

**CONSERVATIVES** keeping our community



# InTouch

**PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Winter 2015**

## The Magnificent Seven

- Zero council tax rise 7 years running
- £8m capital investment keeps tax low

- 6.2% pay rise for our council staff
- Major plan to focus on youth support



**Youth focus:** 40 young people met Council Leader Seán Woodward to discuss issues that concern them. It's proposed to start a young persons' Community Action Team. The County Council will maintain youth service funding this year, but Fareham is considering commissioning its own youth support.

**THESE** are just a few of the reasons to trust **ONLY the Conservatives** with your money.

We have confounded the pundits yet again by freezing council tax 7 years running.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said it was achieved without reducing essential services, while giving hard working staff a 6.2% pay rise – their first for 3 years.

This is despite our Government grant being halved and receiving less per resident than almost every other council in the country.

Take into account inflation, and it's effectively a 22% tax cut.

The County Council and Fire Authority have also frozen their council tax; only the police element will rise by 1.99%.

Prudent investment in the property market will help to keep taxes low in future.

The Council plans to take a tougher line with littering and dog fouling, plus putting more investment into youth services.

It will continue to invest in apprenticeships and in the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus, where the runway has been resurfaced and the Merlin Innovation Centre will open soon, housing 150 jobs.

### 'Every Lidl helps'



**THE COUNCIL'S** venture into real estate should yield 7.3% on its initial £5.89m investment.

It will reap the rewards as landlords and can recoup the money if needed by selling the properties.

So far, 5 premises have been bought – including 3 supermarket sites – from the £8m set aside.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said it was good use of public money rather than relying on low interest rates and enabled Fareham to keep its council tax down, give staff a pay rise and maintain services.

He said: "We only buy property with tenants with a very good covenant and upward-only rent increases."

### COUNCIL TAX REACTIONS

**Ivor Dugdale Jenkins**, of Badgers Copse, is pleased the Borough Council is once again keeping the Council Tax to zero increase for the 7th year, whilst maintaining their high standard of services. Well done the Conservative team.

**Muriel Clarke**, of Station Road, is pleased with the Council Tax freeze. She said: "It will be so helpful to all residents but particularly those on fixed income."

**Council is vindicated over its Welborne strategy**

**THOUSANDS** of acres in Fareham's countryside gaps are safe from greedy developers.

Following public inquiries into the Welborne Plan and other development across the Borough over the next 25 years, the inspector has rejected all sites developers wanted to get their hands on.

So Newlands Farm in the Stubbington gap, Cranleigh Road, Portchester and many others will

be protected.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "This is a complete vindication of our approach that, as supported by residents' surveys, development should only take place on sites allocated by the Council for Fareham's housing need, mainly at Welborne. We can therefore save the South Fareham and Meon strategic gaps."

**England's 3rd lowest district council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting**



**NEWS ROUND**

**Safety issue resolved**

Concerns about safety of Brookfield School pupils who have to cross Bridge Road at the Allotment Road junction led to action by County Councillor Seán Woodward.

HCC officers did a site survey and agreed to his request to change the duty times for the crossing patrol, which will now operate from 7.45 am to 8.45am.

**Drainage problem**

A persistent drainage problem that annoyed residents in Pine Walk is being resolved.

Overflow from a gully between gardens and an area of trees had been causing damage.

Peter and Maureen Edwards from No 7 protested to the NHS, suspecting the gully belonged to them.

Councillor Brian Bayford added his support and eventually it was established that it was owned by the NHS.

"Work is to be undertaken to the area behind the lower numbered houses in Pine Walk to provide permanent piped drainage," he said.

Mr and Mrs Edwards said: "Brian Bayford has been very helpful throughout and we're sure his intervention has helped bring the matter to a positive conclusion."

**Protected trees**

All the trees in a planned area for homes on NHS land behind Pine Walk are protected.

Councillor Brian Bayford said they would be transferred to the Council before building work began.

He added: "I hope discussions can be held with interested residents to establish the future of this area."

**Mayor's charity ball**

The Mayor of Fareham, Councillor David Norris and Mayoress Mrs Pamela Norris, are holding their Charity Ball on Friday, March 27 at Ferneham Hall. Tickets are available from Councillor Norris on 023 92 614257.

