

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Summer 2020

Volunteers answer the call just as they did 80 years ago

UNLESS you are in your 80s you will have experienced nothing like it in your lifetime.

In summer 1940, the RAF fought almost down to the last Spitfire and Hurricane to drive the Luftwaffe from our skies.

Eighty years on another Battle of Britain began, only this time the outcome against an unseen enemy is not yet in our sights.

But the national spirit that led us to victory through the dark days of World War 2 surfaced again when an army of volunteers and professionals answered their country's call.

Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward summed up local reaction: "We have lived through very difficult and unprecedented times. Council services have been stretched along with family budgets.

"Services that we all took for granted had to cease while the priority was to deliver the lifeline services such as refuse collection, environmental health, social services and education.

"There have been some fantastic examples of support throughout our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People have tirelessly helped to put together essential parcels and activity packs, delivered items to shielding residents, collected food donations, picked up prescriptions or just been amazingly good neighbours.

"Many hundreds of people in need have been helped across the



Acts of Kindness volunteers are using one of the business hangars at Solent Airport@Daedalus provided free by the Council.

Borough and it is right that your Council should express thanks to them all."

It was a privilege to add his signature to Mayor Pamela Bryant's on hundreds of letters thanking all the Fareham volunteers who stepped up through the COVID-19 pandemic to help their community.

They include Acts Of Kindness Community (Solent), Waypoint Church, Citizens Advice Fareham, AFC Portchester, One Community and Portchester Community Association.

If you know of any unsung heroes we may have missed, we'd like their names and a brief description of their efforts.

You can get a nomination form at www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer

BORIS REWARDS KERRY'S ACTS OF KINDNESS



Kerry Snuggs, leader of Acts of Kindness, was presented with a Points of Light Award from Prime Minister Boris Johnson by Fareham MP and Attorney General Suella Braverman.

How we helped over 100 small businesses to stay afloat

CRIES for help for businesses, industry and a host of other organisations flooded in from all corners of the UK.

But not all benefitted from Government schemes, including many in Fareham.

So the Borough Council hopes Discretionary Business Grants will make all the difference to those struggling with property-related costs.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said so far over 100 small businesses across the Borough had received grants up to

£10,000. Applications were invited last month and this round of the scheme is closed. A total of £1m has been paid out.

Types of business which have been helped include small manufacturing firms, businesses located in shared offices, dentists, a podiatrist and a nail bar.

"This funding will be a lifeline for businesses which had slipped through the net for Government support during the pandemic," he said.

Electronics business Lee Godbold Ltd

based in Fareham Innovation Centre received a share of the funding.

Managing Director Lee Godbold said: "We were at a loss how to manage this unprecedented situation.

"I'd especially like to thank the Borough Council for approving our application for the Discretionary Business Grant funding which kept us up to date with our payments to Fareham Innovation Centre."

The Council also gave market traders at Fareham and Portchester £2,500 each.

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



Emergency budget meeting
Fareham Council's finances have taken a massive hit through the Covid-19 pandemic and are still falling. An emergency budget meeting will be called in September.

Over £300,000 was lost in car parking revenue in 3 months.

Estates officers have been trying to work out leases with commercial tenants struggling to pay rents.

This, plus loss of income from both Leisure Centres, has contributed to the losses.

Services are beginning to resume, but it's estimated income could be over £1m below forecast levels.

Elections postponed

We were supposed to have had local elections in May.

Councillor Simon Martin was ready for the fight to get re-elected and continue his work on waste management and progressing the Council's commitment to Net Zero carbon by 2030.

He reminds voters that polling stations have changed to better balance the numbers of people following all the new development in the ward.

Commemorative benches

Specially designed benches have been commissioned by the Council to mark the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

The first bench was installed at Daedalus Common at Solent Airport@ Daedalus and the second will be ready to put in place in August.

It's hoped Daedalus Common will be open to the public in the spring.

Councillor Seán Woodward said it was disappointing that festivities were cancelled to commemorate the victories and pay tribute to those who gave their lives.

To help people celebrate, the Council provided a 'Stay at home street party' pack, which was a huge success.



Now there's a plague of rats to deal with

RATS have taken advantage of human absence during the lockdown to plague an area of Priory Park.

Ruth Tompkins, from Buttercup Way, who's pictured with Councillor Ian Bastable, was pleased the Council had continued work to deal with the infestation.

Ian Bastable said: "The situation seems to have been exacerbated



by the reduction in human activity under lockdown and a need for the rats to search further

afield for an easy meal."

A Council team targeted the area and repaired a defective drain and private surface water sewer and baited the rat runs safely to avoid danger to wildlife.

Areas around trees were also cleared and ground cover removed.

