



Lowest Council Tax Increase for 40 Years

Conservative controlled Hampshire County Council's tax rise this year will be the lowest for 40 years at a below inflation rate of just 1.9% - with the promise that it will be no higher next year too.

Hampshire County Council provides vital services to over 1.2 million residents every day.

The county's ageing population, and increasing numbers of adults with physical or learning difficulties, is placing a growing burden on our social care system.

Despite ever more directives and disappointingly low levels of grant from central government the Tory-run authority has been awarded a **four star rating** by the independent Audit Commission.

This is the highest possible rating and it is the sixth year in a row that our County Council has earned this accolade.

Burnt House Lane Traffic

A petition calling for action to deal with speeding traffic, rat running, dangerous and inconsiderate parking was collected by local residents who were assisted by Cllr Kay Mandry. Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and the police have joined forces to deal with these issues.

County Councillor Tim Knight is actively pursuing a School Travel Plan with Meon Cross School. Fareham's highways engineers are to investigate traffic regulation orders to help control school traffic parking, with the police monitoring traffic speed.



A school travel plan encourages students to arrive safely at school wherever possible under their 'own steam' and brings with it additional funding to enable safety measures to be installed. Traffic Regulation Orders cover limited waiting, double or single yellow lines and are enforceable by Council Officers.

Fareham's Recession Busting Budget 2009/10

Despite "one of the most derisory Government Grants in the Country" a below inflation Council Tax rise of just 2.7% has been achieved. Services remain essentially intact and charges rise only a modest amount in line with the requirements of Fareham's Residents.

Fareham's proportion of the Council Tax for a band D property will be just £140 per year. **(The comparative figure for Gosport is over £200).**

Other improvements to services in response to residents' concerns include removal of the £20 charge for pest control officers to deal with domestic rat infestations.

Sunday and Bank Holiday car parking charges will be changed to allow free parking up to 10.30am in the short-stay car parks with free Sunday and Bank Holiday parking in the long-stay car parks.

Charges on these days in short-stay car parks from 10.30am – 4pm will be £1.50 for as long as shoppers wish to park.

While other centres outside Fareham are losing shops, June will see a Debenhams department store and new multi-storey car park open in the town centre. Capital budget improvements include the Cliff Road replacement toilets, (by the Sailing Club car park), at an increased cost of £170,000.

CENTRE UPGRADES

COMMUNITY centres are in line for top quality improvements under a new Fareham Council initiative. A broad vision was approved, providing high quality community facilities across the Borough following consultation through the Community Action Team (CAT) process.

£500,000 capital budget has been set aside for 'pump-priming' to assist in delivering the vision which will be phased and will review all Council owned community facilities.

Work has started on Phase 1 to develop a master plan based on providing new community facilities to replace the outdated Portchester Community Centre, where a public consultation was held to establish what local people wanted.

Part of our own excellent Crofton Community Centre (near the Library) is being refurbished starting in late February at a cost of £297,909.

Site work starts with three portacabins parked in the public car park near the Scout hut and the establishment of protective hoardings.

Bus Rapid Transit - a Blast from the Past!

When Dr Beeching closed down the Gosport to Fareham rail service he had no idea that part of the track would be used for a Bus Rapid service (Phase 1) from Gosport to Fareham

In 2011 you should be able to blast along the old track in a modern bus every five minutes or so from Titchborne Way to Redlands Lane free of cars and then it's back to reality as you return to normal roads.

Our MP, Sir Peter Viggers is pressing for Phase 2 of funding, so that the bus can pass along over the old A27 disused railway bridge to Fareham railway station, passing the platforms on the western side and then crossing over the railway track on a new bridge to end up in the existing railway station car park.

A lot of advantages for every one. Fareham Borough Council are keen to see the station play a more active role as a transport hub. Cost of the current work is £20 million. Further details and answers to frequent questions on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/tfsh>

**Crofton Old Church**

St Edmunds Crofton Old Church secured £7,475 from the Neighbourhood Initiative Fund for the historic conservation and restoration of six Edwardian and Victorian monuments and tombstones in the old burial grounds.



Hampshire County Council will be repairing the small verge outside the entrance to the historic church with cobbles.

Just a small improvement but one which will make the verge complement the historic setting of the church.

CHANGES to the garden waste service will start in April 2009

The Health and Safety Executive advised they were necessary to avoid problems of repetitive strain injury and worse. So extra staff had to be employed, adding to the cost of the service. Handling one or two sacks is not a problem, but in some months crews are being asked to lift up to 20 tons per day.

When the service was introduced in September 2005 it was on the basis that it would be cost neutral, which is no longer the case and councils are under increasing financial pressure from the Government. In the current economic climate the Council had no option but to review discretionary services of which this is one. It was decided to retain this popular service and that it should be free for most residents.

There will be no charge for the collection of one garden waste sack. Most councils charge for this service and those which charge for extra sacks charge more than Fareham proposes. Fewer than 50% of residents use the service at any one time and most put out only one sack.

People can order extra disposable bags of a similar size to the existing sacks at £20 for 25 sacks, which will be collected regardless of how many or when they are put out.

