

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Spring 2018

Just a 1p a day rise as **Tories** set austerity-defying budget

CONSERVATIVES have agreed yet another austerity-defying budget for Fareham.

Despite losing its entire Revenue Support Grant from government, the Borough share of council tax will rise by just 1p a day for the average home.

The Council spends £46m delivering services, but the amount raised in council tax accounts for only 14% of that sum, so we have to raise the rest by investing YOUR money wisely.

For example, over £26m has been invested in the last 3 years in commercial property, mainly in Fareham Borough, producing an income of nearly £2m a year.

Without this income your council tax would have to be increased by nearly 30%.

The resulting budget sees the Council's services remain intact and a district council tax which remains almost the lowest in the country.

Car parking charges are frozen for the 7th year and continue to apply only in the town centre, and free in the evenings and Sundays in the long-stay car parks.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "Times are incredibly hard in the public sector, but we have been able to preserve all the services which our residents value



Relaxing in the lounge at the showpiece Sylvan Court, a sheltered housing complex at Coldeast for our older residents which cost £5m and has every modern comfort



while respecting that many, particularly those on fixed incomes, would find even modest increases in our charges difficult to bear."

Council will find you a plot to self-build your dream home

EVER dreamt of building your own home?

Fareham Council has started working towards that goal with The Right to Build Task Force.

It aims to include a range of custom and self-build housing plots at Welborne Garden Village and elsewhere in the Borough on any developments of 100 homes and above.

Since its launch last year, the Task Force has been working with councils, landowners and others to bring forward custom, self-build and community-led housing opportunities, with an emphasis

on scale and housing affordability.

It can offer subsidised support for councils and community groups to enable them to meet the demand for self-build space.

One of the Task Force's key objectives is to provide more affordable homes for those in housing need and work with councils to help deliver these.

Council Leader Seán Woodward, councillors and officers met the Right to Build Task Force recently with Richard Bacon MP,

ambassador of the Task Force and Mario Wolf, Task Force director.

Richard Bacon said: "It was a

pleasure to meet Fareham Borough Council to discuss self-building opportunities in Fareham.

"Developments such as Welborne offer huge scope for bringing forward a range of well-designed housing options and are, therefore, a logical choice to help meet local demand for people who want to build their own homes."

Residents who are interested in building their own homes in the Fareham area and Welborne can sign up to the Council's register at http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/local_plan/selfbuild.aspx

This will help them to find a suitable plot of land.

Only those that have lived or worked in the Borough for at least two years are eligible.



Almost England's lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES



New library visiting day
Citizens Advice state that their new weekly visiting day is now on Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm. CAB advice line is 03444 111306 and Webchat citizensadvice.org.uk

Medical loan centre
After years of chasing we are advised that the lease for the Red Cross medical loan store at Fareham Community Hospital is ready for signing which means that, albeit years late, the store should be opened this spring.

Dementia support group
A memory support group for people living with dementia and their carers meets every Monday from 10.30 to 3pm at Fareham Community Hospital.
This is an informal group and people may come every week or just drop in when they want to. Refreshments are provided by the volunteers of the Friends of the Hospital.

A dementia advisor is available for appointments and the friends are there to chat and help.

Same-day GP service success
The Fareham Primary Care Service same-day GP access at Fareham Community Hospital reports that nearly 1,000 patients were seen within the first 5 weeks of its inception.

The service is being implemented by NHS doctors and managers, and currently takes 200-300 calls a day. Park Gate Councillor Brian Bayford stated: "This is an exciting step forward in improving access to care in Fareham."
"Currently, 4 GP practices are providing this service and it is expected that this scheme will include other practices in Fareham in the coming year."
Fareham MP Suella Fernandes and her Fareham Community Hospital Task Force are currently trying to improve public transport with regular links to the hospital.

