

Pal, Jacquie, Steve and Kay: Working all-year-round for local people!

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Caroline Dinenage, MP for Hill Head & Stubbington

Caroline Dinenage writes:

The long-awaited first Labour Government Budget has finally been delivered. Following early announcements about cutting Winter Fuel Payments for pensioners and the first ever Education Tax on independent schools, many were worried about how painful it would be. My inbox over recent weeks has been dominated by some of the 15,000 pensioners across this constituency who will lose their Winter Fuel Payment, a policy which Age UK predict will likely cost more than it saves. As well as the parents of children with learning difficulties or neurodiversity, who struggled in mainstream school, sometimes dropping out altogether, who are now being priced out of the independent sector.

In most cases the impact of these changes falls not on wealthy people but those just about managing and doing their best. And what's worse, these decisions were made without the Government publishing full impact assessments to know for sure. Sadly the Government have now compounded this early distress with a Budget which runs roughshod over their pre-election promises to be fiscally prudent and not to put up taxes on working people. It's the biggest tax-raising Budget ever, around £40 Billion in extra taxes, an average £2000 increase on every working household. The changes to employer National Insurance Contributions will massively impact all but the smallest businesses and inevitably be passed to workers in the form of higher costs, lower wages and up to 50,000 fewer jobs.

The Government will perform a range of mental gymnastics to justify the biggest tax rising Budget in history.

But what they have delivered will simply hit people's pockets with little to stimulate growth.

Sadly inflation and interest rates are likely to rise too, impacting mortgage repayments.

I'm particularly concerned for local businesses, particularly sectors like childcare and care homes in Stubbington and Hill Head, who employ a lot of people on lower wages.

They will be smacked with a double whammy of minimum wage increases and Employer National Insurance Contributions. These additional costs will no doubt be passed on to working families, older people and local authorities.

Hiding behind a debunked Budget black hole to excuse high tax, high borrowing and high spending which is not predicted to deliver the growth we need.

Fiddling the fiscal rules and saddling our children and grandchildren with a future of debt.

A Budget of broken promises. No wonder Keir Starmer's post election popularity has plummeted faster than any other new PM in modern history.



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

Contact your local Crofton Councillors

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InTouch

**Local News
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Our Local Conservative Councillors Reporting-Back

Fareham Live Opens!



Fareham's newest entertainment hub opens with a star-studded gala, marking the beginning of a vibrant new era for the Town Centre.

After much anticipation, the brand new Fareham Live was officially opened with a red carpet Gala Evening, featuring a sold-out performance of Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, starring Jason Donovan. The evening was an outstanding success, with the audience enthusiastically joining in the singing and dancing. Trafalgar Theatres made Fareham proud by organising a VIP-filled evening of sheer delight.

Fareham Borough Council has delivered this incredible multi-purpose community facility at a cost of £17 million, fully funded by developer contributions, meaning it came at **no expense to Fareham's taxpayers.**

Fareham Live will be managed by the expert operators, Trafalgar Theatres, in partnership with Fareham Borough Council, and is set to be the jewel in the crown of the town centre as part of its major regeneration. The theatre will offer a wide range of classes and events throughout the day, as well as fantastic evening entertainment. There is also a new café and bar, providing a space to eat, drink, and relax during the day and before evening performances.

The Council has also opened a night-time route through Fareham Shopping Centre to ensure safe and easy access to Fareham Live. This is the first step in the regeneration of Fareham Town Centre. With numerous pubs and restaurants on West Street and the High Street, this new walkway offers a quick route for theatregoers to enjoy pre- or post-theatre

drinks and/or dinner. It also allows visitors to park at Market Quay car park or use Fareham Bus Station and walk easily to Fareham Live.

Since the initial test events held at the end of September, the town centre has already seen a 10% increase in footfall. Over 30,000 tickets have been sold so far, and with some shows already sold out, this number is only set to rise. To avoid disappointment, book early by visiting FarehamLive.com or by phoning 0343 310 0022.

Our local Councillors Pal Hayre, Jacquie Needham, Kay Mandry & Steve Dugan added: "Trees around Fareham Live have been lit to create an appealing atmosphere, with lighting guiding the way to the shopping centre, which now features new hoardings designed to encourage selfies as visitors make their way to and from a variety of performances and events."



