

Councillors Fred Birkett & David Foot: Working all-year-round for local people!

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Fareham Park

InTouch

Local News & Action

Winter
2023/24

Cllrs. Fred Birkett & David Foot Reporting Back

A New Community Centre and More Affordable Housing!

Councillor Fred Birkett & local campaigner Lisa Birkett report:

Our ward is serviced by the Fareham North West Community Centre, the Council's smallest community facility. The main hall can only accommodate up to 50 people, which very much reduces the scope it can offer the community. These limitations pose challenges for the existing users of the Centre (food charity, Y Services and the pétanque club to name but a few), but struggle to meet the further needs of our community into the future.

In 2022 the government launched its UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

Following a successful application, Fareham Council has been allocated a total of £1M from this fund. Subsequently the Council submitted plans outlining how this funding would be used, with one of the proposals focussed on the creation of a community-led plan for much needed affordable housing, around 55 new homes, alongside works to improve the community, sport and leisure facilities on the open space at Henry Cort Drive.

In total, the Council has secured £2.25M for this project, which allows progress into **Phase 1** of the delivery plan. This phase will relocate and enhance the existing play and recreational facilities, alter the pitch orientation, carry out drainage improvements, and conduct an ecological and topographic site survey. **Phase 2** will be the delivery of a new, larger and fit for purpose community centre. This new facility will include changing facilities, a replacement pétanque court and car parking. **Phase 3** will be the provision of the new affordable housing project.

Our Community Centre has served the residents well, but the area deserves a better and bigger facility. This project will deliver this, along with some much-needed affordable housing.



Lisa Birkett is working with Fred Birkett to campaign to improve our local area.

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

Contact your local Fareham Park Councillors

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Pamela Bryant
& Peter Latham



Fred Birkett
& David Foot

Improving our Town Centre!

With the support of Councillors Fred Birkett and David Foot, 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.

Fred and David 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.



Fred & David 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.

Fareham Park

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

Councillor Fred Birkett has already gained a reputation for being incredibly proactive and hard-working in the old 'North West' Ward over the last 8 years.

Fred now looks forward to serving and supporting all the residents of the diverse new '**FAREHAM PARK**' Ward, alongside our new local campaigner Lisa Birkett.

Lisa Birkett joins our team

Lisa Birkett writes:

For the past 23 years I have lived in Fareham with my family and very proud to call Fareham my home. I have been married to Fred (Councillor and Mayor of Fareham) for 32 years and together we have two grown-up children.

I have worked within the NHS since 2001; I feel it is important to work together within a community, improving our health and wellbeing. I particularly enjoy walking our dog Woody along the old railway line, along with many other lovely open spaces to walk through in Fareham.

I believe it is important to have communal areas, indoors and outside to help bring people together, this can have a positive impact especially to young families and the elderly who live on their own.



Action for our local area - 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 Fred Birkett and David Foot get things done!

Working for the new Fareham Park Ward all-year-round

An update from David Foot

David Foot writes:

It has been a busy year so far, with lots of residents asking for advice and assistance on many different matters.

I have had a number of successes, including successfully managing to secure alternative accommodation for a vulnerable resident. I also managed to get the Council to remove and tidy overgrown vegetation in Fareham Park Road and clear paths in the north of the ward. Thus far it has been a very fulfilling year and I look forward to meeting more of you on my travels around the Ward.



I recently attended a Senior Citizens Fair and I was amazed by the number of organisations offering help to elderly and disabled people. Our local area has a large number of elderly residents and many of them already take advantage of the services available.

One example is Fareport Talking News (pictured), which offers help to the visually impaired.

Fishers Hill - Update

Approval to implement a permanent modal filter which would close Fishers Hill to motorised vehicles was an item at the November Decision Day for the HCC Cabinet member.

Our local County Councillor Pamela Bryant, made a deputation on behalf of residents living in North Fareham and Funtley who would be adversely affected by such a decision. Pamela was delighted by some excellent deputations, including one given by a Funtley resident who explained in detail how the village would suffer from extra traffic as well as making journeys longer for some drivers.

Sadly, none of these very valid reasons were taken into account, and it is proposed that Fishers Hill will in future prevent most vehicles from using it as a through road, although it will still allow walking, cycling, horse-riding and emergency services to pass.

New Traffic Regulations: Kennedy Ave, Beaumont Rise & Frosthole Cres

Our local County Councillors Pamela Bryant and Peter Latham have welcomed the news that, in view of ongoing road safety concerns when children are going to and from Orchardlea School, it is intended to implement new waiting restrictions to protect junctions from parked vehicles, allowing adequate space for pedestrians to check for oncoming traffic by not obstructing their line of site.

'No Waiting at any time' is proposed on the junctions of Beaumont Rise together with Frosthole Crescent and Kennedy Avenue with the junction of Highlands Road.

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.

Wynton Gardens



Our local County Councillor Pamela Bryant was delighted to be joined by the Leader and Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllrs. Rob Humby & Roz Chadd (pictured above) to meet with staff and users - many with mild learning disabilities - attending the Horticultural site in Wynton Way.

Whilst the visit took place on a rather wet day, it was clear to see the tremendous time and effort given by everyone with such variety of plants and diverse settings, while making it such a thriving and well stocked garden all-year-round, with much of the fruit and vegetables used in their own kitchen. It is a credit to everyone involved.

Now that they have use of the Kershaw building next door, they are able to enjoy social events in a homely and comfortable setting, including inviting local residents to pop in on Wednesday mornings and join them for coffee and cake, all priced very reasonably.

Find out more at:

**Wynton Way Horticultural Site
Wynton Way, Fareham PO15 6NR**

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