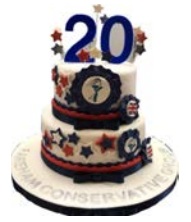


CONSERVATIVES – Two decades of exceptional civic service



InTouch



PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Spring 2020

Low tax, top-quality living – we're the envy of the nation

FAREHAM'S got it all – thanks to the Conservatives. And we've every reason to blow our own trumpet.

We're the envy of the nation when it comes to health, happiness and satisfaction with life. And much more.

Not our words, but those of the latest Halifax survey that rates the Borough the second best place in the UK to live.

What's more, we provide all-round first-class services for one of the lowest council taxes in the country.

And that still holds good, although we will be increasing our element by just 1p per day for 2020-21 for the average property.

Presenting the annual budget, Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "I'm not at all surprised, but it's good to have the place and community recognised.

"We've got it all, we're very well connected to London, we have access to the sea, the river Hamble and countryside. It's a great place to work, to live and to bring up a family."

Since taking over the near-bankrupt Council nearly 21 years ago, **Conservatives** have battled to maintain first-rate services in the face of Government support dwindling to zilch.

We've done it by prudent handling of ratepayers' cash and multi-million pound investments, all contributing to the low council tax envied by almost all councils nationwide.

While Fareham collects just £7m in council tax, it spends



£45m on services to residents and has a £93m capital programme, which includes £7.5m to build much-needed council houses for the first time in a generation.

It also includes further investment in Solent Airport@Daedalus to provide space for many new businesses to create more employment.

Ferneham Hall is being rebuilt and modernised in a £12.5m project to provide a

fantastic new entertainment and community venue, while improvements to Fareham's two leisure centres will cost £6.3m.

Fareham Leisure Centre will get:

- Expanded ground floor gym area by extending the building
- Internal splash pad added to the swimming pool
- New reception counter and refurbishment of the foyer
- New studio space and climbing area on lower ground floor
- Conversion of squash courts to soft play area
- Refurbishment of dry changing rooms and café
- Additional parking

Holly Hill Leisure Centre will get:

- Conversion of large pool store into sauna and steam room
- Improvements to main foyer layout.

Seán Woodward added: "While the government says austerity is over – and for many public services that may be true – for local government it certainly is not, so we continue to make savings while delivering excellent services as the revenue support grant has now fallen to zero."



CONGRATULATIONS! She's done us and her family proud.

Fareham MP Suella Braverman's loyalty

Boris gives Suella the power of Attorney

to PM Boris Johnson during Brexit was rewarded in his Cabinet reshuffle with the prestigious post of Attorney General.

The 39-year-old barrister is now the chief legal advisor to The Crown, with several associated responsibilities such as overseeing the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office.

Her appointment has already ruffled a few judges' wigs as she was quoted recently stating the courts should stay out of politics and Parliament must 'retrace power

ceded to the courts'.

"In reality, repatriated powers from the EU will mean precious little if our courts continue to act as political decision-maker, pronouncing on what the law ought to be and supplanting Parliament," she said.

Fareham **Conservative** Association chairman Ray Hanslip said:

"We know she will undertake her new responsibilities with the same enthusiasm and attention to detail that she brings to her constituency work."

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



New Year celebrations



Salisbury & Park Gate Conservatives were delighted to be hosted by Simon and Sarah Martin at their home recently for a New Year's celebration. The event was attended by our councillors and MP, with many members new and old. We are always delighted to welcome new members and look forward to a busy 2020.

Welcome return

Park Gate carol concert made a welcome return after years and was enjoyed by scores of residents. Middle Road traders provided hot soup, hot dogs, mince pies and other food for the band and carollers.

Thanks to all who supported the event, especially to Sheila Searle for her inspiration and Ben Kimble for erecting lights.

Kiosk icon saved

One of the fast disappearing landmarks on British streets, the iconic red telephone kiosk, will be preserved on Salisbury Green. Locals say it's an important part of the conservation area and Salisbury Residents' Association has agreed to repaint it this summer.

BT is offering up for adoption some of their iconic K6 red phone boxes for community use - for just £1 under 'The Adopt a Kiosk scheme'. It's uncertain at this stage whether an alternative use can be found for the Salisbury kiosk. Many have been bought by European cities, particularly Germany, and turned into free street libraries.

