

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

TITCHFIELD, TITCHFIELD COMMON & CATISFIELD – 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 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.

Play area revamped

Work to refurbish Segensworth play area was finished in time for Christmas.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "We are particularly happy that the roundabout is 'inclusive', meaning it's suitable for use by wheelchair users. There is also a toddler tree house and zig-zag twisters.

It cost the Borough Council £80,000 for equipment and tidying up the area.

Play area delayed

Work on the Course Farm Crescent upgrade was scheduled for completion before Christmas, but the wet weather caused delays.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said the contractors advised that work should be completed by mid-January.

"I would like to thank The Fields Residents' Association for their hard work during the deputation and campaign to upgrade the play area and for the Leisure & Community Committee for listening.

Clean it or pay the penalty

Anti-social dog owners who fail to clean up their dogs' mess will now face a £100 penalty when they're caught.

It's part of the Council's Borough-wide clamp-down for which it seeks a Public Spaces Protection Order to apply the penalties.



Safety is feeling the pinch, not getting the hump

TRAFFIC pinch points have caused controversy as to the best way to stop drivers speeding in Hunts Pond Road.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said safety measures had to be taken at the request of the police and the emergency services after several fatalities and serious accidents.

County Council road safety engineers favoured their current rationale— pinch points to reduce vehicle speeds and to give pedestrians a safer place to cross. "Why not speed humps? Many vehicles have low sus-

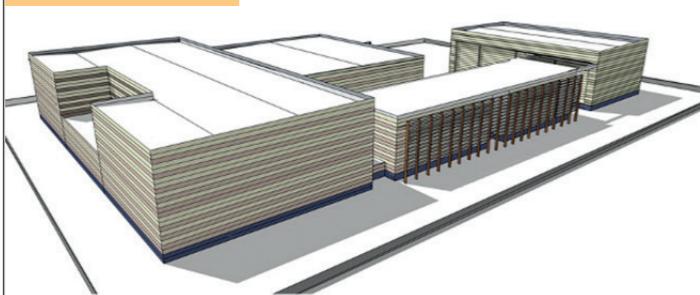
pensions and in today's litigious society it was felt the risk of court proceedings for damages outweighed their usefulness," she said.

Sarah, who took the photo through her windscreen as she gave way at a pinch point, said success or failure of the strategy would be monitored by HCC safety engineers. But it's also a matter of educating drivers.

She is working with County Councillor Geoff Hockley to ensure residents' views are directed to the correct department, adding: "Be assured that all views are being heard."

Fareham plug-in for mega cross-Channel power exchange project?

Artist's sketch of north east aspect



A massive converter building could be located at Daedalus and connected to Caen in France by 100 miles of cables under The Channel.

From Hill Head, more under-sea cables would be laid along the coast to Chilling to feed into the National Grid.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said the electricity interconnector would be capable of exchanging 1,000 megawatts of power between the two countries – enough to run over 1,000,000 homes.

"It would enhance the security, affordability and sustainability of electricity supply to both countries."

Geoff attended a public exhibition held by National Grid in the Victory Hall in December. This was the first of two stages of public consultation and presented information about background to the project and the proposed next step.

The next round of consultation is due in March and it is interesting to note that National Grid are very keen to be seen working with local communities.

Geoff added: "I welcome this proposal at Daedalus as National Grid previously had considered building the converter at Chilling, which would be totally unacceptable and was refused by Hampshire County Council."

On target for public opening in June

THE OLYMPICS may delay the official opening of the showpiece £7m 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.

As the photo shows, steel work for the building and swimming area is complete and the learning pool is under construction.



'Clean for The Queen' to celebrate HM's 90th

ENVIRONMENTAL groups plan to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on April 21 with a massive clean-up of her realm.

Locally, Solent Environmental Action want people to come together in the run-up to the occasion.

Councillor Tiffany Harper says: "For Her Majesty and for us all, we want to attack the blight of litter and reclaim our beautiful countryside."

Litter charities, land managers, companies and other associations have pledged support during the campaign, ending with a mega litter clear-up from



Friday, March 4 to Sunday, March 6.

There will be a beach clean-up at Meon shore on March 5 at 10 am. Details from: www.meetup.com/solent-environmental-action.

Meantime, Tiffany is pictured helping to brighten up the ward by planting 500 daffodil bulbs on green areas at the junctions of Catisfield Lane-Highlands Road, aided by Catisfield

Gardening & Horticultural Society chairman Glenn Duggan.

The bulbs were supplied by the Council as part of Fareham in Bloom.

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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 Titchfield Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Sarah Pankhurst on 07718 137 825.

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.



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