

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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 Seán 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 Seán 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



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.

If you have any suggestions, please contact Councillor Dennis Steadman.

Parking tickets fight back

Has the 'yellow peril' stuck an unfair parking ticket on your windscreen?

Now you can fight back against the Council via a new website called DoNotPay.co.uk, says Keith Barton.

"It's free and has saved motorists thousands. So rather than worry about a parking ticket you feel you didn't deserve, have a look at this website for help.

"It's simple to use – just pick your reason from a list, type a few of the details and it generates an appeal to send to the Council."

Cycle rack survey

A survey was undertaken to look into lack of bicycle storage in response to residents of Endofield Close and Longfield Avenue.

Suitable locations for for a bicycle rack with canopy are now being sought.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "Your Conservative Council always responds to residents' concerns – private or tenant – quickly and efficiently."

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.

Keith responds to Pat's plight

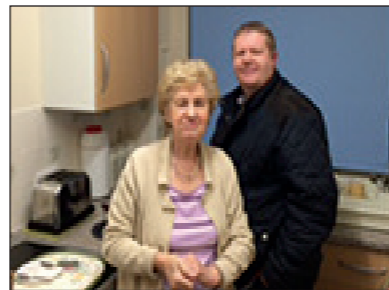
WHILE visiting a friend on Christmas Eve, Fareham South Conservatives vice-chairman Keith Barton went to the rescue of an elderly neighbour,

Pat Bailey had recently moved into her home at Barnfield Court, Bishopsfield Road and was experiencing damp.

Keith said: "I took immediate action and the tenancy team called to investigate early in the New Year.

"This was a very prompt response by the Borough Council, especially for that time of year.

"It's another excellent example of a Conservative-led council and I will follow up to make sure Mrs Bailey's problem has been fully resolved.



MP joins fight to save old forts

SOME of Fareham's historic forts are crumbling and urgently need repairs.

Keith Barton and Fareham MP Suella Fernandes have teamed up to try to save them, particularly Fort Fareham.

Suella said: "Action must be taken now to stop history crumbling away for ever; I have met with Historic England to discuss conservation."



Keith said: "We have a duty to future generations to do our bit to conserve our culture."

The ring of forts was ordered by Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in the 1860s to defend Portsmouth from a

French attack, but never saw action and were nicknamed 'Palmerston's Follies'.

PHOTO: Keith Barton inspects damage at Fort Fareham.

Dennis' deputation demands more play areas for deprived South Ward



Revamp: Keith Barton says there are plans under discussion for a major facelift for outdated Cams Alders to focus more on the community.

THERE is only one children's play area in the entire Fareham South Ward and that is unacceptable.

The nearest alternatives are in Stubbington and Blackbrook Park, says Conservative Councillor Dennis Steadman.

However, Fareham South Conservatives vice-chairman Keith Barton says that could all change with a brand new play area being incorporated in a major re-vamp for Cams Alders, which is currently out for public consultation.

Meanwhile, Dennis Steadman led a deputation to the Leisure and Community Panel in January, stressing the need for action

In a previous review of 43 play areas across

the Borough, it was reported that equipment at Crossfell Walk was in good condition as it had been refurbished in 2012, except for fencing the toddler area, which will be done this year.

Councillor Steadman said feedback to the Council was that Crossfell Walk play area did not provide enough equipment for the number of children living in South Fareham.

"Residents would like additional items, including a roundabout with wheelchair access, springy animals and a slide."

The committee agreed play areas were sorely needed, but residents had to be officially consulted first and officers were meeting them to discuss their proposals.

Bag that dog poo or face a £100 fine

ANTI-SOCIAL owners who don't clear up their dogs' mess will be targeted.

South Ward Conservatives vice-chairman Keith Barton says dog fouling and litter are the most frequent complaints he receives.

He said: "The Council is seeking a Public Spaces Protection Order to apply fixed penalty notices of £100 for offending dog owners. If you're caught dropping litter it will cost you £80 on the spot.

Keith Barton added: "There are over 600 dog waste bins around the Borough, so there's no excuse.

"Desiree Taylor who I met in The Gillies (pictured) always carries a plastic bag to clean up after Tyke."



Old dairy name features in new flats complex

THE HISTORIC local name will be retained at the site of the former Tom Parker Dairies in Redlands Lane.

There was reaction from residents when owners of the smart new retirement complex built there and named Parker Meadows changed it.

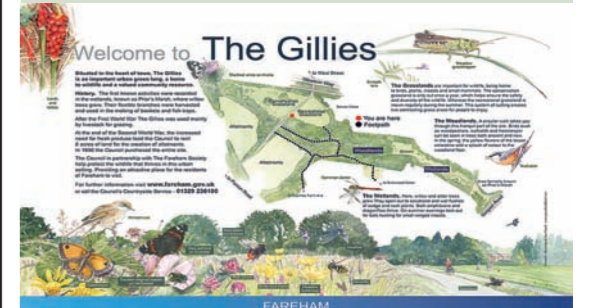
People said they were destroying local history by renaming the development Gracewell Healthcare Homes after the well-known and respected Parker family had operated at the site for over a century.

Councillor Dennis Steadman, who performed the original opening as Fareham's Mayor in 2012, said the company was changing all its homes to the same name 'to reflect its core values'.

He said the old name would be retained in the Tom Parker wing and further reflected in the fine rose garden in front of the building.

He was invited to the company's 'Purple Party' in November to celebrate with staff and management the history and future of the home.

Learn about The Gillies ecology with smart new information board



THIS colourful new sign board will be erected at The Gillies in the spring.

There will be a wooden bench seat to go with it.

Fareham South Conservatives vice-chairman Keith Barton outlines other measures to smarten up The Gillies. These include:

- New path linking the open play area to the woodland circular walk. This will be friendly steps and a bridge over the woodland stream (spring 2016)
- The probation service did 8 days clearing scrub and tidying up (completed 2015)
- Paths around the wild meadow area have been widened improving site lines and safety, future cutting will maintain this (completed 2015)
- The post and rail safety fence at the end of the cycle path has been strengthened (completed 2015)
- Possibility of improving the wild flower meadow area with a complete re-sow, which requires some ecological survey.

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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 South Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Keith Barton on 01329 286396.

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 Tanners 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