

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – 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



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.

Grants available

County Councillor Séan Woodward still has £4,000 available from his County Council budget, which is available to help local organisations and charities.

If you think your group could benefit, contact Séan for details.

Have an ice swim!

They'll be hoping for a dip in temperatures at Lower Swanwick in February.

The International Ice Swimming Association of Great Britain was due to hold the first 1km ice swimming national championships at Andark diving lake on the 20th.

Next day, the Andark winter swimming event comprising a series of shorter races was due to be held.

Fareham Council and County Councillor Séan Woodward contributed matching £600 grants.

New crossing

A controlled pedestrian crossing at Allotment Road/A27 near the existing school crossing patrol will be installed.

It will involve new link footways to Allotment Road.

Surveys have been completed, so the new crossing will be constructed during the summer holiday period.

The £100,000 scheme is funded from developer contributions relating to Coldeast, Bridge Road and Edenbridge Way.

Developers thwart Council's homes policy for needy

DEMANDS for rented or part-owned properties are rising, but developers are finding excuses to back out of Council policy to aid needy families.

The waiting list for those in need and the highest priority list is currently about 1,350 families.

These new homes are being built – 6 'Passive Haus' two-bedroom houses at Allotment Road, 16 one and two-bedroom apartments at Stephenson Court, Palmerston Road and 36 one and two-bedroom sheltered units at Sylvan Court at Coldeast.

Other homes in Highlands Road and Bridge Road should be started in 2016. The Council also works with housing associations to provide affordable homes for rent or part-purchase.



Councillor Brian Bayford said: "Recently, this has been done through the Council's planning policies whereby developers of more than 10 units must provide 30% of 'affordables', tenants for which are taken from the housing waiting lists.

"Over the last 5 years almost 400 families have been supported, but within the last 18 months some developers have produced 'viability studies' claiming their developments are not financially viable so cannot provide any affordable units.

"This will inevitably reduce the number of homes for needy families provided through the planning policies."

PHOTO: Brian Bayford shows Simon Martin a new home at Coldeast.

June opening

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 probably have to wait until the Games are finished.

However, it will not prevent the centre opening to the public on a date to be fixed in June.

Both pools and the steelwork were completed on time in December, when the Mayor, Councillor Mike Ford, performed the topping-out.

Coldeast development: Councillor Woodward answers your questions

QUERIES from residents about lack of street lighting, salting, road repairs etc around Coldeast have been investigated by County Councillor Séan Woodward.

Road adoption – Hamilton Road is currently a private unadopted road and Montefiore Drive is an unclassified unadopted road.

If they are adopted, it will give highway rights to the Highway Authority (HCC) and the road will become publically maintainable.

Ideally, roads within a new development will eventually be adopted by the Highway Authority. Teams are working on adopting the Brook Lane junction and Coldeast Way and are discussing the other roads with the developers.

It is not in HCC's interest to adopt roads within a development during building works as this could lead to it paying for repairs caused by heavy construction traffic; adopting existing roads should not cause the Authority to inherit an immediate maintenance liability.

Publically maintained roads can be checked on the HCC website: <http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaymanagement/adoptedroads.aspx>.

Salting – HCC will not have salted / gritted within Coldeast, which is likely to have been done by the developer or could be a legacy NHS contract.

Coldeast Way is a low priority gritting route to allow access to Lord Wilson School, but would only be gritted during more adverse weather after higher priority routes are cleared. Hamilton Road is not on this route.

HCC salt routes are at: <http://maps.hants.gov.uk/saltroutesmap/>.

Electricity supply – An underground junction box beside the sub-station floods, causing the lighting to fail. Works to relocate the junction box and restore power are imminent.

Reporting broken street lights or checking if they are covered by Hampshire PFI, can be done at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems>.



THE FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS have been busy helping staff and patients at Fareham Community Hospital.

There are 26 volunteers and a rota organised by the coordinator provides cover from 9am to 4.30pm Mondays to Fridays for blood testing appointments.

Salute these hospital volunteers

On certain days they provide a meeting and greeting service and help with admin and clerical tasks, writes InTouch team leader Simon Martin, pictured (left) with Friends' chairman Jill Sadler, Fareham MP Suella Fernandes and Councillor Brian Bayford.

The newly formed dementia advice service launched by the Alzheimer's Society in conjunction with the Friends has proved a great success.

Appointments are held every Monday by an alzheimer's advisor and are funded by the NHS Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group.

The drop-in Fareham Memory Group runs alongside this service for people with dementia and their carers, who can attend on Mondays 1pm–3pm. It is run jointly by the Alzheimer's Society volunteers and the Friends and has proved a great success.

Between 20 to 25 people attend every session and enjoy the regularity, friendliness and support that the group offers. Most volunteers have undertaken Dementia Awareness training.

Volunteers also help with fundraising and recently provided a moving and handling aid for the X-ray department, 5 new water coolers, physiotherapy gym equipment, wall-mounted fans for consulting rooms and a DAB radio for the outpatient clinic.

Suella spent a day meeting volunteers and committee members for a question and answer session (see also Page 4).

She helped at the phlebotomy desk and at reception, before spending the afternoon with the Memory Group, finding it moving to meet those with dementia and their carers. She said she had learnt a lot.

New homes flooding cause probe

FLOODING incidents have alarmed residents at the Strawberry Fields.

Councillor Brian Bayford said there had been flooding at nearby Chichester Close about 3 years ago before work began at the Strawberry Fields, badly affecting at least one property.

He said: "When planning permission was granted for Phase 1 of the Strawberry Fields development, it included the need for adequate drainage."

At the same time, there was flooding across Lockwood Road next to Priory Park and the

Strawberry Fields area.

When planning consent was granted for Phase 2, extra drainage and larger storage tanks were required.

Recently, properties in Phase 1 have water entering from below, which the developers are checking urgently.

Contact Brian Bayford or Simon Martin (pictured) if you have any concerns.



Farewell Marian Ellerton

IT IS with fond memories of serving Park Gate residents as your councillor that I announce I shall be retiring in May.

I have been a FBC councillor for 17 years, 15 of which in Park Gate Ward.

During that time I have served as chairman on numerous committees and had the honour of being Mayor of Fareham.

I shall always cherish my years as your councillor and send my good wishes to you all for the future.

Simon Martin is the Conservative nominee and I know that if elected he will serve you with loyalty and understanding.



Simon Martin

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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.

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 Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Marian Ellerton on 01489 570774.

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