

Items for your Information

- **Council Advice Surgery** - We wish to remind you that we hold our Council Advice Surgeries on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the foyer of the Portchester Health Centre/Library. As well as the Surgery, we are very pleased to help on any issue that you have, if you telephone or email one of us.
- **£1 million grant from the European Union** - Hampshire County Council has welcomed news that a £1 million grant has been awarded by the European Union's Structural and Investment Fund to create an "Apprenticeship Hub" in the Solent region. This will be a real boost to the resources and support that are available, which includes the range of world class technical training facilities that exist across the county, including the Centre of Excellence in Engineering, Manufacturing and Advanced Skills Training (CEMAST) in Fareham and the Future Skills Centre in East Hampshire.
- **Concessionary Bus Passes** - Hampshire County Council are asking holders of these passes to make sure they are using the correct pass before they travel by checking the date to make certain it is still valid. If you have reported a pass lost or stolen, please use the replacement pass that you have been sent. Passes that are no longer valid will be identified by bus ticket machines and collected by the driver. The concessionary pass scheme is a valuable aid to independence and costs the County Council around £13 million a year.
- **New App now available** - A new Mobile App has been developed which will help signpost Armed Forces personnel, reservists, veterans and the wider Armed Forces community to sources of support and assistance. This app is free to download, search "Forces Connect" in the App Store (for Apple iPhones or iPads) or the Google Play Store (for Android smartphones and tablets).
- **New Community Grants** - A new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund of over £500,000 is being set up by Hampshire County Council to simplify the application process and open it up to a wider range of organisations. For the first time young people's uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts, as well as sports clubs, will be able to apply for funding. Small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will be awarded to help fund community events and activities.

Jean Kelly - Portchester Team Member - Telephone (02392) 363905



- Wake up early and listen to the calls of the curlew down by the shoreline and watch for signs of the Brent Geese overhead. Take the dog for a late-night walk and encounter a vixen near the railway line. Appreciate a stroll down Castle Street to find the historic Portchester Castle and a 12th century church with ancient peace and delicious cakes!
- Be grateful for the free parking at the shops, good railway and bus routes and sit in the park, watching young children play in safety.

The environment of Portchester is worth a second look: it is the people who give it such a unique identity.

So many are willing to help others. You have only to look at the number of lunch clubs for the elderly, the award-winning gardening club at Wicor School, facilities at Portchester A.F.C. and their support for teenagers called "The Box", Petanque, Model Railway Club, community choirs, historic societies, allotment associations to name just a few. Shopkeepers who support the Christmas lights and provide prizes for the annual Gala which is run by the volunteers at the Portchester Community Centre Hub.

There are residents prepared to fight for what they believe in, who organise petitions to protect our environment and councillors who are prepared to work tirelessly to support all residents of Portchester.

Portchester – Reasons to be cheerful. This is your village, I hope you are as proud of it as I am.



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Local Elections

Fareham only elects its councillors every other year when they are elected for a 4-year term. This means that there will be no Fareham Borough Council elections this year.

Therefore the next Fareham Borough Elections will be held on Thursday, 7th May 2020. Hampshire County Council will hold their elections in 2021.

Council Tax

The Council Tax for a Band D property has increased by 4.18% ie £66.88 per year to £1666.26.
The individual Authority increases are set out below.

Fareham Fareham Council Tax for a Band D property will increase by £5 per year. This represents a 10.7% increase over the last 10 years compared with 1.1% in Liberal Democrat controlled Eastleigh. We are concerned about what the Council is doing with the Community Infrastructure Levy which is collected on all new properties built and averages about £10,000 per property.

Fire The Fire Authority has increased the Council Tax by 2.99% to £67.71 for a Band D property. This represents an increase of £1.97 per year. The Fire Authority is in a good financial situation with plans to improve equipment and stations across the county.

Hampshire County Council The County Council has increased its Council Tax by 2.99% to £1,200.96 for a Band D property. This represents an increase of £35.91 per year. We do not agree with Hampshire keeping £646 million reserves when they are cutting services and increasing the Council Tax.

Police The Police Commissioner has increased the Police Council Tax by 13.52% to £201.46 for a Band D property. This represents an increase of £24 per year. With such a large increase we expect to see more police officers on the beat in our community and when the police are called we would expect a response rather than little response as at present.

Dog Fouling

In recent months it has been noticeable that there has been an increase in dog fouling on our pathways and green spaces.

The council is currently looking to create a Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The Fixed Penalty Notice for dog fouling under the PSPO would be set at £100.00. Alternatively, and in cases of non-payment, the matter can be taken to Court where the maximum fine on summary conviction is Level 3 on the standard scale, currently £1,000.

