

Councillors Roger Bird & Tina Ellis: Working all-year-round for local people!

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Avenue InTouch

Local News & Action

Winter
2023/24

Cllrs. Roger Bird & Tina Ellis Reporting Back

Anger at Fishers Hill Closure Decision

Many residents are angry at Hampshire County Council's decision to close Fishers Hill to through traffic.



A barrier will be installed mid-way along, turning the road into two long cul-de-sacs.

The County Council carried out a consultation in 2020, and a further one this year. On both occasions local residents opposed the closure overwhelmingly in their responses. But they were ignored. Why? Unfortunately, our area's Independent County Councillor Sarah Pankhurst supported the closure. It's time we had a local County Councillor who listens to local people.

Our local Councillor Tina Ellis organised a deputation to the County Council to present residents' views. Our other local Councillor Roger Bird joined Tina in the deputation and commented: "It is wrong for the County Council to ignore the clear majority of respondents. For a consultation to be meaningful and democratic, Councillors and officers need to listen and respond accordingly. This isn't over."

Our area is changing...

The old Council Wards of 'Fareham West', 'Titchfield' and 'Fareham North' have been replaced by a new Ward, having been drawn-up and named by local people, called 'AVENUE' Ward.

Tina Ellis & Roger Bird have already gained a reputation for being incredibly proactive and hard-working in the old 'Fareham West'.

They now look forward to serving and supporting all the residents of the diverse new 'AVENUE' Ward.

A Plea to Parked Cars...



Parked cars, now might be a time to request those parking off their driveways to consider the access of those trying to access their own driveways and roads, particularly some of our smaller closes.

This forms a large part of correspondence and telephone calls to Councillor Tina Ellis who would implore everyone to use your drive where at all possible without blocking pavement access.

Unfortunately this particular example would mean having to cross the road or walk a considerable distance on the road to regain access to the pavement, particularly dangerous for those with some visual or mobility impairments.

Improving our Town Centre!

With the support of Councillors Roger Bird and Tina Ellis, Fareham Borough Council is making significant progress in rejuvenating and revitalising the Town Centre.

Following the Council's recent purchase of Fareham Shopping Centre and adjacent units, the Council is now turning its attention to a regeneration plan for the Town Centre.

Public meetings with residents and businesses are being planned early in 2024 to seek views for what they would like to see happen in their Town Centre.

Roger and Tina are working with the Council to get the whole community involved in the decision-making progress and they are eager to reshape the Town Centre to meet future needs.

The latest addition to Fareham Town Centre will be the new community, arts and entertainment venue of Fareham Live. With a total of almost 1,000 seats, it is already set to become a hugely important asset for the town, with new modern parking alongside.



Roger and Tina are committed to regenerating the Town Centre!

The Christmas Lights Switch-on was also a great success again this year; thousands of residents of all ages attended the event, despite the rain!

The event really brought the town together and, if you didn't get the chance to go this year, it is definitely worth earmarking for next year as the Council continues works to improve the Centre.

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

Contact your local Avenue Councillors

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Roger Bird
& Tina Ellis

Unveiling of King Charles III Coronation Bench



This wonderful new addition to the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park was officially unveiled by the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Fred Birkett, to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023.

The bench was designed by Nigel Searle and created by Nigel Clutterbuck, John Duffield and Patrick Mannerings with the intention of incorporating items dear to the King.

Our local Councillor Tina Ellis said: "When you next visit this amazing park look out for the bench which is a fitting tribute to His Majesty for residents to enjoy for many years!"



Working for Fareham all-year-round

Local Avenue news - see inside...

An update from Suella Braverman KC MP



Suella Braverman writes:

In November's Autumn Statement, the government has announced a tax cut for 27 million people from January, rewarding hard work across Fareham.

In addition, the government is simplifying tax for 2 million self-employed, and I am delighted this will benefit Fareham's entrepreneurs. With £11 million a year removed from business taxes, **this is the biggest tax cut in modern British history!**

Fareham Community Hospital: New Renal Unit

I was delighted to join the official opening of the new Dialysis Unit at Fareham Community Hospital. Thank you to the team at QA who have worked to open this new multi-million pound health care facility, supported by my Taskforce which I have chaired for several years.