Ian added: "The situation is much improved and we hope to have the problem fully resolved in the near future."

Cemetery extensions

EXTENSIONS will provide 350 more burial places and 240 plots for ashes at Holly Hill Cemetery.

It was consecrated by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev Christopher Foster, in an ancient ceremony with the minimum number of participants during the lockdown.

It cost the Borough Council £300,000 and the grave space should last 30 years, with first burials in the autumn.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "In common with the existing cem-

etry the graves will not be available for pre-purchase, ensuring the cemetery's life is extended as far as possible."

PHOTO: A poignant moment during the consecration, with Councillor Woodward (right) The Bishop and his Diocesan Registrar Miss Hilary Tyler the only participants.



New quality homes start Council's major social housing programme



PHASE I of the programme to step up building of new council homes is complete. Families moved into 5 new properties at Oak Tree Close, off Bridge Road, this month, reducing the waiting list.

Two 3-bedroom properties are being provided at the most social rent of £500 pm with the remaining 2-bedroom homes at an affordable rent of £700 pm.

Councillor Simon Martin, pictured with Councillors Ian Bastable and Seán Woodward, said: "It was really exciting to see the quality of the properties and their pleasant surroundings."

"This is a major step forward for Fareham's Housing Department and the development of affordable housing is a key part of our strategy."

Next on the list is the former Scout Hut site in Montefiore Drive, Sarisbury Green which the Council acquired from Homes England last year.

It already had outline planning consent for 7 shared ownership flats, but after additional work by the Council with the appointed architect, we have been able to redesign the site to accommodate 9 shared ownership flats.

It is hoped that a full planning application will be submitted soon.

Lockdown waste workers praised

WASTE collection was maintained by the Borough Council, despite the many lockdown challenges.

When it began, the Council was forced to pause green waste collections due to closure of County Council composting sites.

Glass collection has continued throughout and continues to run at about 50% above 2019 levels.

Park Gate Councillors Ian Bastable and Simon Martin are grateful to all FBC staff who have maintained services to residents and tried to keep sites clear.

Local resident Vic, from Hanoverian Way (pictured) said he continued to use the



Middle Road site during lockdown to recycle his glass and was happy that the Council had things under control.

Councillor Martin, Executive Member for Streetscene, said: "With everybody at home, the amount of household waste increased significantly."

"The refuse crews worked long hours to collect the additional waste as well as emptying the glass banks which were generating up to 50% more glass than normal."

"After 4 weeks the Council was able to restart its green waste collection service, due to the commitment of the team and

management of the service.

"We received many emails and letters of thanks for the service the team carried out and, on behalf of Park Gate residents, we'd like to say a massive thank you to them."

A depressing aspect of the lockdown was the anti-social behaviour of some residents to dump their litter rather than take it home, which cost the Council money to clear up that could have been better spent.

"We would like to pay tribute to Mundio Limpio (pictured) and other environmental groups in Fareham that go regularly into the community to clean up the mess that others leave."



"Your help it is greatly appreciated. For those people who would like to participate in a clean-up, the Council will provide bin bags and litter pickers and will arrange for the bags to be picked up," added Simon Martin.

The Council is installing larger litter bins to help deal with the amount of waste generated at our beaches and parks.

Homes plan conflicts

RESIDENTS are urged to object to an application to build 38 homes in countryside at Eversdown Farm, Botley Road, Burrridge.

Councillor Seán Woodward says there are serious concerns about the site adjoining the recreation ground and village hall; it is contrary to several Local Plan policies and is not listed for development in any existing or draft Local Plan.

"It sits on a road which, despite being a 30mph limit with flashing speed repeater signs, has a poor accident record. The application transport assessment claims the road to Botley is unrestricted, but it is a 40mph limit outside Burrridge."



Fresh start boost

BUSINESSES in Middle Road, Park Gate re-opened after lockdown with fresh optimism. Fabulous Bakers staff gave their

premises a thorough cleaning ready to welcome returning customers.

New manager Emrah Tashan told Councillor Ian Bastable: "I'm looking forward to customers coming to eat, or even just have a coffee, and

we are very excited for the future."

Another to benefit from Government cash was estate agents Taylor Hill & Bond, where Councillor Simon Martin met a grateful Andrew Furnell.

Over £850,000 has been allocated to local business with the Council distributing Government grants of up to £10,000 to help those affected by closures during the pandemic.



COUNTY COUNCILLOR
Fareham Sarisbury



Seán Woodward
8 Persian Drive
Whiteley PO15 7BJ
Tel: 01489 881030
email: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
Park Gate & Priory Park



Ian Bastable
5 Blake Close
Whiteley
Fareham PO15 7LT
Tel: 074 4455 2194
email: ibastable@fareham.gov.uk



Simon Martin
230 Botley Road
Burrridge
Southampton SO31 1BL
Tel: 01489 325805
email: smartin@fareham.gov.uk

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



£30bn plan to create jobs and support jobless

I know that many people in Fareham are anxious about the future as we emerge from Coronavirus.

