



Wise **Tory** budgeting braces for end of Whitehall support

IT'S BEEN a financially challenging year for councils across Britain and there are rough seas ahead.

In Fareham, it's brought out the best of **Conservative** budgeting and wisest spending of your money.

Against the odds, we kept Fareham's council tax to almost the lowest in England for many years with zero rises, while maintaining services with declining government support.

In his 2017-18 budget speech, Council Leader Seán Woodward said another low rate had been achieved with a modest £5 a year rise for Band D properties.

The average home in Fareham is band C, so Borough Council services will cost them just 1p extra per day.

But in 2019, all government revenue support will cease and we'll be left on our own to generate sources of income, plus what we can get from business rates.

Your prudent **Conservative** Council anticipated this and

laid plans to generate income from property investment.

He said: "Only £6.3m of our £48m annual budget comes from council tax, so the Borough Council relies heavily on income from fees, charges and commercial investments.

"Days of living off income from cash investments are past with interest rates at record lows, so we began buying commercial property with good solid tenants (Tesco, Sainsbury's, Specsavers etc) providing a much better income.

"The commercial portfolio generates a 6% return and the buildings remain an asset to sell if the capital is needed.

"75% of the portfolio value is in Fareham. Recent acquisitions include Halfords, PC World, Argos and Dunelm at

Park Gate and a commercial building for Universal Tool and Production at Daedalus.

"Millions of pounds annually are now being generated and every £60,000 is equivalent to around 1% off the council tax bill."

WHAT BAND D PROPERTIES WILL PAY

Fareham Borough Council £150.22 (+£5)

Hampshire County Council £1,133.10 (+£53.82)

Hampshire Fire and Rescue £63.84 (+£1.24)

Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner £165.46 (+£5)

TOTAL £1,512.62 (+£65.06)

Fareham has lots to look forward to during the year ahead

Modest savings will come from moving Fareham Today magazine online.

We will now be publishing more frequent, shorter editions on our website.

If you'd still like a copy posted through your door or to receive email alerts you can sign up.

We welcome a well-known hotel chain that will bring a long overdue hotel to the town centre.

We have exciting ideas for making the centre a vibrant place and have put together some draft plans.

But we'd like your ideas on how we can improve it.

A splendid new play area will open in the summer at Holly Hill, Sarisbury.

School children are collecting items to put into a time capsule which will be buried there for 25 years.

It will add to the highly successful £9m Leisure Centre.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of flying at Daedalus, the former Fleet Air Arm HQ.

We've looked at its history and will be holding an event in the summer for the community to mark this historic milestone.

More details later.



POSITIVE steps are being taken to make better use of Fareham's £25m Community Hospital.

Since it opened in 2010, it's only operated a business week of 45 hours and just 40% of its space is used.

Putting Community Hospital to better use

Councillor Seán Woodward blames the original funding arrangement whereby community health partnerships (which paid for the build and maintenance) have charged commercial rent and demand separate leases for use of the rooms.

"This has led to the nonsense of no single person being in control and some NHS users seeking cheaper accommodation elsewhere.

"For example, community nurse staff are currently accommodated at the Office of National Statistics in Segensworth," he said.

In January, Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group agreed a single annual payment with the CHP for the rest of the contract.

The remaining issue is that of a single NHS manager, as CHP insist on appointing one to control useage!

NEWS ROUND

**Traffic scheme imminent**

Tenders are being assessed for the Swanwick Lane traffic calming scheme and the County Council is looking to award imminently with a view to the works being completed in the spring.

There was concern over speed cushions in the design being damaged by snow ploughs – a rare event indeed!

The highways department agreed to monitor their performance if we get snowy conditions in Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley and to review their provision in Swanwick Lane.

An investigation into BurrIDGE traffic calming will be carried out after the Swanwick Lane scheme is in place.

School governors needed

Here's a chance to use your skills and experience by becoming a school governor.

Brookfield School has been delivering impressive GCSE results and is constantly exploring innovative approaches to learning and teaching.

It buzzes with extra-curricular activities, from music, drama and dance to sports and community projects.

If you can spare a couple of hours a week and manage 5.30pm on Tuesdays for committee meetings, contact chairman of governors Eloise Appleby on 07713 876 168 or eloise_appleby@sky.com.

Parkinson's party

Councillor Seán Woodward is the President of the Fareham and District Branch of Parkinson's UK.

He was delighted to welcome Fareham MP Suella Fernandes MP to the group's Christmas party. Pictured with incoming chairman Valerie Rossiter.

**Age Concern book launch**

COUNCILLOR Seán Woodward was delighted to visit the Lockswood Day Centre recently to experience their intergenerational activities.

These involved young and old sharing in singing and games as well as just chatting.

Also, the launch of *Getting On*, a very interesting book written by Age Concern clients about their experiences of life.

PHOTO: Meeting the Age Concern management team.

**Council opens latest park**

FAREHAM'S newest parkland and walks at Coldeast Meadows are open.

Interpretation boards are being designed for visitors to appreciate the abundance of flora and fauna on the lakeland paths, community orchard and meadows comprising the large open space made available by the Council.

Dan Powell's work can be seen elsewhere in Fareham and he will design several boards to be erected in the spring.

The Council's countryside rangers and Friends of Coldeast look after the area.

