

**CONSERVATIVES** keeping our community



# InTouch

**LOCKS HEATH – 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**

**Red Cross loan store delay**

The opening of a new Red Cross medical loan store at Fareham Community Hospital has been delayed until March.

Work is in hand to make it happen soon, so Western Wards patients will no longer have to travel to Fareham Health Centre to borrow crutches, wheelchairs etc.

Leasing charges will now be met by Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group and volunteers will run the store at minimum cost to the Red Cross.

**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](http://DoNotPay.co.uk).

It's free and has saved motorists thousands.

It's simple to use – pick out your reason from a list, type the details and it generates an appeal for you to send to the Council.

**Superfast Broadband**

BT Openreach in conjunction with the County Council will upgrade connections to over 34,000 premises across Hampshire between January 2016 and September 2018.

It will make Superfast Broadband available to more than 95% of premises in Hampshire.

On completion, the total of homes and businesses with access to superfast services will be 570,000. The project has funding of £16.5m.

**Skittles and roast**

Locks Heath Conservatives are holding a Sunday roast lunch with skittles at The Crofton pub, Hill Head on May 15.

This annual event helps to raise funds towards the production of *InTouch*, which we deliver to ward households several times a year.

Tickets cost £12.50 Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans will provide further information.

**June opening for showpiece leisure centre**

THE OLYMPICS may delay the official opening of the £9m Holly Hill Leisure Centre.

The Council hopes to invite an Olympic swimmer to perform the ceremony, but this will have to wait until the Games are finished.

Councillor Connie Hockley, chairman of the leisure & community review panel, said it would not prevent the centre opening to the public in June.

A topping-out ceremony was carried out in December by the Mayor, Councillor Mike Ford, watched by local councillors.

Steel work for the building and swimming area is complete and the learning pool is under construction.



**Progress:** Local councillors see for themselves.

**Swift action to improve Lockswood pathway**

A WELL-USED pathway will be upgraded after a resident complained to local Conservative councillors.

Peter Wright took Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans to show them the path which runs north of the Lockswood Centre.

Susan and Keith acted quickly and invited the County Council's senior transport planner, Steve Faulkner, to inspect the site. They said: "Having viewed the area, Steve



and Susan Bayford show the County Council's Steve Faulkner the poor state of the path.

agreed that the pathway should be upgraded to make it more amenable for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability motor scooters. "Steve will be considering appropriate plans in conjunction with Fareham Borough Council and we will post an update on this matter in a future edition of *InTouch*."

**PHOTO:** Keith Evans (right)



**EMERGENCY work to shore up the storm-damaged sea wall at Hill Head was due to finish in early February and will cost the Borough Council £250,000 from its reserves.**

A temporary wall was formed in front of the damaged sea wall using concrete bags and holes plugged along a 20-metre section and 30 tons of concrete were

**Storm ravaged prom is repaired**

pumped from Cliff Road down to the promenade to secure the structure and prevent encroachment towards the beach huts.

Overhanging concrete was removed and used to shelter the undermined sea wall, then steel sheets were driven into the beach to close off this hole which was infilled with concrete to support the promenade.

Executive member for planning and development Councillor Keith Evans said: "Fortunately, because of the agreed strategy, I was in the process of reviewing the options and implications for this stretch of coastline so we have been able to agree actions and commitments very quickly.

"Despite no opportunities for government or external agency grants, the Council agreed to urgent action to bring the pathway back into use, to avoid further short-

term damage and to develop an action plan to rebuild the pathway with a life of perhaps 40-50 years."

He said the Council had agreed a strategy prepared by Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) outlining preferred options to protect Fareham's coastline from the River Hamble to Portchester.

If implemented, it will help reduce the risk of coastal flooding and erosion to over 2,800 homes and 10,000 people for the next 100 years.

He added: "Our coastline is a beautiful part of the area we live in. This strategy will help us focus on required actions and options for fund raising to ensure future generations can enjoy it."

**PHOTO:** As work nears the end, Keith Evans (left) inspects the sea wall with ESCP engineer Andrew Pearce.

**Clean up dog mess or face £100 fine**



**ANTI-SOCIAL owners who don't clear up their dogs' mess are being targeted in a Council clamp-down.**

Councillor Keith Evans says there have been many recent complaints about dog fouling

He said: "The Council has adopted a strategy to try to educate dog owners, while allowing offenders to be financially penalised."

The Council is seeking a Public Spaces Protection Order to apply fixed penalty notices, which will be raised to £100.

It is also targeting litter droppers. In future, if you're caught tossing away just a cigarette end expect to pay an £80 penalty.

**PHOTO:** Keith explains the strategy to responsible dog owners Mark and Chloe Scrusse.

**Grant lays way for new carpet**

**Locks Heath Community Centre has gone from strength to strength since the new group of volunteers took over a couple of years ago.**

Councillor Keith Evans, pictured here with centre chairman Geof Eales and centre administrator Bev Colborne, has recently recommended and approved a £1,900 grant to help replace the carpeting in the entrance area.

If you want to play Badminton or need a room for a function or a meeting, do visit and talk with whoever is on duty.



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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** by delivering *InTouch* in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

**WE SERVE YOU ALL**

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

**Volunteers find helping at Abbeyfield rewarding**



**DEVOTED volunteers are enhancing the lives of residents at Abbeyfield Court.**

The 16 retirement flats in Locks Road are a vibrant part of the community.

Ward Councillor Susan Bayford and her husband, Councillor Brian Bayford (Park Gate Ward), were delighted to be invited to Christmas lunch prepared by manager and ex-Royal Navy chef Neil Thompson.

Susan said: "There are a surprising number of volunteers who visit Abbeyfield Court and they enhance the lives of residents and their near neighbours at The Chestnuts.

"Many are related to residents. Christine Cheshire volunteers as secretary and Robin Kelly is a regular visitor and keen supporter.

"Fundraising is an important feature and Gail Leitelmeyer is the chairman and organiser of fundraising auctions.

"Staff at the Locks Heath Branch of the Halifax are also great supporters."

After visiting Abbeyfield, Jake and Sam Kavanagh decided that they wanted to give something back to the community, so they now organize a monthly quiz night.

"Jake says he and Sam have found the evenings to be very rewarding.

"I very much admire the enthusiasm of all of the volunteers."

**PHOTO:** Neil and Joyce (foreground), with Jake and Sam.

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](http://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.



At the Chancellor's door

### 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.



Learning to fight fires

### 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.



Meeting Friends of Fareham Community Hospital