HCC Grants for Crofton

Salterns Road is the official coastal cycle route. Many residents find this a fairly horrific experience on a bike, and a grant for £10,000 has been given to Sustrans (a charity for Sustainable transport) to pursue an alternative green route parallel to the coastal promenade. The expectation being that they will raise the balance of the estimated cost (£47,250 + VAT) from their own sources/grants.

Another £4,000 has gone to Crofton Guides to help fund their replacement guide hut east of the Surgery.

1st Stubbington Scout Group received £2,000 towards a camping utility trailer, tent, shelter and other equipment.

Holy Rood Church Centre has received £2,200 towards a large catering style cooker for all users.

Hill Head Residents Association have received £1,800 for two badger seats to be carved out of Hill Head oak tree trunks. Funds are in place but there has been a delay with this.

County Councillor Tim Knight hopes this funding will continue and welcomes suitable grant suggestions for next year.

Crime – Fareham’s Good News Story

Fareham Community Safety Partnership has been awarded £30,000 by the Home Office to tackle alcohol related issue.

There have been a number of successful prosecutions for litter, flytipping, Building Regulation and food safety offences.

The new Chief Constable, Mr Alex Marshall, has ordered an offensive against burglary, **Operation NEMESIS**. One offender who has been operating in our area has already been arrested and charged with more than a dozen offences.

Complacent – not a bit of it! **The police need your calls and information** in order to target their limited resources. Keep them coming as there is an expectation that crime may increase due to the economic downturn.

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| Over the past three years: | All Crime DOWN by 9%. Criminal Damage DOWN by 25% Theft from motor vehicle DOWN by 27% Violent Crime DOWN by 26% |
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Other News

HCC plan to install two sections of new pavements on the South East side of Titchfield Road from 12 to 38 and 56 to 74

Crofton School are planning to construct a synthetic turf sports pitch with sports fencing, floodlighting, store/office building with associated boundary fencing and landscaping. This should prove to be a huge benefit to the area.

Fareham’s Executive Leader Cllr Sean Woodward and Fareham MP Mark Hoban recently met the Under Secretary of State for Transport, Paul Clark MP to say that “Government funding for the concessionary travel scheme is woefully inadequate for authorities like Fareham” as 20% of the Council Tax raised is now used to fund bus passes for older residents.

Daedalus Latest -The South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) has published for consultation ‘A Vision for Daedalus’. The stated purpose **‘is to capture the long term aspirations for the reuse and redevelopment of the Daedalus site and to demonstrate the important role that Daedalus can play in securing growth within the local and regional economy’**.

The document is to be considered by Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils and Hampshire County Council.

SEEDA hopes that the Visionary Framework will be endorsed and supported by those authorities. The proposals contain a mix of uses including employment (including marine and aviation), residential, retail and leisure/community. We will need to look carefully at the highways issues as SEEDA is proposing a new entrance/exit to the site at a point to the east of the flats on the site of the former Ross House, at the junction of Stubbington Lane and Marine Parade West. See photo on right. ⇨

A copy of the ‘Vision’ can be found on the Fareham Borough Council website, follow -‘**About the Council-Committee Info-LDF Steering**

Group agenda 12 February, 2009’. The Executive will consider the Group’ recommendations on 9 March, 2009, representations may be made to the Executive or to your local Councillors.



4 Hill Head and Stubbington Conservatives

Conservatives are against waste



In Europe the European Union (EU) employs more than 170,000 officials, on handsome and largely untaxed retainers. For every formal Eurocrat there are dozens of others: the Europe officers retained by every charity, local council, large corporation and non governmental organisation. The European Parliament has been moving from Brussels to Strasbourg in accordance with its Charter once a month. The cost of the entire organisation travelling from Brussels to Strasbourg is nearly a billion pounds, to say nothing of the environmental impact. It's not just the 785 MEPs who migrate, it's the interpreters, the committee clerks, the cooks, the chauffeurs and tons of paperwork.

It is also fair to point out that for the fourteenth year in a row, the European Court of Auditors has refused to certify the EU budget.

However in the UK it's our money that migrates. Across the whole UK 49% of the economy for 2008/09 will consist of Government spending. That is 36% in the South East, 66.4% in the North East, 71.6% in Wales and 77.6% in Northern Ireland. **For many parts of Britain this is a higher level than former Soviet satellite countries received as they emerged from communism in the 1990s.** Scottish households will have their Council Tax frozen until 2012. **They are set to become the third most state-dependent country in the world (after Cuba and Iraq), funded, of course, from our taxes!**

European and County Elections will be held on Thursday 4th June, there will be no Borough Elections as these are held every two years.

Help Required - Driver for Community Bus

Have you got free time and would you be prepared to drive a community bus once a week? We have residents in Stubbington who cannot visit their Thursday club as they have no driver. If you can help out please contact Fareham Community Action - telephone 01329 223151 or contact one of the Councillors below. Thank you.

CONSERVATIVES' INFORMATION DESK

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Councillors' Surgeries

One of the Conservative Councillors will be at the Crofton Community Centre on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon to answer any questions.

Contact your MP

Sir Peter Viggers

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Kim Brindley (Hill Head &

Stubbington Chairman)

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We cannot guarantee success but we will do our best