Please be responsible and clean up after your dog. Bag it, bin it, or get fined, let us make the environment a safe place for all to enjoy.

F3 Bus First Bus will discontinue the F3 route from 3rd March. Their drivers have been advising passengers that the reason for this is because the County is withdrawing subsidy for the route. This information is incorrect as this is a commercial route.

Roger has taken this issue up with the County and they have been in contact with First Bus. It has been established that Wednesday is the busiest day of the week and therefore the County are going to subsidise a bus on this day with hourly journeys from Portchester at 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and from Fareham at 11.40 am until 2.40 pm. Also the County Council will continue to fund the limited Linden Lea taxi share for residents in that area.

West Street, Portchester

The saga continues regarding the unsightly repairs and patching carried out in West Street some eight months ago. Roger is continuing his battle with Hampshire County Council over this issue. The latest information provided by them is that at the eastern end, where a considerable amount of cracked sealing has taken place, it is proposed to resurface a short section but to take no action on the remainder of West Street in the short term.

Roger is not satisfied with this solution as he believes all of the area should be resurfaced and he is continuing the battle to get a bad job satisfactorily resolved.

Children's Play Areas

We are pleased that Portchester Park and Castle Street Children's play areas are being refurbished and should either be completed by the time that you receive this newsletter or soon after. The work is estimated to take 3 weeks to complete.

Both projects, as you can see, will provide new and exciting adventures for our young people.

Harbour View play area refurbishment and public consultation has gone out to tender and we look forward to its completion by the end of 2019.



Planning Issues - Updates

Borough Plan Fareham Council still does not have a Borough Plan or a 5-year land supply. This is a continuing saga due to lack of coherent decision-making over the last few years.

Welborne Although the planning application has been received by the Borough Council it appears that it will be some time before it comes to Committee and hopefully development can then start.

Romsey Avenue Fareham Council has now received the application and it will be some time before it is submitted to the Planning Committee for a decision, due to the planning officers working through the details.

Seafeld Road/Wicor Path This planning application has been refused twice and after the last occasion the Council opened up discussions with the developers and then brought the matter back to the committee when it was approved and therefore the developers withdrew the appeal. The decision notice has still not been issued because the officers are investigating issues relating to environmental matters.

Station Road/Merjen Engineering Site Fareham Council now own the whole of the corner site. The original planning consent has now expired and the Council is to submit a new planning application in the second quarter of this year but at the latest in the third quarter. We are unaware of the type of development that they will be proposing in their application but we **only** support aged person units.

Development east of Downend Road This application for 350 houses came before the last planning committee and was deferred because members were not satisfied with the proposals for Downend Road railway bridge.

Second World War Plaque in St Mary's Church, Portchester

Roger suggested to Ian Meredith that there should be a plaque erected in St Mary's Church recognising all those from Portchester who lost their lives during the Second World War. This was agreed, and Roger was very pleased that a plaque was unveiled by Princess Anne's husband, Tim Lawrence, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Portsmouth on 4th December 2018. Roger would like to thank Kate Tame, who was supported by Pamela Wayman, for the hard work and dedication they put in to researching all the names, and also to Richard Andrews for his excellent craftsmanship in making the woodwork for the plaque. Also our grateful thanks go to Reverend Ian Meredith for all his support during this project.

Portchester Lunch Clubs

If you are on your own at home, loneliness can make life difficult. There are lots of lunch clubs in Portchester where you can meet others. Often transport may be available.

Monday: Portchester Community Centre
Telephone: 02392 321787 (11.45 to 13.30)
Cost: £3.50 (Please phone if you are interested.)

Tuesday: Portchester Day Centre, Castle Street hold a Supper Club
Telephone: 02392 321787 (4.30 to 6.30)
Cost: £3.50 (Please phone if you are interested.)

Wednesday: Portchester Community Association at The Hub in the Precinct.
Fit and Fun Lunch Club
Telephone: 02392 210048 (11.00 to 13.00)
Cost: £4.00 (Please phone if you are interested.)

Thursday: Parish Hall Lunch Club, Castle Street
Telephone: 01489 600778 or 07941863018 (10.00 to 13.30)
Cost: £3.00 (Please phone if you are interested.)

Friday: Portchester Methodist Church, Castle Street
Telephone: 01329 232069 (12.00 to 13.30)
Cost: £3.00 (Please phone if you are interested.)

Portchester Gala 2019

Portchester Gala will take place on Saturday, 15th June 2019 and is being organised as usual by Portchester Community Association from their base at The Hub in the Precinct.

If you can help on the day, would like to have a stall at the Gala, or your organisation would like to take part in the procession, please contact the PCA at The Hub or telephone them on 02392 210048.

This is a real community event which is enjoyed by residents so come and take part.