Council gives single use plastics the push

SINGLE use plastics will be eliminated from Council buildings by the end of March.

It follows a motion proposed by Councillor Simon Martin to full Council in 2018 which was accepted unanimously.

Since then, SUP bottles and drinking straws were removed and a successful campaign 'Give Plastics the Push', combined with an education programme, will see the last old drinks machines replaced.

Councillor Martin said: "Fareham is setting an example as a coastal authority and we want you to follow by eliminating what plastic you can and recycle what you can't. "We will be announcing new initiatives on recycling in the coming months, but for now we have eliminated plastic from our day to day life. How about you?"

PHOTO: Simon Martin with former Mayor Susan Bayford meet recycling staff at the campaign



Take a tip - register your car

IF YOU live in Hampshire and need to use recycling centres, you must register your car number before April.

Cars from outside the county or those not registered will be charged £5 per visit.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras will check vehicles entering recycling centres against registered number plates on the database.

It's to make it fairer for county residents who contribute to the annual £100m cost of dealing with waste.

Councillor Simon Martin said: "This latest move by the County to save money follows the recent charges to residents delivering building rubble and plasterboard to the sites.

You can register up to 3 vehicles on the HCC website www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc or call 0300 555 1389.

Rookery Farm homes plan attacked

ACCESSES to 150 homes planned for the Rookery Farm landfill and recycling site off Botley Road have come under fire.

Residents fear roads leading to the site couldn't cope with the extra traffic and they're worried about pollution from the nearby motorway.

Their concerns cropped up at a special CAT meeting held in Burridge when Fareham's new Draft Local Plan had its first consultation airing.

Most of the proposals for the 175 houses to be added to the Local Plan by 2036 are off Botley Road in Swanwick and Park Gate, with the main access to Rookery Farm from Botley Road and secondary access from Swanwick Lane.

Park Gate Councillor Simon Martin has studied the draft plan and said: "I am very concerned, particularly

at the prospect of an access to Swanwick Lane which, unlike Botley Road, is not an A-road and is certainly not capable of carrying an even greater weight of traffic.

"There are also real concerns for any building on a former landfill site next to the M27 motorway in terms of noise and air quality.

"Traffic levels through Park Gate are also very high with frequent congestion.

"If such a proposal were to move ahead, there needs to be a full assessment of local impact and a roundabout on Botley Road would be required at the Rookery Avenue junction. There should definitely be no access open onto Swanwick Lane."

MAP: The Rookery Farm site is sandwiched between the M27 (bottom), Swanwick Lane (top) and Botley Road (right).



Look out! Speedwatch is back

NINE people have volunteered to join the resurrected Community Speedwatch scheme.

After receiving police training, they will be deployed in Sarisbury, Swanwick, Park Gate, Whiteley, Burridge and Priory Park.

They will focus on the following roads: Barnes Lane, Swanwick Lane, Barnbrook Road, Botley Road, Yew Tree Drive, Sweethills Crescent, Brook Lane and Lockwood Road.

Community Speedwatch is viewed by the police as an educational scheme. Teams have no power to issue summonses or fines, but registration details of vehicles travelling too fast are recorded on a police database.

Motorists travelling way above the limit will receive letters advising them of their speed and persistent offenders could be prosecuted.

They'll wing their way between the wings

INSTEAD of flitting across the stage, panto fairies will be able to fly above the boards when the new Ferneham Hall reopens in 2022.

Architects' plans include a fly tower – a rigging system enabling scenery and cast to be flown or carried between the wings.

It's just one of the exciting new additions to the £12.3m rebuild, for which a planning applica-



tion has been submitted to the Council.

The new multi-purpose venue's exterior will feature striking red brick accents reflecting the town's history of brickmaking and building of the iconic Royal Albert

Hall which was constructed with Fareham 'reds'.

There will be a landscaped entrance facing Osborn Road and it will incorporate the latest green technologies in line with the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Manhole clatter caused a real strain to repair the drain



IT WAS a drain on people's nerves and a utility's resources.

Several attempts were made to fix a noisy manhole cover on the A27 at Park Gate after councillors responded to residents' complaints.

Initial attempts went down the drain... until it was discovered it wasn't any council's responsibility, but Southern Water's.

Councillor Ian Bastable said: "We attempted to get it fixed while residents suffered constant banging from vehicles, but Southern Water failed to fix it."