Conservative Councillors get things done - see inside...

Longfield Avenue

Public Enquiry UPDATE:



Starting on October 29th after Hallam Land appealed the development of 1,200 houses, the decision was transferred from the council to an Inspector who will determine whether it should proceed.

The proceedings are available to view on YouTube. Our local Stubbington Councillors Pal Hayre and Jacquie Needham made both oral and written deputations, objecting on the grounds of insufficient infrastructure.

A decision is expected in the New Year. The proposal includes relocating the medical centre to the development and designating Crofton as the secondary school, which would further strain local infrastructure.

Last minute discussions and negotiations were taking place in a round table type of meeting. Highways was a big issue, we hope the inspector's report to the Secretary of State will be in our favour, preventing the development from moving forward due to insufficient infrastructure and lack of affordable housing.

Councillors Pal Hayre, Jacquie Needham, Steve Dugan & Kay Mandry

Working for Hill Head & Stubbington all-year-round



Saving The Tip and Local School Crossing Patrols!

In October, our local Councillor Pal Hayre presented a deputation to the Cabinet at Hampshire County Council, urging them not to eliminate School Crossing Patrols and Household Waste Recycling Centres as part of their decisions on Future Services.

Success! All household waste recycling centres and school crossing patrols across Hampshire will be saved!

Current contracts for homelessness support, which is not a legal responsibility of the County Council, will continue to also be honoured to protect funding to March 2026, and the Council will bring together its passenger transport service – maintaining vital support to many older residents with disabilities – with the provision of school transport for eligible children, to make better use of existing vehicles across the day to serve children and adults at different times.



Men's Shed!

Councillor Jacquie Needham writes:

Hammond Memorial Hall Trust has been supporting the build of the Men's Shed in the grounds of Holy Rood. Jacquie has been for over a year, helping with Planning Permission, Southern Water build-over and Building Regulations.

Finally, the shed has been erected, and in the process of being painted. For anyone interested in joining the group, please email: engmensshed.croftonparish@gmail.com

Stubbington's Poppy Ladies



It's been another successful year for the Poppy Ladies, Stubbington.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the ladies who have given up their time to knit and decorate our War Memorial.

This is the second year the Memorial has been decorated with poppies, this has been achieved due to a lady whose idea, supported by a group, has made the village War Memorial a special place for Remembrance.

A big thank you to all the ladies for making our village special.



The Crofton Planning Appeal: Outcome

Residents may be aware that the owners of The Crofton pub, Punch Taverns, had applied for permission to build two three bed houses at the northern end of the car park.

This was refused by Fareham's Planning Committee, but Punch Taverns subsequently appealed the decision which was then considered by an independent government planning inspector.

Hill Head Councillors Kay Mandry and Steve Dugan successfully pointed out that the car park already had less spaces than the recommended guidelines for the given floor area of the pub and approving the houses would result in the loss of 13 additional spaces and would cause a hazard due to additional cars parked on the roadside.

During the site visit the inspector witnessed the issues previously highlighted and made the following comments:

"On-street parking adjacent to the driveways of surrounding properties, the public house car park accesses, and the junction between Moody Road and Crofton Lane would restrict inter-visibility between vehicles using these accesses and those travelling along the highway. This on-street parking would also often require vehicles to travel on the opposing side of the highway, particularly along the Moody Road.

Indeed, at my site visit I observed a vehicle exiting a nearby driveway and the manoeuvre which was required to be undertaken due to vehicles parked on the highway. This resulted in the front of the vehicle protruding into the flow of traffic on the highway and avoidance measures undertaken by passing vehicles to avoid a collision.

Notwithstanding the number of unrestricted on-street parking spaces that may be available, additional on-street parking associated with the proposal is likely to exacerbate occurrences of such instances.

The Highway Authority have not raised highway safety objections. Nevertheless, from the evidence before me including my observations, it has not been adequately demonstrated that the increase in on-street parking would not increase the potential for conflict between road users that could result in accidents".

The planning inspector dismissed the appeal.