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Attachments: ATT00001.htm; Cov Ltr - Latest Consultation (In Touch).doc; ATT00002.htm

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH - Winter 2015

The Magnificent Seven

• Zero council tax rise 7 years running
• £8m capital investment keeps tax low

• 6.2% pay rise for our council staff
• Major plan to focus on youth support



Youth focus: 40 young people met Council Leader Seán Woodward to discuss issues that concern them. It's proposed to start a young persons' Community Action Team. The County Council will maintain youth service funding this year, but Fareham is considering commissioning its own youth support.

THESE are just a few of the reasons to trust **ONLY the Conservatives with your money.**

We have confounded the pundits yet again by freezing council tax 7 years running.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said it was achieved without reducing essential services, while giving hard working staff a 6.2% pay rise – their first for 3 years.

This is despite our Government grant being halved and receiving less per resident than almost every other council in the country.

Take into account inflation, and it's effectively a 22% tax cut.

The County Council and Fire Authority have also frozen their council tax; only the police element will rise by 1.99%.

Prudent investment in the property market will help to keep taxes low in future.

The Council plans to take a tougher line with littering and dog fouling, plus putting more investment into youth services.

It will continue to invest in apprenticeships and in the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus, where the runway has been resurfaced and the Merlin Innovation Centre will open soon, housing 150 jobs.

'Every Lidl helps'

THE COUNCIL'S venture into real estate should yield 7.3% on its initial £5.89m investment.

It will reap the rewards as landlords can recoup the money if needed by selling the properties.

So far, 5 premises have been bought – including 3 supermarket sites – from the £8m set aside.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said it was good use of public money rather than relying on low interest rates and enabled Fareham to keep its council tax down, give staff a pay rise and maintain services.

He said: "We only buy property with tenants with a very good covenant and upward-only rent increases."

COUNCIL TAX REACTIONS

'Residents should congratulate themselves on the wisdom of living in Fareham, a Conservative authority consistently making careful economies which have resulted in a council tax effectively reduced by 22% over the past 7 years.'

Graham Fuller

'Sustained high-quality service from our Council, with no increase in Council Tax (in real terms a significant decrease) for the past 7 years. A great record.'

John Charles

Council is vindicated over its Welborne strategy

THOUSANDS of acres in Fareham's countryside gaps are safe from greedy developers.

Following public inquiries into the Welborne Plan and other development across the Borough over the next 25 years, the inspector has rejected all sites developers wanted to get their hands on.

So Newlands Farm in the Stubbington gap, Cranleigh Road, Portchester and many others

will be protected.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "This is a complete vindication of our approach that, as supported by residents' surveys, development should only take place on sites allocated by the Council for Fareham's housing need, mainly at Welborne. We can therefore save the South Fareham and Meon strategic gaps."

England's 3rd lowest district council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting