



InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – Winter 2019

Spitfires fly into battle to help keep Fareham's council tax low

SPITFIRES have come to our rescue yet again.

Five of the iconic WW2 fighters fly from Solent Airport and fuel sales for pleasure flights are reaping thousands of pounds in revenue for the benefit of Fareham council taxpayers.

And wise business investment by the **Conservatives** is sparing Fareham households massive annual council tax rises.

Out of an annual Borough Council spend of £47m, less than £7m comes from council tax.

Council Leader Seán Woodward stressed: "So 85% of what we spend includes our trading activities, among them a portfolio of mainly local commercial property that brings in millions of pounds in rental.

"For example, most units at Southampton Road, Park Gate (B&Q, Dunelm, Halfords, PC World, etc) belong to the Council. Without this income our council tax, currently almost the lowest in the country, would need to be far higher."

Despite losing all its Government revenue support grant, Fareham will raise its share of council tax for 2019-20 by only £5 a year, representing just a penny a day increase for the average band C property. Band D properties will pay £160 per year or just 44p per day for all Borough Council services.

In his budget summary, Councillor Woodward was upbeat about lucrative ventures at Solent Airport@Daedalus, where around £30m has been spent so far on infrastructure and new commer-

cial buildings such as newly-extended Fareham Innovation Centre, which is already 70% full.

Airport operations provide a financial return to the Council, flight movements increased to 30,000 annually and hundreds of new jobs were created at what is the Solent Enterprise Zone.

The target over the 25-year life of the Enterprise Zone for new jobs is 3,500, 1,100 of those being on the Fareham part of the site, of which half the total has already been reached.

Land was transferred to Fareham College to build a Civil Engineering Training Centre (CETC) to teach young people skills they need to undertake civil engineering works in this area where there is a huge skills shortage. A £39m capital

programme for future improvements includes:

- Ferneham Hall refurbishment £10m
- Spec build business units at Solent Airport@Daedalus £5m
- New council housing in Fareham, Portchester, Stubbington and Sarisbury £17.6m
- Phasing out single-use plastics by the Council
- Play area improvements £500,000
- Bus shelter replacement £300,000
- Holly Hill Cemetery extension £275,000

He added: "Setting a balanced budget without reducing services is more challenging every year. We have plans for another £1m of annual savings via efficiencies rather than service reductions."



Photos: Richard Davies Photography



Tigers give leader a hairy biker experience

HE THOUGHT he was just there to see young bikers put on a splendid display at Solent Airport.

But the little dare-devils decided otherwise and used Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward as a prop.

"They placed me at the end of a ramp to jump over. Fortunately, they all made it across," said Seán after surviving the ordeal.

The Tigers and The Rockets showed their skills, the latter enjoying their first day's training at the airport where they are now based.

The Tigers donated cheques totalling nearly £4,000 to Wave 105 Cash for Kids and Sophie's Appeal for cancer research.

After dusting himself down, Seán Woodward said: "We are pleased to have the Rockets join in using the community facilities at Solent Airport.

"It is good to see 40 children learning the importance of teamwork, leadership skills and discipline while wowing the crowds with their performances and raising money for good causes."



NEWS ROUND



Farewell Neil

Visitors from The Chestnuts joined residents for a surprise party at Abbeyfield Court, Locks Road to say farewell to popular manager Neil Thompson.



Neil (pictured beside the Mayor), who had been at Abbeyfield Court for 10 years, supervised the new build in 2010 and was an inspiration to everyone.

Fareham Mayor Councillor Susan Bayford and husband Brian, her Consort, have visited many times.

Susan said: "We will all miss Neil's jovial ways and his superb cooking!"

More police, higher tax

Hampshire Police Crime Commissioner Michael Lane has responded to residents' demands.

200 new officers will be recruited, plus 65 staff police investigators and training for new PCSOs.

But it will cost an extra £24 a year on Band D council tax bills

Rare newt found

Warsash Common volunteers were busy in 2018 looking after the environment and wildlife.

They built a winter home for slow worms in January and at Easter showed 15 families how to make charcoal, identify animal prints, eating habits of owls and how to make a bird box.

A university student carried out a reptile survey during the spring and summer and discovered an endangered great crested newt.

Around Armistice Day, Fareham Conservation Volunteers and their families planted strips of red and white poppies as a 'Lest We Forget' memorial.

Other activities included finishing the gravel path around Dibles Meadow, watering saplings during the hot summer and seeding a new woodland pasture.