Then, they fixed the wrong drain cover before finally managing to find the right one and restore relative peace.

Elsewhere, Southern Water had to contend with a collapsed sewer which closed Brook Lane for over two months, causing major traffic disruption (pictured).

Heavy rains caused the problem, aggravated by the ageing sewers in the area.

Ian Bastable added: "Local Conservative councillors remain on hand to track down the culprits of problems like these and won't let up until the issues are resolved."

Können Sie deutsch sprechen?

Fareham-Pulheim Twinning Association will be holding a conversation evening from 7.30 to 9.00pm on Monday, March 23 in Fareham.

Why not come along and brush up your spoken German?

There is no charge for this event. For details please email ann.m.mellor@btinternet.com.

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

4 InTouch with Westminster



Now we can move on from the Brexit paralysis

Thank You to everyone who voted for me at the General Election in December.

We secured a record-breaking result for the Conservatives, with an increased majority and share of the vote since 2017.

I am humbled and grateful to be re-elected to serve as your MP again and, regardless of your political preference, I am honoured to serve ALL Fareham constituents in my capacity as your voice in Parliament.

Above all we can move on from the divisions and paralysis of recent years.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised that he would take the UK out of the EU and this he did on 31st January.

With stability in Government, we can now look forward to investing in more local police (156 in Hampshire initially), more real terms funding for every school pupil in Fareham and record levels of investment to the frontline of our NHS.

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Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Whilst I was delighted that Fareham was judged to be one of the best places to live in Britain, I am aware that we still need to work hard to improve our local transport infrastructure.

There are increasing concerns about the safety of Smart Motorways and the ongoing construction on the M27 has worried many residents, thousands of whom use it as part of their daily commute.

On some smart motorways, the refuge points are too far away and the technology is not responsive or effective.

I share those concerns and you can see me raising them directly with the Secretary for State for Transport,



Grant Shapps, in the picture.

I am pleased that the Government has now decided to review the projects with a view to increasing the safety measures.

I will keep working with central government to ensure that a solution is found that prioritises passenger safety.

Junction 10, as part of Welborne Garden Village, also needs vital upgrades to convert it into an 'all-moves' junction.

I have been working with local, regional and national government to identify the funding to ensure that the delivery of the upgrades is guaranteed.

Once delivered, this will significantly reduce congestion, lower journey times and support our local economy.

Row looms over NHS surgery car park extension plan

A SERIOUS clash is brewing between the Borough Council and the NHS over its refusal to build medical provision for 3,500 houses under construction in Whiteley.

The NHS says Whiteley will have to make do with the current overloaded surgery for the expected extra 9,000 patients.

It claims there is plenty of space at the existing surgery in Yew Tree Drive to accommodate all the new patients by using upstairs rooms and extending the car park.

But the surgery (pictured) already handles over 5,000 Whiteley patients, plus 8,000 from the closed Locks Road Surgery, and extending the car park would destroy ancient woodland.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "What the NHS omits to say



is that such a move would require planning permission. Advice repeatedly given by Fareham planning authority is that it's unlikely to be granted.

"A planning application has just been submitted for 50 extra car parking spaces.

"This contrasts with the position in the Welborne where a health and wellbeing

building is required to be built by the developers."

Councillor Simon Martin said if development went ahead at the Rookery Farm site, a least damaging solution would be an extra surgery car park with a crossing on Botley Road to access it.

"It could be used for staff parking, freeing up spaces in the surgery car park which could be improved with an IN and OUT onto Yew Tree Drive," he said.

Fareham may be spared libraries axe

WESTERN WARDS residents have been assured their local library at Locks Heath's Lockwood Centre is not on the hit list for closure, but opening hours may be cut.

It follows the controversial announcement that the County Council has to reduce its £80m budget shortfall and the libraries must contribute £1.76m in efficiency savings.

Preferred option is to close up to 10 of the smaller, less-used libraries and reduce opening hours in the remaining 38 by 15%.

Alternatively, if no libraries were closed then opening hours would have to be cut by 25% across the board.

When Councillors Ian Bastable and Simon Martin visited they found a queue of people waiting for it to open.

"It's one of the most used in Hampshire," they said.

If the first option were chosen, none of the 4 libraries in Fareham Borough – including Locks Heath – would be closed.

There is a public consultation with a deadline of March 18. More details at www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation.



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