



InTouch

WHITELEY – Spring 2014

Bus gate decision awaited

WITHIN days of the speed cushions being placed on Yew Tree Drive to slow the increased amount of traffic consequent on the trial opening of the bus gate the cushions started to break up and needed to be replaced at no cost by the contractors.

The trial opening of the bus gate to all except HGV traffic, which was strongly supported by residents subject to suitable mitigation measures being installed first, is now underway until the end of May.

There are regular checks taking place on Yew Tree Drive, Botley Road and Swanwick Lane to measure vehicle speeds, sizes and numbers as well as noise pollution levels.

Later in the year a decision will be made on whether the opening should be permanent and, if so, what further mitigation measures may be needed.

The decision to hold the trial following the M27 and A27 roadworks was made by County Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured) who said "It is important, given the high level of public support for the trial, that we properly evaluate it.

"Clearly there are benefits and disbenefits with the



convenience for Whiteley residents of easier and quicker journeys to and through Sarisbury, Park Gate and Swanwick but with far greater amounts of traffic on Yew Tree Drive.

"This will be carefully monitored and, with the mitigation measures that I agreed, slowed to a reasonable speed along with safe crossing points provided for our children."

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

NEWS ROUND



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.

Whiteley 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 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 and Riding for the Disabled which is based at the Crofton Equestrian Centre.

Susan thanked public for their generosity.

New history group

The Friends of Bursledon Brickworks have been able to set up Swanwick, Sarisbury and Burrigde Local History Society with a £700 community grant from County Councillor Seán Woodward.

Regular meetings will be held at the Brickworks Museum and anyone interested should email admin@bursledonbrickworks.org.uk or telephone 01489 576248.

Councillor Woodward will open the new museum at Bursledon Brickworks on April 6 at 11am.

New computer club 'logs on' to instant success

WHITELEY'S new Computer Club logged on for the first time and judging by the smiling faces in the picture taken at the first meeting, it was an instant hit.

Founder members Steven Redding and Andrew Whitfield, who are delighted with the response, decided something was needed for non-sporting kids and set up the club which offers various activities including PC building, web and mobile app development.

County Councillor Seán Woodward gave a £700 grant from his budget towards setting it up at Whiteley Community Centre, where it meets on Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm.

Support came from local businesses and the Borough Council provided laptops and more funding.



Big roads investment is launched

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 consequent 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."



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.

£1,000 community grant buys equipment for Whiteley school



WHITELEY'S newest school, Cornerstone Primary, will provide its children with a timber trail, thanks to a £1,000 grant to the PTA.

The cash came from County Councillor Seán Woodward's community budget.

PTA chairwoman Alethea Adair-Stantiall said: "We are delighted by the support of this councillor's grant.

"It has made a significant contribution to our 'Play Trail' project which aims to provide the children with a structured and enjoyable outdoor play facility.

"The children have been expressing their ideas about the Play Trail equipment options with their teachers and we are now in a position to take the project forward."

PHOTO: Councillor Woodward with headmistress Charlotte Weavers and vice-chairman of governors Rev Sandy Matheson.

Regional breast cancer centre opening

A NATIONAL organisation, The Haven, has bought 35 The Square, Titchfield where a regional breast cancer support centre will be based.

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.

"The help and support offered to each person is

tailored to their particular needs and we work with each visitor's medical team to ensure that our programme dovetails with their breast cancer treatment."

The premises will be refurbished, but its opening depends on covering costs and putting in place two years' running costs.

Lucy Hone appealed to the community to help reach the £2.5m target as soon as possible.

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, 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.

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 Whiteley 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.

Whiteley 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 **blue** Fareham bins

PHOTO: 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