

St Faiths Ward Matters

Keeping Residents up to date with issues in the Ward: August 2020

St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party



Welcome to our first local update on issues in St Faiths. Our aim is to keep you informed of what is happening in the ward. Firstly, a big thank you to all local residents, especially the Denvilles Alliance, Pook Lane Patch and Emsworth Alliance who have supported our more vulnerable residents during this very difficult time.

Support for those in need of adult social care during the Pandemic

During this lockdown, much of the support for disabled people in Hampshire has been withdrawn with day care provision closing and homecare visits significantly curtailed because of Covid 19. A study by the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers shows 50% of people with care needs are no longer receiving personal care visits. We contacted our local County Councillor to ask what emergency support is being put in place. He confirmed that locally all daycentres are closed but that some respite centres have been opened to give a break to carers. We will continue to push for increases in support for these families.

Warblington Farm: Rewilding Proposal

A report was presented to Havant Borough Council Cabinet Members on 3rd June detailing proposals to rewild the current fields attached to Warblington Farm. The proposal is a means of reducing nitrate run off into Langstone Harbour where pollution is affecting wildlife in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This will enable the Council to support house building on vacant brown field sites which has currently halted. This is because more occupancy of these sites would increase the sewage outflow and hence increase nitrates into the harbour. Apparently, this does not affect construction of houses on greenfield sites in the same way because the reduction in agricultural use reduces nitrate run off. We are pushing for this issue to be discussed more openly by the Council.

Langstone Village Coastal Defences

Havant Borough Council are undertaking a study for future coastal management at Langstone. They are consulting with local residents about planned improvements to the coastal defences around Langstone Village and the Sailing Club. This is part of the Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy and two public events were held in January 2020. There are a number of options for protecting the High Street and the frontage to The Royal Oak public house. The proposed scheme will cost in the region of £4M, including significant contributions from Havant Council. You can find more information at www.escp.org.uk/langstone.



Langstone Technology Park lighting

We have contacted Havant Council to ask why overnight lighting of the Technology Park has increased significantly. Residents close to the Park have complained that light pollution from the security lights has spoiled their view of the night sky and can damage sleep patterns. It has also been shown to affect insect populations. We await a reply.

Keeping St Faiths safe and tidy

We have raised some issues to improve the Ward and keep it safe and tidy. These include:

Removing discarded fencing and fibre boards left outside opposite Havant Train Station.



Getting the lid replaced on the glass recycling container outside the Post Office Sorting Office in East Street. The lid has been missing for some time and broken glass covers the pavement, where people have dropped bottles into the container, with glass shards flying out. We asked for this to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Requesting Hampshire Highways to ensure that hedges are kept trimmed back to allow wheelchairs and children's pushchairs to pass along narrow pavements.



Supporting Havant Town Centre

We are all keen to see a thriving and vibrant town centre. The Council has recently purchased the Meridian Centre. There is an open Facebook group set up by Crystal Young who owns Button Up Baby in North Street, which is called Havant huddle. Some good ideas have come out of the group. We want to support new initiatives such as this.

One issue that seems to be causing problems is the new parking restrictions, which seem not to help social distancing but reduce parking for local traders and shoppers.

Note from the Editor:

We also want to find out what action is being taken over the **burnt-out railwayman's cottages** on Langstone Road and progress on the **planned footbridge at Warblington station**. Our team are pressing for action on these matters as we are concerned that ward councillors are not keeping residents informed. Please let us know of any other issues you would like us to look into. We have over 100 members in St Faiths ward. Please contact us on stfaithsmatters@havantlabour.uk if you have issues you would like us to raise.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Ray Cobbett, who had been a very active County Councillor for Emsworth and St Faiths and more recently a strong advocate for Friends of the Earth. Our thoughts are with his family.

Phil Munday (Editor)