

CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Spring 2019

Demands for Western Wards school admissions policy change

A NEW ADMISSIONS policy is vital to ensure children get places of their parents' choice in Western Wards primary schools.

New development forced on Fareham Council by the Government is yet to start in the Warsash/Park Gate area, but already there is mounting pressure for primary places.

And County Councillor Seán Woodward says: "It's unfair that children who have spent 3 years making friends and bonding at the infant school should be at risk of losing those relationships simply because they live a little further away from the school, albeit within the catchment area."

His remarks followed complaints from parents about the coming September's allocation of school places.

"Pressures mounted further with some children living in Burridge and Swanwick, in the catchment area for Sarisbury Infant and Junior Schools, failing to receive places at those schools. We are offering parents support with appeals."

In the current year, a temporary class of 30 was set up in year-R at Sarisbury Infant School which will progress through the junior school.

There has been serious discussion around the need for a permanent increase by one form of entry (an additional 210 places)



for either Sarisbury Infant and Sarisbury C of E (Controlled) Junior or at Hook-with-Warsash Primary School.

Councillor Woodward said: "The reason for not all 90 infants being able to transfer to Sarisbury Junior School is that some people have moved into the area and live closer to the schools than those already attending, meaning they are able to take their places.

"There are two issues. Firstly, there are more Year-R children in the infant school catchment than there are places this year.

"Secondly, there is no automatic right of passage for children attending the infant school automatically to transfer to the junior school should they wish."

He said a similar situation in Whiteley when children had to attend school in Sarisbury resulted in a change of admissions policy allowing them to progress between the schools, despite being out of the catchment area.

"We now need such a change to the admissions policy of the two schools again so that in-catchment children have the right to move from the infants to the juniors."

He has asked head teachers to work with education officers to agree such a policy with their governing bodies.

PHOTO: Seán Woodward and InTouch team member Joanne Bull visiting Sarisbury C of E (Controlled) Junior School.

Celebrating 20 years of outstanding Conservative administration

FAREHAM Council is the envy of every local authority in Hampshire and way beyond.

Conservatives have brought consistency, stability and prosperity since taking over running the Borough 20 years ago from the failed Lib Dem/Labour pact that left the Council facing bankruptcy.

The anniversary on May 4 was celebrated with a party at Portchester Parish Hall, attended by nearly 100 councillors, one former and two sitting MPs, party workers and supporters.

It also marked the date that Seán Woodward was elected as its dynamic Council Leader.

He said Fareham had steadfastly voted **Conservative** because the Council was seen to be delivering for local people.

"We have consistently set the lowest taxes and best services



of most district councils, high quality parks, leisure facilities, a good refuse collection service and, as far as we can, clean streets.

"We support local commerce and industry with fantastic business facilities, including our industrial estates and business parks at Solent Airport@Daedalus.

"We invest in commercial property to raise millions of pounds to deliver excellent services and work with others to bring huge road infrastructure investment in our Borough.

"We treat taxpayers' money as it should be treated – to be spent only as necessary and always prudently.

"It takes a great deal of planning and delivery. We have an excellent team of officers who deliver for our residents day after day. I am so grateful to them for their work."

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



Weed spraying reinstated
After the complaints raised across the Borough last year, we discussed improvements with the County Council to try to make sure that these problems don't happen this year.

We received confirmation that weed spraying was due to start in May and should have been carried out in the Park Gate and Sarisbury Green area at the end of the month.

All the Borough should have been treated by the end of May.

If there are any problems with weeds in your area please let your local councillors know.

New dog fouling law

A clamp-down on dirty dog owners came into force on April 1.

The Council's new Public Spaces Protection Order aims to encourage dog owners to be more responsible.

It allows the Council to continue to tackle dog fouling and request dogs be put on leads if causing a public nuisance.

They must be on leads in sensitive places such as cemeteries and are excluded from certain places such as play areas.

The PSPO also limits the number of dogs a person can walk at any one time to four.

Get in on the act

Beacon Productions have been awarded a £3,100 grant from the Borough Council's community fund.

The local non-profit making group wanted to buy two video cameras to help members to take part in small-scale productions which they write and perform.

Councillor Simon Martin visited a group meeting recently and was impressed by their skills.

The Council sets aside £300,000 for the community fund, which is there to support local projects.

So if you want to get in on the act and apply for funding or find out more about Beacon Productions, contact your ward councillors.