Councillor Seán Woodward said:

"Most local residents will be unaware of this gem so close to Holly Hill Woodland Park and the new leisure centre. It is very accessible and beautiful and I am sure it will be popular."

PHOTO (l to r): Mark Trigwell (ranger), Rosie and Dan Powell, Seán Woodward, Helen Sosnowski (ranger)

**New scout 'log cabin' and play area in the pipeline**

THE 1st Sarisbury Green Scout Group is over 100 years old and its leaders are working on ideas for a new scout hut.

Scouts, beavers and cubs are drawn from across Sarisbury Ward and currently meet at BurrIDGE Village Hall.

Ideally, a log cabin style hut could be largely self-built, once funds of around £150,000-£200,000 and a suitable location are found. Discussions have taken place with

community leaders, including the possibility of re-using one of the tennis courts at BurrIDGE sports ground.

The group hopes to expand the opportunities scouting makes available to young people in Sarisbury Ward.

THERE has been a positive response from residents excited to hear that Sarisbury Green play area could benefit from up to £25,000 of improvements.

Most who responded to the request for views asked the Borough Council to install an extra multi-climbing unit which would be suitable for younger children.

Of the existing swings, one will be replaced with an inclusive swing suitable for wheelchair users. The residents' second most popular choice was a roundabout, and one of these is also planned.

In addition to new equipment, the existing play equipment and seating will be painted. All improvements should be completed before the summer.

Party time for hospital friends

The Friends of Fareham Community Hospital (FFCH) hosted a Christmas party which was attended by many volunteers who support the dementia friendly clinic and the phlebotomy appointments desk.

Trustees chairman Jill Sadler welcomed everyone to the event and said that the Friends would continue their series of health talks in 2017, topics for which are chosen by the community.

PHOTO: Includes Jill Sadler, trustees, volunteers and patrons, Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward and Councillor Brian Bayford.

**Urgent need for cemetery extension**

THE ONLY open cemetery serving the Western Wards is full and a plan for an urgent extension has been approved.

This will create space for 377 more graves and 240 cremated remains plots to the south east at a cost of £300,000.

A programme of planting will be undertaken around the site and on land at Coldeast to mitigate the loss of trees.

Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured) said the cemetery was opened in 1957 and had been a popular location for burials due to its tranquil surroundings.

"It is only fair that people should be able to have their loved ones buried close so that they can visit their graves easily.

"Any decision to extend the cemetery will need to be carefully

considered as we seek to ensure adequate provision of burial plots in the Western Wards, while balancing environmental needs.

"I have been contacted by older residents concerned about the lack of cemetery space in the area. I am pleased that we now have a solution for their concerns."

First phases of the extension should start around autumn 2017, with a view to being available for burials in early 2019.

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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 Jon Butts on 07464 847852.

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.

A clear plan for Brexit and an economy that works

The Prime Minister has set out a bold plan for a global Britain.

It contains 12 objectives including controlling our own laws, strengthening the Union, controlling immigration, protecting workers' rights, free trade with European markets and new trade agreements with other countries.

After a Parliamentary vote and debate, Article 50 will be triggered, enabling the formal process of withdrawal to begin.

All of this is set against a backdrop of the lowest unemployment in 10 years, the UK being the fastest growing G7 economy, the deficit cut by two thirds and Global businesses like Nissan and Google investing in the UK since the Referendum to create even more jobs here.

The UK's strength will ensure that we can deal with the challenge ahead!



Suella



FERNANDES MP for Fareham

Hundreds flock to Ferneham Hall for Apprentice Fair

EQUIPPING Fareham's young people with skills and know-how is crucial to ensuring that they thrive in the workplace, build expertise and boost business.

I am passionate about apprenticeships as a means of empowering the next generation and was delighted to hold my second Apprenticeships Fair in Ferneham Hall in January.

Hundreds of school pupils, sixth formers and job-seekers attended the day event, kindly sponsored by Segensworth-based manufacturers, Saab Seaeeye.

With over 30 organisations represented, covering the IT, engineering, aerospace, marine, health services, care, military, naval and charitable sectors, visitors met employers, apprentices and learnt more about training and jobs.

Throughout the day, workshops were held at the Careers Hub on CV preparation, inter-



Suella discusses the fair with Saab Seaeeye apprentices Jack Burgess (left) and Zach Coates.

view skills and presentation.

By the end of the whole day, some people even left with an offer of an interview!

Suella said: "Thanks to all sponsors and companies who made the event possible."

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Surgery dates

I will hold surgeries at different venues across Fareham. Please call to arrange an appointment to meet me.

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/contact

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

Progress on Fareham Community Hospital

We need to use Fareham Community Hospital better.

That's why I set up The Fareham Community Hospital Taskforce (pictured) last year.

The local CCG has now agreed to a pilot project which will enable the hospital to be used by more healthcare providers and will create a more centralised management system to help patients make better use of this valuable local asset.



Office of National Statistics visit Parliament

I was delighted to welcome Fareham's team from the Office of National Statistics to the Houses of Parliament.

We had a good discussion on the impact of the Digital Economy Bill related to the work that the ONS does.



Speaking up for Southern Rail commuters

The Southern Rail strikes have affected many rail commuters in Fareham. They are totally unacceptable, when there are no jobs at stake, no pay cuts and no safety implications of the new driver-operated doors.

I raised the issue in Parliament with the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, who urged the Rail Unions to call off strikes and come back to the negotiating table.

