

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH – Spring 2016

Zero Borough Council tax increase for 7 years

We saved Band D residents almost a year's tax

Now we're forced to ask for a modest rise

BUT.. All good things have NOT come to an end

THERE'S been no rise in your district council tax since 2009.

It's because your **Conservative Council** doesn't waste a penny of your money, carefully budgeting to maintain top-class services.

This time, due to on-going reductions in Government grants which will disappear altogether over the next 4 years, we're asking for a very modest rise.

A pre-budget survey showed an overwhelming **85% support** for our strategy.

Council Leader Séan Woodward says: "Despite the Chancellor's austerity burden falling on councils, it certainly does not mean all good things have to come to an end in Fareham.

"Look what we have delivered in those 7 successive zero years;

look what's in store for the future.

"Had we reflected 24% inflation in your council tax during that period, it would now be £173 and Band D residents would have paid an extra £123 over the 7 years.

"Even with the loss of half our grant support from central government, we have managed to preserve essential services and freeze council tax.

"Effectively you have enjoyed saving almost a whole year's Fareham Borough tax bill."

The average Band C property will go up by just 1p a day to enable us to preserve essential services

Band D properties will rise by £5 making the bill £145 per year.

Add the County Council, Police and Fire & Rescue demand and the overall bill will rise £50 pa.

We honour our pledge to youth



Seán Woodward explains to Toni Lummis (centre) and Lucy Mills at a vibrant YCAT meeting how the Council is fulfilling its promise to support the Borough's youth.

We have appointed an officer to engage with young people and put £30,000 into a pot which is available to youth clubs for specific projects. And that's not all...

- The splendid £9m Holly Hill Leisure Centre opens at Sarisbury this summer
- We will not be raising town centre car park charges for the 6th successive year
- Free parking everywhere else, including seafronts and shopping centres, will be maintained as promised

**WISE INVESTMENTS
KEEP TAX DOWN** →

Our £8m property investments bring in returns of over £0.5m (7%)

Renting out surplus space in the Civic Offices realises £200,000 pa

Find cash for vital M27 junctions NOW – transport boss tells minister

IMPROVEMENTS to J9 and J10 of the M27 are critical, Hampshire's transport chief told a government minister.

Preparatory work for the multi-million J9 scheme ended in 2014.

County Councillor Séan Woodward, and Meon Valley **Conservative** MP



George Hollingbery stressed the urgency when they met Andrew Jones, who's responsible for Highway England's motorways and trunk roads (pictured).

"It is unacceptable for HE to walk away from its responsibilities by starting work, then abandoning the site.

"Whiteley and Welborne are to take 9,500 houses, there is investment from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to dual Whiteley Way from Rookery Avenue to TESCO and to install lights at the Rookery Avenue roundabout.

"This traffic needs to use an improved junction 9 to leave the area," he said.

He also told the minister funding was vital to make J10 an all-moves junction.

England's 5th lowest district council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting



NEWS ROUND

Trinity Church clock

Repairs and restoration work to the clock tower means the civic church now has a working clock for the first time since 2011.

Council funding was also used towards improvements to the community facilities within the church.

Councillor John Bryant said: "It is important to provide funding for projects as significant as this. We can now look forward to hearing the clock striking on Remembrance Sunday."

Fighting fraud

A free app has been launched that allows residents to report fraud within or against the Council easily from their phones.

It includes a description of each type of fraud so users can quickly identify what to report, then asks for information that will allow the Council to investigate.

To download the app, currently only available on Android and iPhone, search Fareham Fraud Reporter on the App Store or on Google Play.

New site needed for defibrillator

With the sad demise of Wykeham House School, the AED sited at the front entrance to the school, which was available to the local community and mentioned in the last issue of InTouch, needs to be relocated.

Councillor Pam Bryant says if you have any suggestions, please contact her.

Recycling banks

The nearest ones for Fareham North residents are at the Leisure Centre or Highlands Road shopping precinct.

By using them, you are helping others as 90% of the proceeds from the Council's textile and clothing banks is donated to local charities and community projects.

Tea time with Suella

NORTH Branch Conservatives entertained Fareham MP Suella Fernandes to tea and cakes.

Ward and county councillors attended and Suella chatted to guests who were all interested to hear about her first nine months at Westminster.

Suella is pictured (above right) chatting to Enid Crouch, widow of the late Honorary Alderman Ernest Crouch, who served on the Borough Council for 30 years and was twice Mayor of Fareham, and (below right) to Fareham North Councillor John Bryant, also a former Mayor.



Advantage the car drivers

TENNIS balls will never again be served on the Leigh Road courts at Park Lane recreation ground, which may become a car park.

Play is no longer possible due to debris from nearby trees causing a slippery surface and the courts are unsuitable for refurbishment.

Councillors Pam and John Bryant say residents want better parking, especially when Fareham Bowling Club holds a major event, so the Council is considering removing the tennis courts and fencing to extend the existing car park to take another 25 vehicles.

It would be for public use with the same 3-hour limit and occupy 60% of the area of the courts, the remainder being returned to grass.

PHOTO: Resident Graham Fuller views the algae encrusted notice boards.



Dog mess menace: Stiffer penalties on way for owners who don't clean up



ACTION is under way to deal with the growing menace of dog fouling across the Borough.

Raising awareness, informing and encouraging

dog owners to dispose of dog waste responsibly is part of a comprehensive media campaign.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "It is important to make the public aware of the significant health risks created, particularly for children, by not picking up after their dogs."

There are over 600 waste bins around the Borough, which allow people to dispose of dog waste.

The Council's cleansing team is also proactive in removing dog mess from open spaces and footpaths.

As the old Fouling of Land Act 1996 has been repealed, officers can only prosecute people for failing to clear up dog fouling if they witness the act.

So councils have begun the process to change legislation to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to improve powers for enforcement officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN).

Once a PSPO is in force, the offence of not clearing up after a dog can be dealt with by issuing a FPN of up to £100.

It is hoped with enforcement and an awareness campaign the scale of dog fouling can be reduced across the Borough.

Many local dog owners, including Mrs Margaret Nobes, pictured with daughter Jo and their boxer, Sophie, are delighted the Council is taking this action.

The rutting season for thoughtless motorists



IRRESPONSIBLE drivers are ruining grass verges by parking on them.

Angry residents have been complaining to Councillors John and Pam Bryant who say they are not only spoiling the street scene, but carving huge ruts in wet weather which makes the ground un-

even when the grass is cut.

Many verges have utility services running beneath, hence repairs are sometimes required due to constant use. Cars parked on driveways, but overhanging the footpath, are another problem.

Pam (pictured with a car blocking the pavement in Norton Drive) said: "While it is good to park vehicles off road, it is inconsiderate to those using the paths, especially elderly residents with electric buggies and parents with pushchairs and young children."

Welborne document

COUNCIL planners have been working on detailed principles needed for the Welborne development.

It follows consultations on the 126-page Welborne Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document in summer 2014.

Executive members noted the comments about the document, which is an essential management tool to be used for all decision-making and subsequent acceptability of future planning applications.

View the document on the Council's web site.

£6.5m plan poised to relieve notorious traffic bottleneck

HIGHWAYS engineers are moving towards the start of a £6.5m scheme to relieve one of Fareham's worst traffic bottlenecks.

Work at and around the station roundabout is scheduled to begin this year.

Delay and disruption will be inevitable during construction work.

County Councillor Peter Latham said: "It will improve the flow of westbound traffic through the station roundabout in the evening peak period, and should also improve traffic flow generally across the locally affected network."

Improvements to the A27/Gudge Heath Lane/Redlands Lane junction will remove the need to significantly modify the station roundabout junction, which will be able to function more effectively with fewer tailbacks.

The A27 will be widened to add capacity with an extra lane for westbound traffic while still retaining the current dedicated right hand turn into Gudge Heath Lane.

It will also improve the interchange between the Eclipse and other bus services and trains, and will enhance the footpath from the train station to West Street and the town centre.

A new shared cycleway link will be possible from the station and West Street to Fareham College.

The tree at the western end of West Street, encircled by the pedestrian bridge, will be preserved as it is an unusual species called a hankerchief or dove tree with the Latin name *Davidia involucrata*.



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COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham North Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone John or Pam Bryant on 01329 281427.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

WELCOME
to my newsletter



I cannot quite believe that I am writing the first edition of my 2016 newsletter already. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the people of Fareham for the past 9 months and I am looking forward to the challenges the New Year brings.

It is a pleasure to have been able to immerse myself in such a great community and I thank you all for being so welcoming to me.

My team and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year.

I hope to be an effective advocate for Fareham in Parliament, working for more opportunities in education, better access to health services and greater investment and jobs here.

Suella



FERNANDES MP for Fareham

Please support my campaign to bring A-Levels back to Fareham

THOUSANDS of teenagers from Fareham have to travel very far if they choose to study A Levels.

I am working with Cams Hill School, supported by all local schools, to prepare an application to the Department of Education to become a Free School Sixth Form, offering A Levels in the heart of Fareham.

Headteacher Gwennan Harrison-Jones (pictured) is leading the team and wants volunteers to support the application.

We also need evidence of the demand for the A Levels in Fareham so please write to me indicating whether, if you have school-age children, you would be interested in sending them to Cams Hill for A Levels.

It is important that the whole community supports Cams Hill in this proposal which will benefit hundreds of teenagers for years to come. The first team meeting is in the Spring, so let me know if you would like more information at:

<http://www.suellafernandes.co.uk/campaigns/education-levels-fareham>



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Surgery dates

I will hold surgeries at different venues across Fareham. Please call to arrange an appointment to meet me. Surgery, Friday, March 18 Victory Hall, Warsash. Friday, April 29 Community Room, Tesco, Fareham.

Keep up to date

To stay up to date with all of my recent visits and speeches in Parliament please sign up to my newsletter at www.suellafernandes.co.uk/newsletter

Arrange a tour

I am happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for groups of my constituents. To book please contact my office with a minimum of three months' notice, as they are very popular.

FAREHAM CONSTITUENCY NEWS

Broadband petition to Chancellor

Many constituents have problems with broadband, for example in Taners Gate and Whiteley, so I met with communication companies and British Telecom to discuss connectivity and mobile coverage.

I joined MPs from all political parties to deliver a letter to Number 11 Downing Street calling on the Chancellor to continue investing in extending broadband coverage.

Wearing my firefighter's helmet

I was delighted to spend the day with the crew based at Fareham Fire Station, where I took part in the firefighters' normal day.

We discussed local and national challenges facing the service with Hampshire Chief Fire Officer Dave Curry and Station Commander Danny Miles. I am grateful to the Fire and Rescue Service for hosting me. The quality of training and dedication by the crew is exceptional.

Task Force launched

I have launched Fareham Community Hospital Task Force to discuss local health issues and push forward my campaign for increased facilities at the hospital, where I was pleased to spend a day working with volunteers (pictured) who do so much to help staff and patients.

Residents tell me more services are needed at the hospital. I raised the issue with Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt when he visited in February.



At the Chancellor's door



Learning to fight fires



Meeting Friends of Fareham Community Hospital