

Local Campaigner Peter Maunder Reporting-Back

Save the Winter Fuel Allowance

Labour's £40 Billion tax rises are going to hit Portchester hard. Pensioners, savers and businesses will all lose out as Labour hike Employers NI rates while cutting Winter Fuel payments to hard-up pensioners.

There are **25,519** pensioners in Fareham who could lose their Winter Fuel Allowance thanks to Labour.

Your local InTouch team have launched a petition to STOP these cuts.
Please support our campaign by signing our petition below.

ACTION

Our pensioners deserve better...

Across England, thousands of people have signed this petition to show Keir Starmer just how important the Winter Fuel support is to people.

Because it's not just pensioners' pockets that are at risk; cutting Winter Fuel Payments risks pensioners' health as well. Many pensioners could be forced to choose between paying their bills, or turning off their heating this winter.

That's why our local Conservative Councillors are leading the campaign to keep Winter Fuel Payments - but we need your help.

The more people who sign this petition, the more likely Keir Starmer is to change his plans.

So please sign today.

at www.fwca.org.uk



The Government are cutting the Winter Fuel Payment for 1000s of Portchester & Downend pensioners - this could cost you £300 extra every year if you have an income of just a penny more than £250 a week. This will place even more pressure on our NHS at the worst possible time.

At the last Fareham Council meeting, a cross-party motion was put forward by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to stop the Winter Fuel Allowance cuts, putting party politics aside for the greater good. Fareham's sole Labour Councillor refused to support it... she had been Labour's Parliamentary Candidate!

Peter Maunder joins the *InTouch* Team

We are delighted to announce that local campaigner Peter Maunder has joined our *InTouch* team and is campaigning to stop Labour's cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance.

Peter has a strong commitment to Portchester and upon completing his first degree in Environmental Science he helped form a campaign group (Portchester Lake Action Group) to oppose industrial development of the foreshore near the Castle. He is a long-time conservationist and is passionate about preservation of both the natural and historic built environment.

He also has a business with his wife in Portchester, giving him a first-hand understanding of the issues and challenges facing small businesses, particularly in our Precinct.

Through experience of working with Hampshire Social Services (Peter is a qualified Social Worker and Probation Officer) together with a career at Queen Alexandra Hospital Peter also offers an understanding of health and social care issues which he believes need good representation on the County Council.

Peter is working with former well-respected Councillor Sue Walker to spearhead a new branch of the Portchester & Downend Conservatives, with our local MP Suella Braverman.

The Branch will focus on canvassing and leafleting residents throughout the Portchester & Downend area, growing its membership and planning events, including a January social.

Contact Peter Maunder
peter.portchester@gmail.com



**Local Campaigner
Peter Maunder
Working for YOU**

Working for Portchester & Downend all-the-year-round



Junction 10 - Welborne

SUCCESS

Preparatory work has commenced on the highly anticipated M27 Junction 10 upgrades in Fareham. Hampshire County Council and Buckland Group, the master developer behind the Welborne project, are finalising the funding package, with additional support from Homes England.



Getting things done and Working for YOU

Assheton Court **UPDATE**

The Mayor of Fareham, Pal Hayre, was joined by Councillors to officially break ground at the new Assheton Court site in Portchester.

Fareham Borough Council is a member of the Wayfarer Consortium, who advise on and submit Affordable Homes Programme bids to Homes England on the Council's behalf. As a result, the Council has been awarded £7,560,000 of grant funding to complete the construction. This Homes England funding will enable the Council to offer the homes at Social Rent.

- * 51 one-bedroom flats and 9 two-bedroom flats, an increase from the previous 33 flats/bedsits.
- * Re-use of a brownfield site for a much-needed facility in Portchester. Saving greenfield sites.
- * Ancient trees and hedgerows protected.
- * A greener, more assessable and modern assisted-living accommodation for local people.



An update from Suella Braverman MP



Suella Braverman writes:

Labour's first Budget reveals a troubling picture of judgment: a series of broken promises, tax hikes, low growth, higher prices, higher mortgages and higher inflation.

The increase to Employers' National Insurance is especially galling given the specific promises during the General Election campaign 'not to raise taxes on working people'. This tax grab will cripple many local small and medium sized businesses, forcing them to push down wages, take on fewer people and hike up prices. I will continue to run my Solent Business Forum to provide support and an opportunity to hear from local businesses.

Keeping our water safe:

Southern Water goes from bad to worse. Not only have they received one of the largest fines ever imposed on a water company (£90m for widespread pollution - pleading guilty to over 6000 illegal discharges) but they continue to let down local residents with more sewage discharges into our local waters, whether it's the River Wallington or The Solent. I saw this first hand when I visited Wallington with Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency and local Wallington Village Association members.

Now they are planning to recycle sewage water for regular consumption. The proposal from Southern Water involves raw sewage being treated and recycled at a new site at Broadmarsh, then transferred, via Budds Farm, to Havant Thicket Reservoir to be circulated all across southern Hampshire.

Fareham Live Opens!

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.

Former Councillor Sue Walker worked hard to deliver 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.



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

Our local campaigner Peter Maunder said: "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."