember - Local Conservatives have kept the Borough's Council Tax the 4th lowest in England AND protected local services That's an impressive record!