

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM WEST – 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

Rats problem

Rats have been running across back gardens behind the shops in Anjou Crescent.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said they may have come from a broken sewer in the alleyway between Anjou Crescent and Dalewood Road.

Leslie liaised with the environmental health team to ensure that Southern Water, who are responsible for the sewer and rat problem, were told.

Bowling alley's new role

Plans to convert the bowling alley at Collingwood Retail Park into a Matalan store have been approved by Fareham planners.

Over 200 people objected but there was no planning reason for the council to reject the application, and Matalan produced figures to allay fears that it would adversely affect the town centre shops.

Generosity

Abu Tanzam, owner of Gandhi's Indian Takeaway in Anjou Crescent, will again be supporting the Mayor of Fareham's charity by donating the evening's takings on April 18.

MP at The Hub

Leslie Keeble has arranged for the police and Fareham MP Suella Fernandes to be in The Highlands Hub at Highlands Road shopping centre on Friday, March 11 at 10.30am.

Suella, the police, neighbourhood watch representative and your local councillors will answer questions.

Suella to the rescue

Leslie spoke to Fareham MP Suella Fernandes about the plight of Barbara Tipper, revealed in our autumn edition.

She has to take taxis costing up to £12 a trip to visit her GP and go shopping when her friend can't take her because buses don't stop near her home.

InTouch team leader Tina Ellis says Suella has promised to call at Barbara's home to discuss the problem.

Bag it, bin it or pay £100 penalty dog owners warned



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.

InTouch team leader Tina Ellis 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.

To help the enforcement team, the Council hopes to introduce a Borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog fouling in April, which will allow enforcement officers to issue fixed penalty notices.

The penalty will go up to £100.

And litter louts will also face a stiffer penalty of £80, even for dropping a toffee wrapper or a cigarette end.

Tina Ellis, pictured bag in hand with her cocker spaniels, adds: "All dog owners have a responsibility to carry doggy poo bags.

"Bag it, bin or pay the penalty is the message."

Council forks out for prom repairs

EMERGENCY work to shore up the storm-damaged sea wall at Hill Head finished a week ahead of schedule and will cost the Borough Council £250,000 from its reserves.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "Despite no opportunities for government or external agency grants, the Council agreed to urgent action to bring the pathway back into use and to develop an action plan to rebuild the pathway with a life of perhaps 40-50 years."

The Council has agreed a strategy outlining options to protect Fareham's



coastline from the River Hamble to Portchester, which would help reduce the risk of coastal flooding and erosion to over 2,800 homes and 10,000 people for the next 100 years.

Look what they're doing to our grass verges



THERE are notices clearly prohibiting parking on grass verges.

But the drivers of these vehicles have ignored them and don't seem to care about the damage they cause.

They aren't the only culprits as van and heavy lorry drivers chew up the grass when they use the verges to turn their vehicles.

It has infuriated other residents in their streets who



have complained about the anti-social behaviour. When one resident, Ian McNeil, sent Conservative Councillor Leslie Keeble photos of the damage caused to the green by a lorry delivering to the Chinese takeaway in Anjou Crescent, he decided it was time to investigate.

The lorry got stuck in the ruts and had to be hauled off by another lorry, causing more damage.

The photos, including one of Leslie Collett (far left)



who was also angry at the damage, clearly show the problem around the Ward, Councillor Keeble said: "Not only is it spoiling the environment and street scene, it makes it very hard in spring and summer to mow the grass."

But offenders better watch out.

The Council's head of parking and enforcement is sending out extra patrols, so they can expect a knock on the door.



Leslie wins charity raffle cake



as first prize, which he's pictured showing to his daughter, Tina.

A RAFFLE among councillors and Council staff raised £121 towards the Mayor of Fareham's charity in aid of the Dave Wellman Cancer Trust and Gosport & Fareham Inshore Rescue Service.

Ward Councillor Leslie Keeble won a delicious Christmas cake

Brian's troubles are still not over

DISABLED Brian Legg phoned Councillor Leslie Keeble in desperation just before Christmas.

He had been almost 3 weeks without heating and hot water at his Shaftesbury Housing home in Meadowbank Road.

The contractor had arrived to rectify the problem with the wrong parts.

Leslie, who's keeping an eye out, quickly told the landlord the urgency of the situa-

tion, portable heaters arrived and priority repairs were done the following week.

Leslie said: "Unfortunately, the poorly repaired drain in his drive filled up with rubble, flooding his bathroom and hall, ruining his hall carpet (pictured).

"He is now trying to get the pipe company to pay for the damaged carpet."



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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.

Fears allayed over Osborn Centre health clinics move

USERS of clinic services at the Osborn Centre, near the Civic Offices, were worried about them having to move elsewhere.

The Community Mental Health Team and Acute Mental Health Team were not prepared to commit to another 5-year lease.

But the plan now is to have staff in several bases across Fareham, making them more accessible.

Consultants, doctors and nurses will be based at Fareham Community Hospital for people living in the Western Wards.

The Acute Mental Health Team is looking to hold clinics at Fareham Health Centre as well as Westlands Surgery.

Locality manager Karen Guy says the move was discussed with patients, staff and the Adult Social Care Select Committee as well as the Clinical Commissioning Group.

She said the aim was to offer more local bases with patients having a choice where to be seen.



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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339.

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