Dog owners told: 'Pick up your pooch's poo'

OWNERS who don't clean up their pets' mess are in the doghouse.
Complaints about walkers letting their dogs off the lead have come from users of Allotment Road recreation ground and newly-opened Coldeast Woodland.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who's pictured meeting a group of responsible owners – all carrying poo bags – said:
"There are dog bins provided but people seem to think it is OK to allow dogs off leads who mess just off the paths and leave it there."
"I have spoken to the Enforcement Officers and asked them to make random visits to the locations and they will also see if any additional

or updated signage is required.
"We will also look at installing a poo bag dispenser and campaign posters and see what we can do on social media."
"Most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their dogs, but they also should think about clearing up when they mess off paths as it is not only dogs, but children who play there."



Campaign to cut food waste

FOOD makes up a quarter of waste we throw away in Hampshire.

Fareham Council is running the 'Great Food Rescue' in partnership with Sainsbury's, and you can get involved. Local children are designing a logo to encourage people to take home their leftovers. The winning logo will be printed on bags that will be distributed to local restaurants.
Keep a simple food diary and jot down any food that doesn't get eaten. Return it to us and we will send you a Food Saver pack or download it from the Council website(loveleftovers@fareham.gov.uk) or contact them for a paper copy.

Share your recipes to use up leftovers and tips to avoid food waste by email or social media. If you are part of a community group who would like to be involved, let the Council know and they can visit your group.

Outrage over Taylor Wimpey's parking fines



DEVELOPERS Taylor Wimpey have infuriated residents of newly-built Greenacres Road by introducing parking permits resulting in fines of £100.

But the company, which appointed Parking and Property Management Ltd to manage the private unadopted road, has been forced to back down amid a storm of protest.

Park Gate Conservative Councillor Simon Martin (pictured) said residents voted to be able to park in formal bays, but there are not enough and they were furious when the management company started fining those who didn't comply £100.

"This draconian measure is forcing residents to park elsewhere with an impact on neighbouring Peters Road and Littlewood Gardens, where residents' drives are being blocked."

He fears the situation could worsen with a knock-on effect from the rest of the 250-300 Wimpey homes being built on former strawberry fields.

"The situation where residents are being forced to

park away from where they live and to be faced with a £100 fine is disgraceful and Taylor Wimpey need to take control of this matter now.

"I feel for residents who are being penalised by an over-zealous approach. Appeals by those who've been hit with a parking notice have fallen on deaf ears."

Discussions over adopting the road have been held between Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils and parking issues with Taylor Wimpey.

The company admitted it should have obtained the Council's consent before implementing the car parking restrictions which it did not do.

Taylor Wimpey wrote to the management company telling them to cease the car parking enforcement on Greenacres Road and remove signage relating to it.

Simon Martin added: "I will continue to investigate in an attempt to resolve this matter."

Concern over China's waste import cuts

CHINESE restrictions on waste imports could impact on Hampshire.

Councillor Simon Martin said: "With China deciding to reduce the import of plastic waste from UK recycling schemes, there has been concern about local schemes in Hampshire."

"Veolia is responsible for managing treatment and disposal of waste under contract, securing markets for the materials collected and achieving best value."

"The Chinese situation has created some

uncertainty and Veolia is continually identifying new markets to ensure that Hampshire material can continue to be placed to market."

Our plastic bottle stream is of good quality and goes through a secondary sorting process before being placed to market in the UK and Europe, but not China.

He added: "Please continue to recycle your materials and use the guidance provided by the Council to maximise the amount going for disposal."

There's money going begging

RESIDENTS are advised not to give money to two rough sleepers in Park Gate area.

Their haunt is around the Middle Road area, where they have been begging for the past 3 months.

Councillor Simon Martin says the Council is aware and they have been offered accommodation by local homeless charity Two Saints.

He said: "But they declined, possibly because begging in Park Gate area is lucrative. They have a dog that needs treatment, so the dog wardens are interested in finding the pair."

"Responding to requests for money will not help the situation. The Council is considering using a Public Spaces Protection Order that deals with particular nuisances such as begging."

Brian Bayford to step down after 16 years' service to Park Gate community

BRIAN BAYFORD will be standing down in May as one of your Conservative councillors for Park Gate after 16 years' service.

