

FOCUS

Autumn 2023

Liberal
Democrats



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WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND

Our Lib Dem Borough/County Councillors continue To deliver locally for residents with a great team



Your Local Newsletter for Wallington & Downend

Council buys Fareham Shopping Centre



Lib Dems are the main opposition in Fareham. We need a strong alternative voice in Council to oversee these large projects.

Fareham Shopping Centre was going on the market for sale. We all see the empty shops and the slow death of our town centre under the Conservatives. A private buyer would have run it into the ground for profit.

In the Councillor briefings ahead of the purchase it was the Lib Dems as the main opposition who asked question after question before giving our support to the Officers recommendations. Alongside is key resident concerns we raised in the discussions.

"This was a massive decision for Fareham. The Lib Dems asked more questions in member briefings than the Conservatives and the few Independents combined. Given we have seen delay and costs soar with Fareham Live which will need money once open we were careful to probe the underlying assumptions behind buying Fareham Shopping Centre. We believe the Lib Dems are better placed to lead a Council which will prioritise a town regeneration. We would deliver it well and ensure it remained affordable."

*Cllr David Hamilton
(Fareham East)*

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How can we afford to spend £14.25m buying a shopping centre?

The Shopping Centre is profitable. We can borrow and pay the money back over the long term with those profits while retaining a valuable asset in the land and property. We can also sell assets and the Lib Dems will call for commercial assets to be sold which will not impact our services. The Lib Dems will call for residents not to fund this through their taxes.

How can we buy without a detailed plan to develop it and regenerate the town centre?

A detailed plan would have cost money that might have been wasted had we not made the purchase. We know we want to improve the link from Fareham Live to our pubs/restaurants and increase residential living. We know we are not going back to big stores like M&S so its tailoring our retail space to smaller businesses. We know we want to regenerate the town centre and you can't do that without the Shopping Centre. A detailed plan is now being drawn up and information will follow in the coming months. Lib Dems will call for residents and businesses to be engaged and have a say.

Fencing put up next to River Wallington



For sometime as we had previously reported we have been pushing with the Wallington Village Community Association (WVCA) for the temporary fencing next to the River Wallington to be replaced.

New fencing has now been installed. Cllr David Hamilton and a member of the Lib Dem team Alison West went down to check right after it was done and the photos show things much improved.

The ugly, red temporary barriers which fell down in high winds are gone. Replaced by new permanent railings in keeping with the look of the village.

The Lib Dem contact details are at the bottom of our leaflet for anything similar you would like sorting in your area.



Sewage cover up!!



Water firms are failing to disclose how much sewage is being discharged into rivers, Lib Dems believe the industry is not telling the truth on holding the data, or the number of inadequate sewage monitors it has. Lib Dems found one in six monitors were broken last year.

Southern Water is responsible for 'dirty' water discharges into Fareham Creek (e.g. after very heavy rain). We understand they have a licence to do this from the Environmental Agency. We have previously asked what controls are in place for water safety and quality, what checks are undertaken and how frequently. These questions remain unanswered.

We have included resident complaints with evidence of poor quality water and stinking mud in the creek and near Portchester - "A low water smell that is clearly sewage related."

Roger Price County Councillor for Portchester East

roger.price@hants.gov.uk



Working to improve Portchester Precinct

Roger met with the Assistant Director for Highways and the Executive member who deals with Highways to discuss Portchester Precinct.

They agreed that the County would look at the Precinct with a view to improving the area by enlarging the areas around the trees which would encompass the tree root problem, look at trimming back trees and repositioning the seats and waste bins.

They were also going to ask Fareham Borough Council to help fund this work by using the money that was given to them by Lidl. The inspection and drawing up of plans and allocating the funding especially if Fareham will not help will take a little while but Roger was told hopefully in the next year it will be done.

Welborne Update

Our hardworking councillors Katrina and David met with the contractors building Welborne garden community recently and inspected the early building of infrastructure like drainage works.

"Lib Dems did challenge Welborne in the early days to ensure it was done properly and suggested the placement of a train station which was adopted. Its great to see we were listened to and the community design principles are to a high standard. Concerns remain like the adequate provision of GPs and minimising the impact on nearby residents so we will continue to hold the project to account as the main opposition on the Council"

- Cllr David Hamilton

Welborne is a long term project which will deliver 6,000 new homes, a secondary school, 3 primary schools and shopping, sports and community facilities.

Further information can be found at:
<https://bucklanddevelopment.com/>



Blow to climate change fight

Fareham Council has scrapped plans to install solar panels at a new car park. The decision is a blow to the Borough's proud record as leaders in the fight against Climate Change.

The panels were to be an important feature of a proposed surface car park after demolition of the Osborn Road multi-storey building.

They were to provide power for vehicle charging bays, and car park lighting, and for the new theatre and concert hall.

Cancellation undermines the pledge to make Fareham carbon-neutral by 2030, adopted after the Council unanimously backed a Climate Emergency motion put forward by the Lib Dems.

The U-turn was announced just hours after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak horrified world leaders by watering down Britain's policy to defeat Climate Change.

Fareham's Lib Dem Group Leader Cllr Chrissie Bainbridge said: "This local u-turn adds to the endless list from this farcical Tory government, and is a slap in the face for our climate pledges."



Here to help - your Lib Dem team!



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If we can help with a local issue, or if you'd like to hear more about the local Lib Dems, email your Lib Dem team.

Fareham East Liberal Democrats
 @Farehamlibdems

As a registered national political party, The Liberal Democrats are entitled to a copy of the full Electoral Register under the Representation of the People Regulations 2001, for the purpose of democratic engagement. For information about how we process personal data, please see our privacy notice libdems.org.uk/privacy and to exercise your rights and to stop receiving mail from us, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk or write to us: DPO, Lib Dems, 1 Vincent Square, SW1P 2PN. Published and promoted by Fareham Liberal Democrats at 220 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5HH. Printed by Bishops Printers LTD, Walton Road, Farlington, Portsmouth, PO6 1TR.

It's a clear choice for Fareham

Tories have failed Fareham but only the Lib Dems can beat them here

Lib Dems are the clear challengers

- Lib Dems are the only effective opposition on Fareham Council
- Lib Dem newsletters keep you informed all year round
- We campaign all year round on the issues that matter to YOU

Labour can't win round here

- Labour have had no councillors in Fareham since 2002
- Labour came third at the last local elections well behind Lib Dems
- You only see a Labour leaflet at election time - and they never call

Want to help us? Go to farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved