

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

SARISBURY – Spring 2014

Protesters win green field homes fight

DEVELOPERS have been refused planning consent for 37 houses on a green field site at Lower Swanwick - to the delight of residents.

Uproar greeted news of the application and the protests were so vehement that **Conservative** ward Councillors Seán Woodward and David Swanbrow called a public meeting at Sarisbury Parish Rooms.

Over 150 residents listened to the arguments against the plan and the issue of traffic problems on Swanwick Lane.

Action followed swiftly. Councillor Woodward said: "After discussions with planning officers the application was refused soon after the meeting."

The developers wanted to put the houses on the green land behind The Navigator pub at the junction of Swanwick Lane and Bridge Road.

Also on the agenda was the traffic impact on Swanwick Lane of the trial opening of the Whiteley bus gate at Yew Tree Drive.

Councillor Woodward said: "Various measures were discussed aimed at alleviating the problems caused by the traffic volume and speeds, including improving visibility at junctions and the provision of speed cushions and build-outs."



Victory: (l to r) David Swanbrow, Mark Downie, Cheryl McGlynn, Ilse Steyl, Seán Woodward and Dave Webb pose in front of the site they saved at Lower Swanwick.

Inset (right) is the new island crossing near the playground.



ZERO X 6

No thaw in **Tory** council tax freeze

HERE'S a question for your local pub quiz – when did Fareham's council tax last go up?

Would you believe that it was way back in 2009?

It's a fact. By the end of 2015, you won't have paid a penny more on your local tax for **six years running**.

And thanks to the excellent financial control by the **Conservative** administrations at Borough and County level you will enjoy yet another year of the big freeze.

Despite further Whitehall cuts to councils' grants, Fareham is maintaining and delivering outstanding services at absolute **ZERO** extra cost to council taxpayers.

In his budget speech, Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said:

"This achievement is even more remarkable when you see that since 2009, when council tax was set at £140.22, our core funding from Government was over £6m and in that time council tax has remained the same, but funding has dropped to £3.2m.

"In those 6 years we have seen efficiencies of over £3.5m delivered, but the standards of service remain very high and we have not cut front line services to achieve this.

"The saving is £28.65 for the year 2014-15 alone and it would be a lot more if it was added up for each year since 2009.

"Had we followed inflation since 2009, the average Band D taxpayer would be paying nearly £170 to Fareham.

"We are proud to be a low tax borough and will continue to pursue value for money as long as residents place their trust in us – something we will never take for granted."

BAND D TAX
Fareham BC
£140.22
Increase 0%
Hampshire CC
£1,037.88
Increase 0%
Police & Crime Commissioner
£154.26
Increase 2%
Hants Fire & Rescue
£61.38
Increase 0%
TOTAL £1,393.74

England's 6th lowest council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting



Swimming pool at last

Work on the long awaited Western Wards swimming pool should start within the next 18 months.

It will be built at either at Coldeast or Locks Heath Shopping Village on Council-owned land.

A decision on funding will be taken in April.

Councillor David Swanbrow stated: "At last we have a practical and achievable solution to this long awaited aim."

Waitrose

As users of the Locks Heath Shopping Centre will be aware, the Co-op closed on February 15 and Waitrose will be opening its doors later in March.

We understand that Waitrose is recruiting new employees, as well as retaining many of the staff formerly employed by the Co-op, which is very good news for the local area.

Mayor's charities

Councillor Susan Bayford has been raising money for three charities during her term as Mayor of Fareham, which ends on May 29.

They are the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, The Rainbow Centre for Adult Rehabilitation which helps people with Parkinson's Disease, MS, stroke, head injury and other motor impairments and Riding for the Disabled which is based at the Crofton Equestrian Centre.

Susan would like to thank the public for so generously supporting her charities.

Time to get growing

This year's Fareham in Bloom competition is open for entries.

There were over 400 entries in 2013 and it is hoped even more people will take part this year.

It's a community competition that aims to suit everyone, whether you're a gardening expert or not.

There are 21 classes and sub-classes ranging from floral front gardens and hanging baskets to business premises and allotments. Closing date for entries is June 14.

Breast cancer support centre

JAN HILL has been receiving treatment for breast cancer.

No wonder she was delighted when we told her a support centre would be opening in the Borough shortly.

She said: "It will be such a support to myself to know I have someone I can talk to and visit locally without the hassle of the journey into QA."

A national organisation, The Haven, has bought 35 The Square, Titchfield where the centre will be based after refurbishment.

The Haven's appeal manager, Lucy Hone, said it would help people and their families across the region to overcome the physical and emotional side effects that diagnosis could bring.

Roads supremo launches major investment programme

HE HAS BEEN the supremo for the county's roads and transport for less than a year, but already County Councillor Seán Woodward has made a big impact.

The Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment is responsible for keeping the county moving and the roads in a reasonable state of repair.

He has started a massive investment project in roads maintenance and repair which will total tens of millions of pounds over the next few years.

Councillor Woodward said: "There have been huge challenges over recent months with many areas flooded and with conse-

quent road damage. Tens of thousands of sandbags have been deployed by our staff and contractors to protect life and property and there is a huge road repair backlog that now needs to be tackled."

PHOTO: Seán inspects a Multihog road patcher which can remove and re-lay large areas of damaged surface in a day.



THINK Brrm, brrm.. 'biker' Seán's ride around town is 'real eye-opener'



THINK BIKE! It's been the slogan for numerous road safety campaigns.

But unless you've ridden one, you'll have little idea what hazards motorcyclists face on our roads.

So Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured right) took to the saddle to see for himself.

John Baker, representing the Southern Region of the Motor Cycle Action Group, didn't actually trust him at the handlebars end of his Yamaha XJR 1300 superbike, so Seán rode pillion.

And the experience of riding around the Borough's roads was more than enough to convince him that bikers face a lot more dangers on two wheels than motorists do on four.

After removing helmet and leathers, Seán commented: "It was a real eye-opener for

me to understand roads from a motorcyclist's point of view.

"Undoubtedly engineers need to bear in mind the approach a biker needs to take to hazards and the road width needed to negotiate them."

John Baker said speed cushions could be difficult for motorcyclists to negotiate near bends.

"With speed cushions there is a balance to be struck. On the one hand people are concerned about motorists speeding.

"But it would make it a travesty if in trying to make it safe at one level it makes it more dangerous for another group of road users."

As a result of his ride Councillor Woodward made amendments to a traffic calming scheme in Whiteley.

Your views are needed on bus gate opening



A DECISION will be made later this year whether to make the opening of the bus gate to all except HGVs permanent after the trial ends in May.

Regular checks take place on Yew Tree Drive, Botley Road and Swanwick Lane to measure vehicle speeds, sizes, numbers and noise pollution levels.

The trial opening was subject to mitigation measures being put in place first and Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured) said: "We are keen to hear residents' views on whether similar measures should be deployed for example on Swanwick Lane as on Yew Tree Drive including speed cushions."

Memorials clean-up

THE COUNCIL is contributing £20,000 to clean, maintain and upgrade the Borough's war memorials.

It's to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 on August 4, 1914 and the 70th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 1944.

PHOTO: Sarisbury's memorial, by St Paul's Church.



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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 Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Seán Woodward on 01489 572723.

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.

The meddling Mr Pickles doesn't know his onions

WE HAVE a message for meddling Communities Minister Eric Pickles: "Get back in your jar."

Mr Pickles advocates a return to weekly bin collections, but he really doesn't know his onions.

Does he realise this would cost an extra 7% on your council tax just as Fareham's prudent **Conservative** councillors have kept it at **ZERO** for the sixth year running?

Fareham has 48,000 households and Sarisbury Councillor David Swanbrow said: "If we went to a weekly green refuse bin collection it would mean buying 4 new vehicles costing £638,000, plus staff, vehicle maintenance, cleaning and fuel costs of £369,000 per annum – an increase of about 7% on your council tax.

"It would also mean a reduction in our recycling rate, loss of revenue and the additional 33,000 miles travelled would produce about 83 tonnes of extra carbon per year."

Old clothes wanted

FAREHAM people are throwing away £300,000 a year by dumping old clothes and shoes into the wrong colour bin.

If you toss these unwanted things into a Council **green**-top domestic waste bin, they'll end up in the incinerator.

And that's **YOUR** money you're wasting.

However, if you take them to the **blue** European Recycling Company (ERC) bins on Council land, then 90% of income goes into the community fund to support local good causes.

Sarisbury Councillor David Swanbrow said: "The odd shoe, no matter how shabby, clean vests, socks etc are all valuable.

"Grand slam tennis court surfaces are made from old trainers, so even if you have only one put it in the **blue** bin."

"When the bin contents are processed, they are sorted into 400 dif-



ferent categories, 95% of which are reusable – even zips, rivets and plastic bags.

"The charities that were on Council land were given income they used to receive a year in advance, with a promise to do so for four years provided the tonnage holds up."

Be careful. The community won't get a penny if you use other than the Fareham **blue** bins.

PHOTO: Sarisbury resident John Waters and David Swanbrow set an example by recycling old clothes in the **blue** bin in Holly Hill Park car park.



YOUR voice in Westminster
by MARK HOBAN
MP for Fareham



Contact Mark on 01329 233573 or www.markhoban.com

Mark presses for schools' financial freedom to expand

Every parent wants the best school for their child. But too often schools have to turn pupils away if they have too many applications for the places available.

This is happening at Cams Hill, but they could take on more pupils if they were free to borrow money to expand.

I made the case for every academy, like Cams and Fareham Academy, to have this freedom in a debate at the House of Commons. I believe we shouldn't let red tape get in the way of giving our children the education they deserve.

The Government is listening to my arguments, but listening is not enough. I will continue to push for our children to have the best start in life.

There are nearly 20,000 people in Fareham aged 50-64 and over the next 20 years they will have to make important decisions about their retirement.



One of the biggest decisions will be buying an annuity. Today's pensioners are missing out on up to £1bn because they didn't shop around for an annuity.

I am working with *The Sunday Times* and other campaigners to reform the market so we can make the most of our savings when we retire.

This might not be the most flattering photo of me but it is all in a good cause.

Fareham resident Richard Hunt, who lost his leg in an accident at sea, is kayaking round the UK to raise money for BLESMA, a military charity that cares for limbless ex-service-men.

To raise money and the profile of his cause, I took part in a wheelchair laser tag competition at Fareham Leisure Centre. Richard is taking on a great challenge and I wish him the best of luck.



Chris Meany Photography