**Bridge Road crawler lane to go**



A STRETCH of the A27 from Bursledon Bridge to the top of the hill at Sarisbury Green is to be resurfaced in the first quarter of 2016.

County Councillor Seán Woodward, who asked for the work to be done, said: "This is a scheme which I have been waiting to have implemented for many years and I am very pleased that it will be possible to improve safety for both motorists and cyclists on this very busy road."

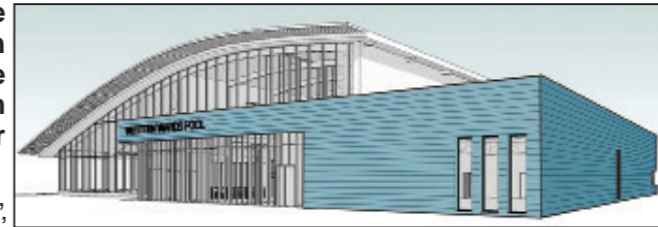
The third lane will be removed, making room for cycle lanes either side. Councillor Woodward said: "It goes back to the days when HGVs required a crawler lane so they could be overtaken by lighter vehicles. The crawler lane is generally used by law abiding drivers while others race past at high speeds to the top of the hill."

**Green light for £7m Western Wards leisure centre**

DETAILED plans for the prestigious new Western Wards Leisure Centre have been approved by Fareham planners and it is due for completion in May 2016.

Councillor Brian Bayford, who serves on the members' and officers' working group, said public consultation had taken place on the design before it was given detailed consent by the Planning Committee on January 28.

The building at Coldeast, Sarisbury will incorporate main and teaching pools, fitness suite, spinning and dance studios, wet and dry changing facilities, foyer, ancillary of-



fices and plant room and car park.

Because of topography of the site, the building has been designed with a sweeping roof to complement the level changes.

The layout is simple and easy to get around with glazing around the pool hall creating a visual link from outside the building.

The external walls will be constructed of blue rain screen cladding, and a glazed curtain walling system; these materials are simple and give the building a lightweight appearance.

**Closed by council department, saved by its boss**

A TEMPORARY shop that failed to apply for a correct licence was saved by the boss of the council department that closed it.

The pop-up Co-op in Middle Road, Park Gate was opened as the main store closed for a three-week refurbishment.

It was shut down by highways officers after it failed to obtain a licence from Hampshire County Council in time, much to the disappointment of elderly residents living in the nearby Raglan Court sheltered housing.

County Councillor Seán Woodward stepped in and saved the store from closure by helping them negotiate more time.

Tina Maggs, who lives nearby, said: "I called Councillor Woodward and he attended within minutes to see the issue for himself. I am delighted that he



responded so quickly and sorted the problem out for us all."

Councillor Woodward, who is in charge of roads at the County Council, agreed it was necessary to take a pragmatic view given the temporary nature of the shop and the needs of elderly residents, many of whom couldn't walk further to buy necessities.

He said: "While technically Co-op breached the rules and should have obtained a licence, I agreed with highway officers that they could stay open and gave them 48 hours to obtain the necessary licence.

"My priority is to help the elderly residents to enjoy the basic service that Co-op has been thoughtful enough to provide for a few weeks while their store is refurbished."

PHOTO: Seán Woodward popped in to talk to Co-op staff and customers.

**They're off – disabled riders spurred by £5,000 grant**



A RIDING charity has received thousands of pounds to help raise its profile and provide riding for the disabled

Recently-established Shedfield Riding for the Disabled welcomed former Mayor of Fareham Councillor Susan Bayford and Sarisbury County Councillor Seán Woodward to their stables recently.

Susan Bayford presented a cheque for £3,500 raised through her Mayor's Charity and Seán Woodward added £1,500 from his county councillor grant fund. Now that the group has £5,000 in the bank it is able to form a charity to carry out its work.

Shirley Harris, from the Shedfield Riding for the Disabled group, said: "It is a fantastic sport for people with disabilities. It helps them gain strength, confidence and enjoy social interaction too."

PHOTO: Saddled comfortably on Rocky, Josie Brooks watches as Shirley Harris receives the cheque from Susan Bayford, with Seán Woodward (left) and Brian Bayford.