Ground-breaking apprentice project

FAREHAM MAYOR Susan Bayford cut the first turf for Fareham College's CETC ground-breaking ceremony at Solent Airport on January 18.

The project is a fit-for-purpose training college to provide apprenticeships for civil engineering, construction and groundworks.

CETC will open in September and is being built on land sold by Fareham Borough Council and supported by a grant from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. Supported by local employers, CETC will address the country-wide skills shortage.



Seeing eye to eye with high tech

THE WORLD'S top underwater technology company welcomed a visit by Fareham's Mayor and her Consort.

Councillor Susan Bayford and Alderman Brian Bayford were shown around the Saab Seaeeye plant which is based at Segensworth.

Managing director Jon Robertson (pictured) gave them a comprehensive overview of electronic underwater robotic systems, pioneering innovations in the oil, gas, renewable energy, marine science and other sectors.

They met staff, all from the local area, who were assembling components.



Other authorities wish they could match Hampshire Council budgeting

HAMPSHIRE County Council is the envy of most other councils for its skilful budgeting.

The Conservative-controlled Council cleverly planned well ahead of the Government axing of the revenue support grant, which is now zero.

There are special grants totalling £170m and top-up contributions of £70m, but some of these are not on-going.

County Councillor Keith Evans says most of the council tax paid by Fareham residents goes to Winchester, contributing 84% to the County's spend.

He says: "The County has reserves of £646m, but £530m of these is committed to identified capital/reserve projects, so the actual available 'discretionary' reserve is only £116m.

"The present budget planning is for 2020-22, where additional savings are required – actual reductions plus unfunded spend growth (mainly for adult care and children's services).

"There is a projected shortfall for 2021-22 of £40m and detailed work continues to identify additional income as well as ways to make further spend savings.

"I am confident that the budgets will end up balanced with as minimum effect on services as possible."



J9 upgrade ready to slot in

ANOTHER component in the major upgrade programme for the M27 and its accesses is ready for fitting in.

It's the £22m project to improve Junction 9 and Whiteley Way/Solent Hotel roundabout.

The County Council scheme is designed to reduce traffic congestion, improve access and support future development. It includes:

Junction 9: Carriageway widening to provide an extra lane on both motorway off-slip roads, the westbound on-slip road and the Whiteley Way approach, plus additional lanes on the northern and southern sections of the circular carriageway.

Solent Hotel Roundabout: New, larger

fully-signalised roundabout, with carriageway widening to provide additional traffic lanes on all approaches.

Work ties in with other local investments, including £14m from Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to widen Whiteley Way from the Solent Hotel to the shopping centre, connecting Bluebell Way to Botley Road at Curbridge, extending Whiteley Way and the £244m Smart Motorway scheme now underway.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "The entire regional package of measures being implemented on the M27 is a fundamental supporting part of the 'improving access to Fareham and Gosport' strategy which I introduced in 2015."

A card to use at your leisure

THE COUNCIL has introduced the 'Fareham Leisure Card', offering discounts on a range of leisure activities from 44 outlets around the Borough.

To join the scheme, pick up a leaflet and application form from Fareham Leisure Centre, Holly Hill Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Cards cost £7.75, £18.35 for a family membership, £5.60 for students or free to some residents on a low income.

For a list of participating organisations, or if your company would like to join the scheme, contact the Leisure Card officer on 01329 824894.



Shopping centre improvements on the way

THERE are positive moves afoot at Locks Heath Shopping Centre.

Ward Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans have been meeting owners New River Retail and new centre manager Sarah Cotton (pictured).

Keith Evans said: "The closed car park entrance that had been causing so much traffic confrontation has been removed and should remain so.

"Work with the retailers has identified some

additional parking for shop staff which should help reduce the parking in adjacent roads.

"Improved signage is planned to help locate the centre and to better distribute traffic entering the parking areas." The centre was a bit drab last Christmas, but it aims for a much improved atmosphere this year.

If you have any questions, Sarah Cotton is available full time and will welcome talking with you.



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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, to attend social and political events or help by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

And how about these?

Here are some other budget facts you probably won't know, writes County Councillor Keith Evans:

- 94% parents offered first choice primary school (99% at one of their preferred schools)
- 68% achievement for primary school children taking Key Stage 2 SATs
- £9m allocated to fund 480 new primary school places
- The 5 Hampshire country parks each awarded the Green Flag for 2018 – Lepe, River Hamble, Queen Elizabeth, Royal Victoria and Staunton – recognising high environmental standards and visitor facilities
- £67m allocated to be invested over next 10 years in care technology
- CO2 emissions from County properties continue to fall year on year – down from 83,000 tons in 2016 to 78,000 tons in 2017 which actually already meets the 2025 target of 79,000 tons



Why I voted against original Brexit deal

Despite Brexit turbulence, unemployment remains at a record low, wages are rising faster than prices and the economy is growing faster than forecast.

