

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

WHITELEY – 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

Pat Johnson said: 'I have friends who live in the northwest of England who are envious of the position we are in. The services provided are very good value for money and our council is extremely responsive to all enquiries, concerns and complaints.'

Jon Butts said: 'FBC works hard to be more efficient and to generate other income sources rather than simply increasing Council Tax each year. It cannot be easy but shows it can be done!'

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



A plug for green vehicles

The Borough Council has installed an electric vehicle charging point in the Civic Way north car park.

Funded 75% by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, with a contribution from Southern Electric, it costs about £6 for a 15-20 minute charge, enough to drive about 62 miles (100km) and includes free parking during charging.

Bus gate final act

After the decision by County Councillor Seán Woodward to allow the permanent opening of the bus gate to cars as well as buses, the Planning Committee was expected to end the final act on February 25 by granting permanent consent.

Traffic calming on Swanwick Lane, which has taken the brunt of extra traffic on the Swanwick side of the opening, is a condition.

Changes must also be made on Yew Tree Drive, including 'filling in the gaps' where reckless drivers swerve around the cushions to drive down the middle of the road or into the bus lay-by next to Gull Coppice.

Bid to ease A&E crisis

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

Reasons include shortage of GPs, bed blocking, time wasting by drunks and those with minor ailments and contract changes to on-call services.

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, set up 4 integrated care teams – 2 in Fareham, 2 in Gosport – comprising district nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers and other staff.

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

£5,000 boost spurs disabled riders

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.

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 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.



Grants welcomed by association

A GRANT of £90,000 has been given to Whiteley Community Association by Fareham Borough Council.

It will pay for extra toilets and replace the floor of Whiteley Hall.

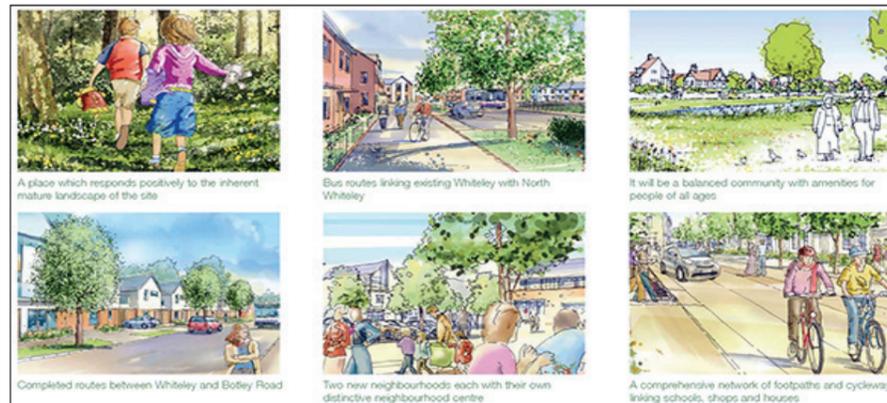
It follows grants from County Councillor Seán Woodward to the association of £440 for new crockery and £160 to Monday Minis children's group for catering equipment.

Councillor Woodward said: "The

community centre is operating at capacity and that is why new toilets are required so the Whiteley Pre-school can have access to facilities separate from the remainder of the building."

Association chairman Mark Allan said: "We are very grateful for the support provided by Fareham Borough Council and the new facilities will be a tremendous asset to our community centre."

New roads ahead of 3,500 Whiteley homes plan



ARTISTS' SKETCHES give an impression of plans expected by Winchester City Council for 3,500 new homes north of Whiteley, including a secondary school, two primary schools, district and local centres.

A major aspect will be completion of a new road to Curbridge in advance of

most of the development, for which Councillor Seán Woodward worked hard through the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to get £15m funding.

He asked – and the development consortium agreed - it should be completed within 1-2 years of the development starting.

The new road will be an extension of Bluebell Way and link with Botley Road. Whiteley Way will be dualled where it is currently single carriageway and it will be extended to the secondary school.

He said: "We are also very keen that as well as the new roads the first significant part of the development should be a new primary school to accommodate Cornerstone Primary School which is currently in temporary, albeit it splendid buildings.

"This is a huge extension to Whiteley which will double it in size but will bring forward the necessary infrastructure which is beyond the means of the current development of just 3,000 homes.

"I am delighted to have helped obtain the required funding so we can have roads ahead of rather than after development, and it was on that basis that I recently agreed the permanent opening on behalf of the highway authority of the bus gate to cars."



Crawler lane to go

A STRETCH of the A27 from Bursledon Bridge to the top of the hill at Sarisbury Green will 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 pleased that it will be possible to improve safety for motorists and cyclists on this very busy road."

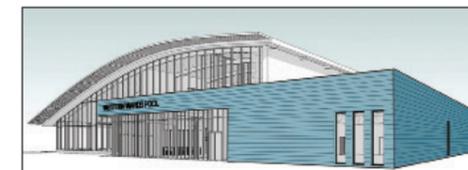
The third lane, often used by drivers to overtake uphill at excessive speed, will be removed and make room for cycle lanes either side.

Green light for £7m super centre

DETAILED plans for the prestigious £7m Western Wards Leisure Centre have been approved by Fareham planners. It is due for completion in May 2016.

The building at Coldeast, Sarisbury, will incorporate main and teaching pools, fitness suite, spinning and dance studios, wet and dry changing facilities, foyer, ancillary offices and plant room and car park.

It 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.



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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 David Swanbrow on 01489 572723.

WHITELEY MATTERS

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.

WE SERVE YOU ALL



MARK HOBAN

MP for Fareham

YOUR voice in Westminster



Contact Mark on 01329 233573 or 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 Bishopfield 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.