People are worried about losing their jobs. As a Government, we will not just accept this.

Our Plan for Jobs, worth £30bn, is about supporting people to find the jobs that are out there, creating new jobs through investing in infrastructure and housing and finally protecting jobs by revitalising hard-hit sectors upon which many jobs depend.

Whether it is the Jobs Retention Bonus Scheme, the temporary VAT cut for tourism and hospitality sectors, the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500k, the new Green Homes Grant or creating hundreds of thousands of new fully subsidised jobs for young people through the new £2bn Kickstart scheme, I am optimistic that there will be opportunities for all as we embark on the next phase of recovering from the crisis.

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Our Plan for Jobs provides a wide-ranging package of measures to support everyone in protecting their incomes at this very challenging time.

From July 15, the Government cut VAT for hospitality, accommodation and tourism businesses in Fareham from 20% to 5% until January 12, 2021.

We have also launched the new Eat Out to Help Out scheme – giving people up to 50% off meals out, encouraging you back into restaurants, cafés and pubs.

Anyone who eats at a participating business, Monday to Wednesday during August, can receive the discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks, up to a value of £10 per person.

Businesses can claim the money back



Celebrating the reopening of this Titchfield café with ward Councillor Tiffany Harper.

from the Government weekly, receiving funds within 5 working days.

We are also creating new jobs by temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500,000 until March 31, 2021. Everyone in Fareham buying a main home will see their tax cut, saving up to £15,000. Nearly 9 out of 10 people buying a main

home will pay no stamp duty.

We will also provide £2bn to allow people to apply for a voucher to fund at least two thirds of the cost of upgrading the energy performance of their homes, up to a maximum of £5,000. Low income households will be eligible for up to 100% of Government funding, up to £10,000.

This will reduce energy bills by up to £300 per year and help to save carbon.

CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN
Tel: 01329 233573

Email: suella@suellabraverman.co.uk

Facebook: [fb.com/SuellaBraverman](https://www.facebook.com/SuellaBraverman)



Hook Lake: A popular walk

A STRATEGY to manage and compensate for erosion and loss of inter-tidal habitats has been sanctioned.

East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESP) proposes a project to evaluate all options and aims to produce a viable remedy.

Hook Lake, Warsash, comprising 44 ha (108 acres) of grazing land and reed marsh has been identified as a potential key area for compensating habitat.

Meantime, the County Council's Coun-

Protecting paths and habitats

tryside Service is undertaking 3 phases of work to improve the Hamble Causeway between Warasah-Swanwick, which floods at spring tides.

Hook Lake: Councillor Keith Evans said the Environment Agency was legally obliged to mitigate against the losses or replace them with new lands.

Agency policy is not to replace coastal defences which are in serious decline, but to create protected new habitats.

He said the project fell within the Borough Council's strategy to protect and enhance the environment and a comprehensive management structure would be set up to include all interested parties.

It won't cost Fareham a penny and will be fully funded by the Agency and the ESP.

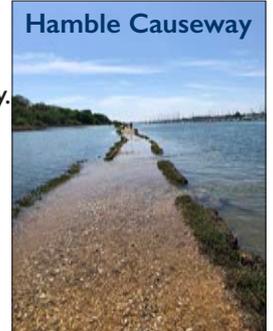
Hamble Causeway: Council Leader

Seán Woodward said it was critical to repair the Hamble Causeway.

Phase 1 (Universal Marine to Crableck Lane) completed but needs a few repairs.

Phase 2 (Crableck Lane to Chinese Bridge) includes installation of rock rolls, repairs where water is scouring the bank and overtopping the path.

Phase 3 (Chinese Bridge to Pink Ferry terminal) received external funding and will be carried out in 2021 to include a new circular route.



Hamble Causeway

'Homeless' young gymnasts' bid to raise £5,000 for new training base

YOUNG Locks Heath gymnasts are trying to raise £5,000 towards a new training base.

Covid-19 restrictions mean Eclipse Gymnastics members have been banned from using three local school halls.

And with no events or subscriptions

to bring in cash since lockdown began in March, they have been forced to find an alternative training venue.

Junior coach Lara Davis (17) said to build or rent a suitable premises would allow them to resume training.

She and fellow gymnasts set up a Go-

FundMe webpage to try to raise £5,000 for starters. They had nearly £1,500 towards their target when we went to print.

The Community Interest Club needs premises at least 6m high to practise acrobatics, but they hope to find a place to include other youth activities.