Ups and downs of building completion dates

COMPLETION of the development site on Middle Road/Station Road has been further delayed.

It should have been finished at the end of July, but has now been rescheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

"However, there is better news for drivers and pedestrians passing the site at the end of Botley Road where the retirement residence nears completion," says Councillor Ian



Nearly finished: Botley Road retirement homes.

Bastable. "Residents who raised concerns about their children walking to school from the Badger's Copse development should now be able to do so without crossing the busy road due to the pathway being closed.

"With some work still to be completed on the pavement, followed by resurfacing, we can expect the whole development to be completed by June when residents start to occupy the new homes."

'Big Belly' digests the litter

TWO new smart bins have been installed in the Borough as part of a trial to help reduce the amount of litter.

The bins, nicknamed the 'Big Belly', replaced another brand of solar bins at Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane car park in Warsash.

Solar compaction technology boosts capacity to 808 litres and compacts the litter several times a day, so more can be disposed of and fewer collections are needed.

'Big Belly' is currently used by more than 80 councils and is operated by a handle or by using a foot pedal. A sensor emails the council office when it's full, so the bin can be emptied.



Sarisbury nursery kids help give plastics the push

NURSERY children have set an environmental example by joining Fareham's campaign to 'Give Plastic the Push'.

Youngsters from Woodlands Early Roots Nursery in Sarisbury sent a splendid poster to the Council, with drawings showing what they had been doing.

The nursery has vowed to avoid single-use plastics by using only reusable water bottles, plates, bowls, cups and cutlery.

They are also looking at wider sustainability and waste prevention issues by using flannels instead of wipes and reducing their use of paper towels by almost a third within a month.

Nursery manager Clare Moore said: "We saw the Council's single-use plastic campaign and wanted to show them all the great things that we are doing to reduce our carbon footprint.

"We are extremely passionate about



making a difference in our community and playing our part to save our children's planet. "We are looking forward to supporting the Council's campaign throughout the year with a variety of events, embracing our new motto – reduce, reuse and recycle."

The Council launched its campaign in October 2018. Since then, its SUP Engagement Officer has been working with schools, businesses and other groups, providing tips on how they can reduce their use of plastic.

Executive Member for Streetscene Councillor Simon Martin, who visited the nursery, said: "It's inspiring to see people, especially our younger generations, engaging with our campaign and recognising the importance of reducing single-use plastic. We hope it encourages more residents to get involved."

PHOTO (l to r): James, Nathalie, Ella, Simon Martin, Mackenzie, Mila and Beth learning how to make plant pots out of plastic bottles

'Des Res' change to family homes

THIS LARGE detached house in Bridge Road, Park Gate is to be converted and extended to help reduce the high priority waiting list.

Two 3-bedroom family homes will be provided at a social rent of 45-55% of market rate, helped by a successful Council bid for a £270,000 grant from Homes England.

Three more 2-bedroom homes will also be provided alongside the existing building at an affordable rent, about 80% of market rate.

The cash shortfall will come from the housing revenue account capital development fund. Work should start early summer, with occupation in 2020.



Fareham backs Government waste strategy

FAREHAM has a strong recycling track record.

The launch of our single-use plastics campaign proves our commitment to improve the Government's waste strategy.

The UK must meet European recycling targets of 55% of waste by 2025 and up to 65% by 2035.

Councillor Simon Martin said Fareham Council was committed to improve recycling.

"We want to ensure we maintain our high level of service and make our recycling systems easy to understand and use." This will include:

- Continued collection of dry recyclables, hopefully extending this to include other materials such as plastic tubs and trays

- Key focus to try to avoid producing waste in the first place.

- Ensuring all waste that can be recycled is put into recycling bins and not contaminated as this reduces the value of recyclable products and increases the costs of our waste disposal service.

Simon added: "We'll keep you informed how the Government's consultation on waste strategy progresses."

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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.

Lack of polling stations could affect voting turnout

PARK GATE WARD should have more polling stations, says Councillor Ian Bastable.

In the May 2018 Borough Council elections, only two polling stations were used for Park Gate and Priory Park, one in Middle Road, Park Gate and another at the Community Hall, Priory Park.

"Councillors are concerned that such a large ward should have the appropriate provision for voters to be able exercise their democratic right without the need to travel long distances.