The new 25 bed renal dialysis unit will provide life saving treatment to 150 patients a week, helping with chronic kidney disease who would otherwise have to travel make miles for intravenous iron infusions, outpatient care and dialysis. We estimate that this new service will save over 300,000 miles of travel and make treatment more available to thousands of patients.

This is the latest in improvements that we have seen in recent years at Fareham Community Hospital. My Taskforce has been working with health partners to facilitate greater usage of this fantastic Hospital and I'm glad that we've seen a new Chemotherapy unit, Vaccination centre and Same Day Access to a GP at FCH over the last few years.



Councillors Roger Bird & Tina Ellis get things done!

Working for the new Avenue Ward all-year-round



Empty Homes! Continued...

Our local Councillors Tina Ellis and Roger Bird are keeping up their campaign to reduce the eyesore of empty homes.

In July 2023 Fareham Council adopted an Empty Homes Policy. It's designed to focus attention and resources on bringing empty homes back into use.

Each property has its own special history and requires a considered response. The policy acts as the council's toolkit to determine the best approach in each case.

This is a great opportunity to bring much-needed homes into use. Each rejuvenated home also improves the street scene, reduces the environmental risk of pests and reduces the need for new building on greenfield sites. Our campaign is directed at long term eyesores. We will never take away a home in which someone is living, nor would we ever take the home of an elderly person in care.

Dangerous Wall: Peak Lane

Councillor Tina Ellis has had enquiries from residents about the reduced height wall seen at Peak Lane. The assumption the Council own all the green space and boundaries is far from true, in this particular case the walled boundary to this green space enjoyed by residents does not belong to either the Borough or County Council.

With the wall becoming an increasing cause for concern due to it's instability, it is clear action was required. Fareham Borough Council have now stepped in with the appropriate permissions for a 'dangerous structure' to bring the wall to a stable height, strengthening buttress pillars can be seen meaning the area remains safe for play, without being completely open to the main road.

Majestic Oak Tree Works!

Our local Councillor Tina Ellis reports:

Keeping with Peak Lane, some work was recently done on the majestic oak, however, we are concerned in places where the paving has become restricted due to the sheer size and heave from large trees such as this. The same applies to restricted paving where properties have left shrubs and trees to encroach making travel with a mobility scooters, wheelchairs or pushchairs difficult.

Please have a look and see if your area has problems giving consideration to those with limited sight too. Overhanging branches and overgrowth cannot be detected, particularly in these darker nights. Now is the time to get any cut back of hedging planned well in advance of nesting season when it is an offence to disturb nesting birds.

Fareham Council Executive Member Ian Bastable writes:

We all want an easy to use waste collection service, and many people would like to be able to recycle a greater range of items; in particular, plastic tubs and trays which today *cannot* be recycled in Hampshire.

Part of planned government reforms are to have a unified recycling service across the country. As Fareham's Executive Member for Streetscene, I have been working with the government minister Rebecca Pow (see photo)

to agree a satisfactory way forward for the residents of Fareham that does not require seven separate bins. *This has resulted in recent announcements by the Prime Minister.*

Fareham's food waste is currently converted to energy, minimising the environmental impact. I am now insisting that a separate food waste collection service will only be implemented if it brings a net environmental benefit.

I am also working hard to simplify the remainder of the recycling collection service.

Waste & Recycling Update



Ian has successfully lobbied Government Minister Rebecca Pow.

Potholes and a battered bus stop on Blackbrook Road!

Our local Councillor Tina Ellis was quick off the mark to contact Fareham Council's Streetscene department about the dangerous state of this bus shelter at the top of Blackbrook Road just prior to a period of predicted high winds.



Tina says: "We should give credit to our Streetscene team who immediately responded cordoning this off until the relevant work team could be deployed".

In the same area is sadly one of the worst potholes and deteriorated road surfaces in Fareham West! Tina has reported this on a number of occasions as it has been marked up for repair for quite some time. It is hoped by time you read this, the Highway Authority will have responded to her numerous requests.