As I wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*, no-one can doubt the Prime Minister's indefatigable pursuit of a Brexit deal, so it was with regret that I voted against the original deal in Parliament in January.

That deal was not Brexit. It would have locked the UK indefinitely into the EU's single market and customs union whilst annexing Northern Ireland so that it would be treated as a 3rd country by Great Britain.

I sincerely want to support a Government deal and am hopeful meaningful changes will be secured.

The last year was very busy. Over 2,500 residents came to my local events and I replied to more than 35,000 emails!

In some welcome personal news, I am expecting a baby in July. Rael and I are looking forward to becoming parents!

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Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

Suella was delighted to hold the first ever Solent Festival of Engineering at Fareham Leisure Centre which was attended by over 1,000 local children and students.

The aim of the event was to showcase and bust the myths about engineering, technology and the sciences.

The UK faces an estimated shortfall of 20,000 engineering graduates every year and Suella is passionate about encouraging the next generation of innovators.

She brought together over 50 national and international companies such as Rolls Royce, Google, NATS, Southampton and Portsmouth Universities, and the

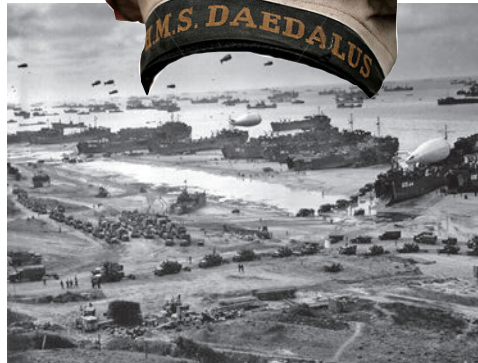


Royal Navy and RAF to enable young people to learn more about the opportunities from further study and careers in the field.

From virtual reality, rocket cars, coding challenges, 3D printing, Lego building, drones, model railways, AI, learning about wi-fi, jet engines and gas turbines to life

on Mars and deep sea diving, pet scanners, magic and ship tankers, attendees were not short of interactive engineering experiences.

Suella holds regular events open to the public. If you would like to stay up to date with her events and news, sign up to her monthly e-newsletter by emailing suella@suellabraverman.co.uk.



D-Day 0441 hours, June 6, 1944.

The first aircraft take off from HMS Daedalus to support Operation Overlord – the Normandy Invasion.

Daedalus D-Day Diary Dates

It was a pivotal moment in the history of the Fleet Air Arm base where 435 units – the largest to operate from any UK airfield on D-Day – were deployed.

The Fleet Air Arm was joined by RAF squadrons, Royal Canadian Air Force Typhoons and Mustangs and US Navy Spitfires, softening up Hitler's Atlantic Wall and protecting the invasion armada.

That historic day which paved the way to victory over the Nazi regime will be recalled during 75th anniversary events commemorating the landings.

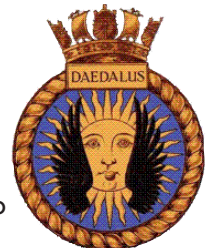
Plans are under way for a two-day spectacular show at what is now Solent

Airport on June 8 and 9, from 10am to 4pm, and Fareham residents are asked to diary the dates.

Vintage aircraft will play a key role and details of those taking part will be released soon.

There will also be children's activities, market stalls and stage performances by local groups.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "Council officers are planning to make it a day to remember, so make sure you don't miss what will be the biggest event of the year."



Owners warned: Clean up your dog's mess or face tough new penalties

A NEW law is proposed to tackle dirty dog owners.

The Council is responding to complaints about dogs fouling and being out of control by seeking an updated Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

If approved, it would replace the existing PSPO which expires in March and extend the Council's powers for the next 3 years to:

- Tackle dog fouling
- Ensure people have a means to pick up dog litter
- Request dogs be put on leads if causing a public nuisance

- Ensure dogs are put on leads in sensitive places e.g. cemeteries
- Limit the numbers of dogs a person can walk at any one time
- Exclude dogs from certain areas e.g. play areas

It would also enable Council officers to issue on-the-spot fines to irresponsible dog owners. The proposed powers would not apply to people registered blind, or who rely on assistance dogs.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "We want to ensure that irresponsible dog owners don't spoil people's enjoyment of the public spaces in the Borough."