He writes: "These years have been a very enjoyable period, during which I have responded to the many concerns that you have raised and made many friends."

"Most of the issues raised, with the efficient support of officers at Fareham Borough Council, have been resolved although I am aware that roads, parking and infrastructure are still a great concern to residents."

"Recently, we were successful in having the large area of land to the right of the road leading to Coldeast Mansion being transferred to the Council."

"This will be properly maintained as a wild flower garden."

"I am aware that some issues are ongoing, in particular the problems with the access to the Sainsbury's convenience store on Bridge Road. I hope this will be resolved in due course by the Highways Authority."

"I am particularly pleased that, after over 30 years of campaigning, Fareham Community Hospital was opened in 2010."

"There are still some issues to be resolved and we all hope that the second phase of the hospital will be completed soon."

"Thanks to MP Suella Fernandes' Task Force, of which I will remain a member, the Hub is now running successfully and is assisting local GPs to manage their case loads more efficiently."

"Ian Bastable (pictured) has been selected as the candidate to replace me. I hope you will support Ian, who I am sure will work very hard in your interests and I wish him every success."



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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 Brian Bayford on 01489 577772.

School children's lives at risk as PUFFIN crossing bid is ruled out

CHILDREN'S lives are in danger crossing roads around Brookfield School.

It has raised parents' fears and calls for a crossing after several accidents and near misses.

Large numbers of children use the roads and have to contend with narrow pavements on parts of Brook Lane, particularly at Lockwood Road roundabout.

County Councillor Seán Woodward had several traffic counts carried out over the last decade to try to get a controlled crossing as close to the roundabout as possible.

He said all these counts showed more than enough vehicles to justify the crossing, but nowhere near enough pedestrians.

The latest count last September proved the criteria for a PUFFIN crossing were met where most pedestrians cross on Brook Lane, immediately north of the



roundabout.

However, because of the number of driveways on the east side of Brook Lane and other technical complications, it is impossible to install a PUFFIN crossing there.

Councillor Woodward said: "It is really disappointing, having been pursuing this matter for a decade, that as soon as the criteria for a controlled crossing are met the feasibility study shows that it cannot be sited where most people

cross.

"I met the headmistress and her team at Brookfield School and have asked the County Council to enhance the visibility of the point at which most people cross as well as the remainder of Brook Lane near the school with luminous bollards, carriageway markings etc."

PHOTO: Seán Woodward meets Neil Haines and David Simpson from the school management team.

Fareham traffic pollution brings Environment Minister to town

POOR AIR quality caused by traffic pollution in several parts of Fareham led to a Government minister visiting to see what action the Council is taking.

The Council is taking it seriously and, with ANPR cameras monitoring 27 sites across the Borough, is doing its best to improve the situation.

There will be a new air quality working group chaired by Warsash Councillor Trevor Cartwright, which will speed up the process of bidding for Government grants.

A survey will be carried out to see the nature of traffic using these roads and the information will be part of our new plan that must be submitted to the Government by the end of March this year.

The Government recently published a new Air Quality Plan, looking at ways of reducing unacceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide vehicle emissions.

The report highlighted hotspots in Fareham, including the A27 near the Delme roundabout down to Quay Street roundabout, part of Gosport Road, and along the A27 to the Station roundabout.

It sparked a recent visit to Fareham by Environment



Minister Dr Therese Coffey to discuss the Council's plans to tackle the problem.

She said: "Air pollution has improved significantly since 2010 but we recognise there is more to do which is why we have put in place a £3.5 billion plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions.

"I am delighted to see Fareham taking this seriously and look forward to seeing firm plans for action as they develop further."

Park Gate Councillors Brian Bayford and Simon Martin agreed reducing air pollution was top priority, particularly

with the huge expected increase in housing and traffic.

PHOTOS: (l to r) Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Fareham MP Suella Fernandes, Council Leader Seán Woodward, Dr Thérèse Coffey, County Councillor Rob Humby and Gosport MP Caroline Dinéage. (inset) Portland Street monitoring station.