**Plug-in point**

A NEW charging point for the growing number of electric vehicles has been opened by Fareham Council in the Civic Way north car park.

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles funded 75% of the project, helped by Southern Electric.

For about £6, a 15-20 minute charge can power a car for up to 62 miles. Parking is free while you are charging.

**Care teams and extra beds bid to alleviate local hospital crisis**

EXTRA beds and care teams are being provided in Fareham and Gosport areas in a bid to relieve the A & E crisis, which has stretched the NHS to breaking point.

There are numerous reasons:

- Shortage of GPs
- Changes by the last Labour Government to GP contracts for on-call services
- Patients going to A & E who are either drunk or should be seeing their GPs
- Bed blocking due to inadequate support in the community

To counter some of these, the Clinical Commissioning Group has used some of the Government's winter funding to provide 15 extra beds at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and 8 at Hawthorne Court.

The CCG, in partnership with the County Council, has set up 4 integrated care teams – 2 in Fareham, 2 in Gosport – comprising district nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers and other care staff.

They will help residents in the community to avoid intensive hospital care and support people, mostly elderly, on discharge from a major hospital.

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**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS  
Park Gate & Priory Park**

**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.



**YOUR voice in Westminster**  
**by MARK HOBAN**  
MP for Fareham



Contact Mark on 01329 233573 or [www.markhoban.com](http://www.markhoban.com) for my newsletter or follow me on Twitter @markhobanmp

## Meantime.... It's work as usual for Mark until you elect his successor



### **FAREHAM College's Bishop-sfield Road campus is undergoing a £16m transformation and work is cracking on.**

At the end of November, Mark visited the site when the concrete for the ground floor had been laid and 6 weeks later he

was back with Principal Nigel Duncan for the topping out ceremony.

Mark said: "Our young people deserve first class facilities so they can get the best possible qualifications, which will help local businesses grow."



### **Reducing diabetics amputations** **MARK has focused recently on driving improvements in the local health service.**

Fareham and Gosport has the highest rate of amputations in the UK.

Mark took part in a seminar in Ferneham Hall on how diabetics can take care of their feet and reduce the rate of amputations.

He highlighted the importance of patients taking control of their condition but also the need for local health services to improve their work with diabetics.

### **Fish fillet or pizza, madam?**

#### **SAINSBURY'S in Fareham is one of the town's largest employers.**

On a visit Mark met staff and headed behind the deli counter to try his hand at making a pizza and filleting a fish.

The successes of Sainsbury's and other local businesses has led to rapidly falling unemployment, giving more people the security of a pay packet.



# MARK HOBAN TO STAND DOWN

He has represented Fareham for 14 years and rose from the back benches to hold important ministerial offices in the current Conservative-led Government.

But he announced last month that he would not seek re-election on May 7 and this is the statement he made.

After 14 years in Parliament I believe that it is time to start a new chapter in my life so I have decided not to restand in May's General Election.

This has been a difficult decision but the right one. It is time to turn a new page and take on some new challenges.

It has been a privilege to have been the Member of Parliament for Fareham since 2001.

In that time, together we have more than doubled the majority. I have been able to help thousands of residents with their problems. After a hectic week in Westminster, visits to our excellent schools and college, thriving businesses and vibrant voluntary sector always reinvigorate me. We have much to be proud of in Fareham.

I found my 11 years on the front bench in both Opposition and Government challenging and rewarding. Few people have the opportunity to serve their country in government and I was very lucky to have been a minister in the Treasury and the Department of Work and Pensions.

During my time as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, I am particularly proud of the work I led to restructure financial services regulation in the UK in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

As Minister for Employment, I drove the performance of our back to work programmes helping more people find jobs and secure their future. Returning to the backbenches has given me the opportunity to campaign on local issues, such as A&E and diabetes care. But it is time to move on and embrace new opportunities.

I am grateful for the friendship and support I have received from local people since 2001. My wife, Fiona, has been by my side throughout my political journey. The spotlight falls on the politician but credit must also go to the family and friends who keep us going.

Whoever succeeds me in Fareham will, as I have, love both the place and the people.