

St Faiths Ward Matters

Keeping Residents up to date with issues in the Ward

March 2021



St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party

Welcome to our third update on St Faiths issues. We aim to support improvement to St Faiths and keep you informed of what is happening in the ward in order to discuss and influence the decisions the Council take on our behalf. This has been a difficult year but one of the positives has been the strong sense of community in Havant through support groups and the efforts of our traders. We hope all residents stay safe and healthy and look forward to relaxation of restrictions as the vaccine rollout continues.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Southleigh Development – report on proposed road link to A27 published
- Making Havant Greener – Time for low carbon homes?
- The impact of the pandemic on our children
- Plan for 121 homes on the Council's Civic Plaza car park falls through
- Havant Borough Council fails the Government's Housing Delivery Target
- Concerns about moves to align with East Hants Council following publication of a damning report on East Hants Council



SOUTHLEIGH DEVELOPMENT AND ROAD LINK

The Havant Local Plan to 2037 has now been submitted to the Inspector. It includes proposals to build 2,100 homes on the fields between Denvilles and Emsworth. As part of the original consultation, a relief road was promised to link the new development directly to the A27. We expressed concern in our last newsletter that the revised local plan included the comment ‘... current evidence appears to indicate that such a link may not be necessary,’. **Phil Munday** wrote to all three ward Councillors asking them to give clear support for the link road and made a submission as part of the consultation on the Havant Local Plan. A new traffic report has now been published which does include a plan for the relief road. We now need to make sure that this road is comprehensive enough to cope with all the traffic. Phil, who was a member of the original consultation says *‘We need to have full and proper consultation on this road link as we were promised in 2017. **An effective link road will be essential to relieve transport pressure not just on the Denvilles and Warblington areas but also in central Havant. The road must be built at the beginning of this development**’*. More details can be found on our website: <https://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk> and an explanation of the proposals by the Havant Civic Society at: www.havantcivicsociety.uk



PROMOTING A GREENER HAVANT

Residents have expressed concern at the increase in notified sewage laden discharges from Budds Farm Waste Water Treatment Works into Langstone Harbour during periods of heavy rainfall. You can sign up to **Hayling Sewage Watch** on Facebook. We need clear action now from Southern Water to reduce this pollution of our attractive coastline

If we are to tackle global warming, we must turn words into action and develop sustainable housing. All new homes should be built to low carbon design.

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON OUR CHILDREN

We have raised before our concerns about the availability of free holiday meals for children. We tested this out over the Christmas holiday by contacting both Havant Council and Hampshire County Council. Neither could offer any advice on how vouchers for meals could be accessed and repeatedly batted us back and forth. The lack of clarity or access on this is worrying. The transcript of these phone calls and our correspondence with our local MP is on our website at <https://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk>

There is concern amongst teachers and parents at the widening gap in learning for pupils who for various reasons cannot access good broadband or a laptop. **Phil Munday**, as a retired Headteacher explained *'schools and parents are doing an excellent job in very difficult circumstances but there is a real worry that some pupils are getting left behind. As we come out of the pandemic, we need very targeted support to bridge this gap'*.

We also want to thank all public service workers and volunteers who have worked so hard to support those more vulnerable members of our community.

£3.4 MILLION FUNDING, 121 HOMES AND REPLACEMENT CAR PARK FALL THROUGH



Three years ago, Havant Borough Council launched the **Regeneration Strategy 'Opportunity Havant.'** One of the main projects was a new development of 121 flats and a replacement car park near the Civic Plaza building (see above). Two years ago, £3.4M was granted from the Homes Agency to help deliver the project. At the time the Deputy Council Leader called this 'a vote of confidence (in the Council).' However Conservative-run HBC have now closed the project saying that they have failed to attract the funding necessary to make the project viable despite spending around £200K on development costs. **Phil Munday** comments: *'This project was described as a 'quick win' for the Council when it was announced but two years later, it has ended in failure. A large sum of public funds was spent. This is not a good use of public money.'*

IMPLICATIONS FOR HAVANT COUNCIL OF CRITICAL EAST HAMPSHIRE REPORT

Havant Borough Council have made moves to align with East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) by sharing the workforce, and most recently developing common committee structures and similar constitutions. Phil Munday, representing Havant Labour made a deputation to Council expressing concern over the highly critical report on how that Council has been run particularly on the lack of transparency in decision making and deep-rooted problems. The report made a long list of recommendations.

Phil explained *'The report details worrying behaviours including inappropriate conduct and behaviour between Council members and towards officers. When challenged about this, the Havant Cabinet Lead Councillor responded 'It is for them to sort out'.*

*However, the EHDC report states that '...the scale of the issues raised and...particularly the length of time they have been tolerated, could continue to have a negative impact on governance for some time'. **As a former Headteacher I find the report very worrying, particularly when you consider that Havant Council shares the same senior officers. Surely, our Council need to have a more robust view on the report and the implications for Havant'.***

Phil Munday is your St Faiths candidate for Labour. He is a retired secondary school headteacher, who has lived in St Faiths for over 40 years. He explains 'I want Havant to be a thriving local community with **involvement from residents** in all the key decisions being made. I will:



- work for more open and accountable decision making by our Council
- Protect our local environment by working to limit use of green field sites and set sensible limits on housebuilding by considering housing density, increased use of brown field sites
- Promote environmentally friendly projects.

As an example of this I am pressing for a range of tree species and some large trees to replace 130 ash trees being felled at Bosmere School. This would improve air quality, noise reduction and improve privacy.

I would particularly like to thank our public service workers as well as our traders and volunteers who have done so much to support us through these challenging times

Follow me on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PhilforStFaiths> or Tel: 07740676675.