



# In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER EAST – BOROUGH ELECTION SPECIAL

## Only the Conservatives can deliver new community centre

**PUBLIC feelings are running high as plans to build a £1.7m replacement for Portchester's run-down community centre get under way.**

It's top of Fareham Council's list to provide all the neighbourhood areas with modern community facilities.

But the only way a new centre will be built is if the Conservatives do it.

Geoff Fazackarley and Andrew Smith said: "Best then to elect us, the Conservative candidates for Portchester East, who will, of course, have direct access, unlike the Liberals, to the decision-making Conservatives.

"If you want any chance of getting the centre rebuilt on its current site, or even at all, you must vote Conservative.

"The Lib Dems cannot deliver for Portchester as they have no ability to actually make decisions."

Most people interviewed by Andrew Smith and Geoff Fazackarley said they wanted the new building, but on the same site at Westlands Grove.

But whether it will be built on the existing site or nearer the village centre looks like being dictated by cost.

A brand new 900 sq m community centre has been extensively researched and all options to raise the money are being explored.

Amanda Harrison, of Kenwood Road, said: "We would just like to know what's going on. I think the staff and facilities here are great.

### 'A lovely place'

"There are certainly closer crèche facilities for me but I love the location and the open space – a lovely place to bring the children."

She was aware from the Community Action Team meeting that a site behind the precinct was being considered.

"It's far too busy an area, parking will be limited and I think there will be a lot more trouble with break-ins and so on."



**Track suits**, not pin-stripes are the new look for Conservative candidates Andrew Smith (left) and Geoff Fazackarley, who aim to bring fresh ideas to Portchester East.

Regular community centre user Claire Humphries, of Newtown Road, said: "The facilities are great here and the location is perfect; everybody thinks it's great and it's always busy. I don't think anyone would like it behind the shopping precinct."

Karen Baxter, who arrived at the centre to pick up one of her children, said: "What a fabulous place. It's clear that the land is wanted for housing development, but it would be such a shame to lose such a wonderful facility in such a great location."

### Advisory group

An advisory group to the Executive was set up, mainly to consider obtaining funding to build a new community centre at Portchester following consultations with residents and a needs assessment.

The community centre situation topped

the agenda at the recent CAT meeting, when Martyn George, Director of Customer Services, explained that siting was the prime issue.

### Looking to land sales

Residents clearly favoured building the new centre on the same site, but were told that might be impossible as the Council does not have the funds and will need to look to land sales in Portchester.

The Community Association's lease expires in March 2011, when the centre will have to close pending demolition.

Geoff Fazackarley and Andrew Smith promise that if they are elected they will ensure the residents of Portchester will be kept informed of developments.

They added: "If we can't help you get what you and your families would ideally like, we will endeavour, at very least, to explain how any decision was reached."

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time

# A record of ACTION, a promise of MORE

Tidemark  
Swanwick Shore Road  
Lower Swanwick SO31 7EF

Dear Elector

As a recently appointed **Conservative** candidate for Portchester East, I have spent a reasonable amount of time recently walking around and looking at things from a very different perspective.

Geoff and I spent two or three hours walking around the shopping precinct recently and asking several shopkeepers and pedestrians what issues, if any, they had about the facilities in the precinct, the shops on offer and the general state of the area.

It became very clear to us both that despite surrounding development and a clear change in people's spending and shopping habits, most still view the precinct as the village and a central meeting point.

If this is a clear belief then this village environment is something that needs to be protected and maintained at all costs.

Well, let's face it we all like walking into a shop and being recognised and openly greeted. I believe it's this type of community spirit that is continually on the demise in our environment and I will do as much as I can, together with Geoff, to help bring the precinct back to a state of which all the residents of Portchester can be proud.

I know some of the shopkeepers have an issue with the market on a Wednesday; I believe this needs to be looked into and some kind of consensual need reached where the shopkeepers and shoppers benefit alike.

Geoff and I both feel the precinct is something close to all your hearts and we will try our best to do the right thing for you all.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Smith**

79 White Hart Lane  
Portchester PO16 9BG

Ladies and Gentlemen

I care passionately about Portchester and feel I needed to stand as your councillor as for so many years inaction has plagued us, and my commitment to you is to make a difference to your lives.

I live in our ward and my children go to school here, so I know the issues that need dealing with as soon as possible.