"Without polling stations in suitably local and accessible locations, voting could be even further reduced when added to the Brexit abstention effect," he said.

The Council is carrying out a polling districts review which includes location of polling stations and findings will be reported to the June meeting of the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee.

Residents will have a second chance to comment between June 20 and July 17.

Comments/suggestions can be sent to ward councillors or the Council's Democratic Services.

Help fill Fareham with flowers

That's the appeal from organisers of the annual Fareham in Bloom competition.

Councillor Simon Martin says: "Organised by our parks section and run by a group of dedicated volunteers, it is one of the largest of its kind on the south coast.

"Volunteers work throughout the year to encourage people to take part in parks projects, plan new ideas, design displays and run competitions.

"This is supported by many sponsors who offer funding for the eye-catching displays on our roundabouts and who provide the wonderful prizes and trophies for our presentation event each September."

It's been running since 1996 and attracts over 400 entries, encouraging communities, from private gardens to businesses, to provide colourful planting schemes.

He added: "Entry is free and open to anyone who lives or has a business within the Borough.

"Gardening is fun and the competition is also light-hearted and brightens up our local communities, so why not give it a go?"

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? Contact Simon Woodhams 07971 288993 or simon@sjwuk.com



Prepare for a 'No Deal' and just get us out

Like many residents in Fareham, I am disappointed and frustrated that the Government did not deliver Brexit on March 29 as promised.

As a Brexiteer, in Parliament I have consistently voted against extending Article 50, against holding European Elections and against a 2nd Referendum.

Instead, I voted in favour of No Deal so that we could just get out.

Sadly I was in a minority in Parliament. The solution is clear: the Government and Prime Minister need to prepare for 'No Deal' and take the UK out of the EU.

The relevant plans are in place and by providing certainty to the country and businesses, we will be able to move on from this damaging impasse.

I will keep working for this in Parliament and will do all I can to ensure that we deliver Brexit, ie leaving the Customs Union, the single market and taking back control over our borders and laws.

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

Campaigning for better social care

Many residents are worried about social care for their elderly and vulnerable relatives.

The Government is committed to improving social care. £1.8 billion is allocated for 2019-20 through the improved Better Care Fund, ie a 23% increase on last year.

For Hampshire, an extra £4.7m has been allocated for winter pressures, and in Fareham, I have visited excellent residential care homes like Gracewell, Hamble Heights and Abbeyfield where residents are brilliantly cared for.

Despite the good work, there are many people who find the Continuing Health Care system slow,



bureaucratic and unfair.

John White, from Fareham, (pictured) came to see me about caring for his sister-in-law who was suffering with Alzheimer's

disease.

Funding applications were rejected by West Hampshire CCG and the appeals process was delayed so that funding was only granted after 6 years – too late for his sister-in-law who had sadly passed away.

I am working with local residents, Ministers and Hampshire CC to improve the system. I also spoke about the issue in Parliamentary debate on April 24, which you can read here:

www.theyworkforyou.co.uk

If you would like support on this matter, please get in touch with me.

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We mustn't allow these brave men's names to fade away



THEIR sacrifice in two World Wars will live for ever, but the names of those who gave their lives are fading away on Sarisbury's war memorial.

Some on the 1914-18 side of the memorial are barely recognisable, but help is at hand in the first stage of restoration.

When the matter was drawn to Fareham cemeteries officer Christine Callaby's attention, she managed to record all the names by searching the Imperial War Museum's web site.

She said: "I was able to reconcile all the names on this war memorial and establish the missing ones by process of elimination

and remains of the eroded inscriptions."

She also discovered the picture of the memorial taken on November 11, 1921 when it was dedicated.

She added: "The next stage is to investigate if we can find a specialised contractor to restore the names.

"I will do my best to do so as soon as I can."



New Scout HQ is fitting memory to former leader

CONGRATULATIONS to 1st Sarisbury Green Scouts on the official opening of their fantastic new scout hut.

It was named the Dave Young House of Scouting Excellence (Dave's Lodge) in memory

of Scout Leader Dave Young, whose parents Paul and Sue Young spoke eloquently and cut the ribbon.

It was the culmination of an ambitious self-help project which involved much fund-raising, volunteer work and

invaluable support from the local community.

Dr Toby Young, who led the project from inception nearly 3 years ago, thanked members, supporters, organisations and volunteers who contributed to a new era in local Scouting.