

# St Faiths Ward Matters

Keeping Residents up-to-date with Issues in the Ward

Spring 2023

**St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party**



Much has happened in the last three months, both nationally and locally, but a priority remains at this time of year for families to stay safe, warm and properly fed. There are several warm hubs across the Borough, including the town Library and the Pallant Centre. The Beacon Foodbank distributes food from the Beacon Church upstairs in the Meridian Centre.

## **Amazon Warehouse opens amid controversy**

Concerns have been raised about the new Amazon warehouse on New Lane. The light pollution at night is considerable. This is a picture of the warehouse taken from Nutwick Road in Denvilles. There also remain concerns from residents about the impact of the extra traffic generated. We need to ensure that



Amazon keep to the terms of the agreement that they signed.

## **Havant Borough fails to win 'Levelling Up' Funds**

Havant Council's bid to central Government for £20M to support the regeneration of Havant Town Centre has been rejected. Key parts of the plan included knocking down the west side of the Meridian Centre. Phil Munday, local Councillor for St Faiths commented: *'Huge costs of officer time are put into these funding bids at a time when councils are not well financed. The Government must return to proper annual funding for capital projects. Part of the bid was to replace the railway foot bridge, which is in a shocking state. This is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and I will continue to press hard for action on this.'*

## **Councillor Munday's request for water quality sampling in Langstone Harbour agreed by Council**

The Labour group successfully tabled a motion asking the Council to reinstate regular independent water quality testing in Langstone Harbour in order to understand the environmental, health and safety impact of the significant sewage outfalls within the harbour in a data driven way. Phil Munday, who proposed this motion, said:

*'Before 2016 Havant used to test the harbour. Chichester Council still fund testing of Chichester harbour and Portsmouth City Council have also recently introduced testing in Langstone Harbour. If we join them in reinstating testing, we can also verify Southern Water's claims about Budds Farm £20M investment on water quality and better protect our residents who use the harbour from the effects of harmful pathogens like e-coli that causes sickness and infection.'*

## **Huge concern from residents over Southern Water's effluent recycling to drinking water proposal**

The construction of Havant Thicket Reservoir has now started. It is projected to be in operation by 2030. It has been planned for a long time but at the eleventh hour a new proposal was made by Southern Water to pump their recycled sewage water into the reservoir to supplement the supply from natural spring water. **We think this is not a good idea, because we get plenty of rain to collect and store. Why do we need recycled sewage water?**

The water from the reservoir will taste different – will you want to drink it, and if not will more people be buying bottled water and damage the environment further? It will also require infrastructure to be built at a large cost. In addition, recycled effluent will have an adverse impact on the wetlands and biodiversity that was promised as a benefit of the new reservoir.

At the recent public meeting many concerns were raised by residents. Phil and Gillian both attended the meeting and spoke with local residents afterwards. You can find out more at: [havantmatters.org/water-key-concerns/](http://havantmatters.org/water-key-concerns/). An online petition against this proposal has already gained 4,000 signatures in just four weeks. You can sign it here: [www.change.org/p/stop-plans-for-drinking-southern-waters-recycled-sewage](http://www.change.org/p/stop-plans-for-drinking-southern-waters-recycled-sewage)

## **Success with demand for a new bottle bank near The Spring**

You may recall that about a year ago a new system of bottle banks was introduced.



They were larger but required significant investment in a new lorry and bottle skips. The real problem was that as a consequence of the size of the new skips there were fewer sites that were suitable. St Faiths was particularly badly served losing three different bottle bank sites to the east of the town centre. Since their introduction there have been many complaints from residents because of the poorer service. Phil, as your local

Councillor has been asking questions in Council meetings and has been constantly promised that new sites in St Faiths were being considered. Phil says ***'The new bottle banks have been a disaster. There are fewer of them and it is harder to reach the holes for older and less mobile residents. At least they have reinstated one in the car park by The Spring. We are still waiting to hear if a better resolution can be found for Green Pond Corner. We will keep you posted!'***

## **Support for local foodbanks**

Phil Munday, on behalf of the local Constituency Labour Party made a donation of £100 to The Beacon Food Bank in the Meridian Centre. The foodbank does an excellent job supporting families who are struggling in the challenging financial climate. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who give freely of their time.

## **Following up on residents' concerns**

Both Phil and Gillian have taken up cases raised by local residents. Gillian has been asking for repairs to be made to the **broken paving slabs outside the PO Sorting Office**, about **damaged verges along Elmleigh Road** after the recent roadworks there and about the **lighting on School Lane** pedestrian section. Phil has managed to get **Network Rail to repair the steps to the New Lane pedestrian bridge**. They have been following up on many individual cases. If you need help, please contact Phil on phil.munday@havant.gov.uk or on Mob: 07740676675. Gillian can be contacted on gillian.harris@havantlabour.uk. We have also regularly been out and about on Saturday and Sunday mornings, knocking on doors and talking to residents.



## **May the Fourth Be with You: Remember your Photo ID**

The next Council election will take place on Thursday 4th May. The regulations have changed and you now need to show photo ID at the polling station. Most forms of ID will be accepted (even if they are out of date), but it is expected that driving licences and passports will be the most commonly presented on the day. If you don't have suitable photo ID you can apply to the Council for a free 'Voter Authority Certificate'. For more information visit [stfaiths.havantlabour.uk/ID](http://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk/ID).

The elections in May are for Havant Borough Council, who make decisions about housing and local services. Since 2010, local authorities have faced a reduction of core funding from Government of nearly £16 billion. This means that local councils have lost 60p out of every £1 the Government provides to spend on local services. Havant Council currently have a huge majority with 34 out of 38 councillors elected as Conservatives and two vacant seats. We think they:

- Do not put enough emphasis on providing social housing for the 2,000 or so



families still on our housing waiting list.

- Need to ensure that all new homes are fitted with the latest energy saving devices, including solar panels to prepare for a future of global warming and energy shortages.
- Are not robust enough in challenging water companies to protect our water supply and reduce pollution in our local harbours.



Gillian Harris will be standing as the Labour Candidate in May. Phil Munday, one of our current Councillors for St Faiths says 'Currently we have only two opposition councillors on Havant Borough Council, both Labour. ***We need more councillors who will stand up for local residents. With more Labour councillors we can follow up on residents' concerns and hold the Conservative Council to account.***

Gillian says "***Phil has made a big difference to St Faiths since he was elected last year, and we stand together on all these issues of concern***

***to our residents. As a team on Havant Borough Council we can be even more effective.***

***"In addition to the many environmental and housing issues, in this digital world more and more services are only available online. More effort needs to be made to ensure everyone can freely access internet services. Other councils (Croydon, Sheffield, Southwark for example) have made or are making this happen and HBC can learn from these examples."***



*Gillian with Havant Community Litter Pickers helping to clean up our environment*



You can find out more detail on our website at: [stfaiths.havantlabour.uk](http://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk) or follow the link using this QR code. Please contact us at [stfaithsmatters@havantlabour.uk](mailto:stfaithsmatters@havantlabour.uk), or contact Phil directly at [phil.munday@havant.gov.uk](mailto:phil.munday@havant.gov.uk) or Mob: 07740 676675. We would also like to hear from you if you can help us in any way including distribution of our newsletters.