I expect by now that you are fed up with all these leaflets coming through your door 'vote for this and that', but I am writing to you because as a normal working man I feel that I could no longer put up with the way our community is being run.

You will be familiar with TV and newspaper reports that politicians have abused their powers in managing local affairs, particularly in matters of finance: no scheme has been too frivolous or too costly for those councils to embark upon using your money. **YOUR** council tax.

**Nothing of that kind has applied to any Conservative council.**

Fareham Borough has a long history of **Conservative** successes; indeed, this year we have one of only a handful of 0% council tax rises in the country.

To help the prudence and efficiency in council you need to elect a **Conservative** to Portchester East. **You each have 2 votes**, so please use them to make a difference to all our lives.

If you want a councillor who strives for Portchester and makes a difference in the council chamber, if where we live makes a difference, then **Conservatives** are your wisest choice.

Yours sincerely

**Geoff Fazackarley**

On Thursday, May 6 please vote **CONSERVATIVE** for

# GEOFF FAZACKARLEY

## AND

# ANDREW SMITH

Polling stations open 7am – 10pm

# Two candidates with a passion for serving the Portchester community



**I AM PROUD to have lived in Portchester for 12 years and worked with the people in the area on many issues in that time**

Whether it has been a political matter or organising social events, I have enjoyed every challenge knowing it's been for the community.

I am also very proud of our schools in Portchester whose teaching staffs work so hard in these difficult times. My children go to school here and I commend the work staff do.

I am chairman of Portchester Conservatives and on the executive committee of Fareham Borough Conservatives. I know how hard things have been over the last few years, everyone working harder and longer hours. I am a bus controller and work in a difficult environment.

But I promise I will work full time to ensure everyone of you, whatever your views, will be looked after to the best of my ability. This is not only a promise, but also a guarantee.

You will have 2 votes on May 6. Please use them to change all our lives for the better.

**Geoff is always available for his constituents**

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**Telephone:** 0782 1477190 (mobile)

**Email:** fazman38@ntlworld.com

**ANDREW SMITH is aged 46 and married with a three-year-old son and a baby boy born a few weeks ago. He spent most of his working life until 2008 in London with an investment bank.**

He has lived in Fareham over 10 years and is interested in issues affecting local people, which they feel are beyond their control.

Andrew studied horticulture at Sparsholt College and started his own landscaping gardening business three years ago.

"Starting my own business has been a steep learning curve but I honestly believe some of the skills I've learnt will help me to become a solid and reliable representative for the people of Portchester.

"I find it pleasing that in general the quality of schools and public services in Fareham are of a very high standard which in tough times like these is really something to be proud of. I am very new to local politics but it's already clear there are many issues you all care about passionately and I am very keen to work as hard as I can to ensure these issues are appropriately addressed."

**Andrew is always available for his constituents**

**Address:** Tidemark, Swanwick Shore Road, Lower Swanwick SO31 7EF

**Telephone:** 01489 572152

**Email:** andrew.smith1720@googlemail.com

## Geoff and Andrew highly commended by fellow Conservatives

**Fareham MP Mark Hoban says:**

"Geoff and Andrew will make great councillors.

"It is time for a change in Portchester and time for a fresh look at your needs.

"Geoff and Andrew are enthusiastic and able – they will make a top team for Portchester.

"Please support them on May 6."

**Fareham Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward says:**

"I am very pleased to support the candidacies of Andrew and Geoff. They both bring different and distinctive approaches to solving Portchester's problems.

"I hope that like me you agree that it is time for a change in Portchester East and will vote for them on May 6.

# Out and about with Geoff and Andrew

## Canvassing the ward



**Getting to grips:** Geoff listens to Mrs Pam Thorpe, of White Hart Lane, as she discusses local issues.

## Gone to pot



**Road in the hole:** Geoff says he will tackle Hampshire Highways to repair this pot hole in Jubilee Road – one of many left by the big freeze.

## Village aspect must be preserved

### Hub of the community



**Run-down:** The Community Centre is a popular venue, but it's old and is top of the list to be replaced. Opinions differ how this will be achieved and here Andrew gets the view of regular user Claire Humphries, of Newtown Road.



**Fact finding tour:** Andrew spent several hours with Geoff walking round Portchester Precinct, talking to shoppers and shopkeepers. He promises, if elected, to help bring this hub of the community back to a state of which all the residents of Portchester can be proud.