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 Séan 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 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.

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 Séan 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
Squashed out of court
Squash players are angry with management for deciding to remove the courts from the Leisure Centre.

Unless they join a private club, it now means there are no public squash courts in the Borough. Management says they were not under-used and plan to replace them with a children’s soft play area.

Councillors opposed the plan when the Executive Member for Leisure and Community Development, Councillor Geoff Fazackerley, said the courts were under-used and plan to replace them with a children’s soft play area.

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Plan for 1,400 homes, but who can afford them?

Massive opposition is expected to two new planning applications for a total of 1,409 houses which will devastate the strategic green belt between Fareham and Stubbington.

Permishon Homes submitted an application for 209 houses south of Oakcroft Lane, Stubbington (previously 261 homes). Hallam Land submitted an application on Newlands Farm for 1,200 houses, an 80-bed care home, two-form entry primary school, local centre including a community centre and healthcare facility.

Fareham South Councillor Geoff Fazackerley (picture) described the plans as ‘not wanted under any circumstances.’

He said: “We need housing, but we cannot afford housing for £300,000 plus houses that our children and lower income earners certainly cannot afford.

“Right across this country we see a homelessness crisis, so let’s not turn a blind eye to the endless greed from developers.

“We must take a stand and work together to produce a place where we become more of a community and consult with our residents and produce a new village, if you like, where people have affordable rents, affordable housing and a way of life that takes away the stress.”

Mrs Pat Bailey, of Bishopsfield Road, said: “How can our children live and work in this area without affordably priced housing for a young family to get on the housing ladder.”

Spray in the spring

Resident’s from all over Fareham South have complained to Geoff Fazackerley about weeds spreading along their roads.

Weed spraying is a County Council duty and they’ve scheduled Fareham in for September.

Several councillors have contacted the County to ask why the spraying was happening so late in the season when it was done at the start of summer last year, just as weeds were starting to grow.

They requested that Fareham should be done in May or June next year, and a response is awaited. It is likely next year that the Borough Council will fund an additional weed spray to keep our area looking nice.

Community Hospital’s new renal unit

After many years of planning, the renal home therapy units opened to patients at Fareham Community Hospital in May.

Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Locks Heath who funded the window and to other local charities who have generously donated.

The home therapy unit comprises two teams of nurses who manage patients dialysing at home on two different types of renal dialysers.

There is a haemodialysis room and a peritoneal dialysis room. In both cases, community-based nurses visit home therapy patients for their ongoing care.

The Community nurses are also based in the Fareham Community Hospital.

Asda responds to plea to help community

A Fareham supermarket answered an urgent appeal to help during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Asda was contacted by InTouch when people, many of them vulnerable, couldn’t get enough supplies due to the safety measures stores had imposed.

Although the Government and Borough Council were trying to help as many as possible, some were falling through the cracks.

A phone call to the local Asda solved the dilemma and store manager Dean Glasspool immediately set up a system which allowed a team of volunteers to shop using more than one trolley at a time and complete a shop in one visit.

Without Asda’s support we would not have been able to help many of those who needed it.

Asda has helped many groups within the community during the pandemic and Dean set up a group headed by Heidi within the store to support local people.

Victory memorial benches

A special memorial bench has been commissioned by the Council to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day.

The first bench was installed at Daedalus Common at Solent Airport (including the supplement consulted upon in early 2020) and to the Council approving a Publication Plan for statutory consultation later this year.

This would be followed by independent examination by a government inspector at a public inquiry.

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Tell us what you think about our work or any issues you have in your area.

Follow us on Facebook at @FarehamSouth Conservatives
**Flag flies to honour Armed Forces**

This year’s flag raising ceremony, which highlights the important contribution made by our dedicated Armed Forces.

“This is especially true in current times when the Armed Forces have stepped up to play a key part in the national response to Covid 19.

“By flying the flag we are showing our appreciation for everything they do.”

The ceremony was attended by the Commanding Officer of HMS Collingwood, Captain Catherine Jordan RN.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the first hostilities-only trainees being drafted to the new base.

**Bid for cash share to extend rapid transport system**

**Expansion** of the rapid transit system across the Portsmouth area depends on 3 cities sharing the spoils.

Portsmouth region was invited to bid for a share of £117m with Norwich and Stoke-on-Trent under the Government’s Transforming Cities Fund.

Its bid focuses on developing the next phase of SE Hampshire Rapid Transit (SEHRT) — a network of bus priority routes designed to improve public transport links with 3 new routes between Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Waterlooville and Portsmouth.

There would also be a new transport hub at Ryde to improve links between the Isle of Wight and the mainland.

Council Leader Sean Woodward said: “A funding decision has not yet been made on the Portsmouth city region bid.

“We submitted our bid to the Department for Transport on Friday. July 3.”

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Published by Fareham South Conservatives 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN. Printed by Cedar Group, Unit 3 Triton Centre, Premier Way, Abbey Park Industrial Estate, Romsey SO51 9DJ