

FOCUS

Autumn 2023

Liberal Democrats



Roger Price



Chrissie Bainbridge



Paul Nother



David Wiltshire



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Your Local Portchester Village NEWSletter

Work starts on A27



Work is starting on the £10m grant-funded scheme on the A27 to improve cycling and walking routes and encourage use of public transport.

The works will include:

- The provision of a bus lane and bus priority signals on the westbound Cams Hill arm of the Delme roundabout;
- The provision of a two-way segregated cycle-track next to the westbound carriageway;
- Improvements to the footways to create a shared use path between St Catherines and Downend Road.
- The conversion of all existing crossings to include facilities for cyclists.

The works will last about a year. The start will see the central reservation removed between Downend junction and the Delme roundabout and will take about 6-8 weeks.

This will require one lane on either side of the reservation to be closed to allow for the heavy machinery needed to remove the lighting columns and concrete.

It is planned for the works to stop at 4pm to allow for the lanes to be re-opened. Lane closures will be reviewed daily. Temporary street lighting will also be installed.

In December the lanes will be fully opened to allow for increased Christmas shopping trips to be catered for and work will resume in January of 2024. Allow sufficient time for your journey as there will be delays.

Lib Dem County Councillor Roger Price is liaising regularly with the Hampshire Highways department to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

We will keep you updated through our social media and e-newsletters or go to:

hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/atfa27footwayimprovements

Cranleigh Rd: We keep up fight for open space

Paul and Chrissie continued to visit the open space at Cranleigh Road throughout the summer.

It was disheartening to see that a number of the newly planted trees were dead, along with a good deal of the scrub planting.



In September, Fareham Council officers met with Persimmon and the management company Remus to check on the progress of the planting carried out in the Spring along with the new path materials.

Once again, it has been agreed that the dead trees will be removed and replaced, along with some of the other shrubs that have failed.

We have met with the council officers and asked just how much time Persimmon are going to be given to get this space sorted.

Grant Funding still available. Please contact Roger Price to chat through before applying.

Precinct: Will the Tories deliver?

Roger Price met the Hampshire Cabinet member for Highways and the assistant director of highways to show them the deplorable condition of the Precinct and the problems being created by the canopy and roots of the trees.

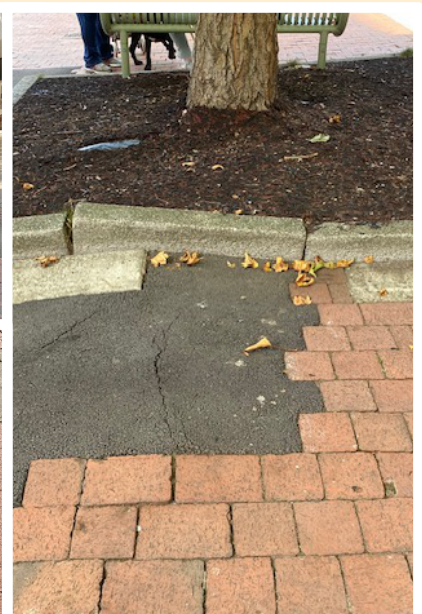
The flooring is so uneven in places that even the litter bins can't stand up! To completely regenerate the precinct is now estimated to need around £3m.

The assistant director agreed to some works that include pruning the trees, enlarging the base area around the roots of the trees and re-positioning the seating

and litter bins. Hampshire have however said that they would welcome Fareham Borough Council contributing the remaining money from Lidl to help fund improvements.

Lets hope the two Tory administrations can actually agree on the proposal so that plans can be drawn up for the remedial works.

Fareham's Tory council leaders seem unwilling to take responsibility for Portchester being in such a poor condition. But as they control the purse strings it's down to them to make the right decision for our community and get our district centre safe and fit to use.



Round our district

New Assheton Court on the way

Work started in September to demolish Assheton Court and replace it with a larger, modern building.

The building will provide much needed homes with 60 1&2 bedroom purpose built, affordable flats for the 55+ age group.

The flats will boast 'green energy', full accessibility, mobility scooter storage and on-site support services. The new Assheton Court should be ready by early 2025.



Love Portchester - loathe litter!

The Council public spaces team were out cutting back hedgerows in preparation for the colder months ahead.

That showed up a whole new issue of litter blown or thrown into the hedgerow so Chrissie and Paul grabbed their litter pickers and set to work.

In the fairly short distance between Wicor

Recreation Ground and Heritage Gardens a large bag of litter was collected.

Mostly discarded drinks bottles, dog waste bags and a lot of plastic.



Did you know, you can 'adopt' a road to litter pick?
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/litterladies/>

The end for Lollipop patrols?

Local Lollipop School Crossing Patrols have been told that Tory-controlled Hampshire County Council are reviewing their provision as they look to make yet more cuts.

Where 'alternative road safety measures' could be put in place the patrols will be withdrawn.

This will impact both the individuals concerned and the safety of our children.



The Focus team - Working all year round for Portchester



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We're pleased to welcome David Wiltshire to the Focus team. David, well known to Portchester residents, will be working with your Lib Dem councillors to help you

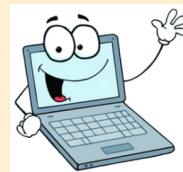
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For more news from Portchester Lib Dems, see our website:

farehamlibdems.org.uk/wards/portchester-east

To report a local issue, email us with your name, address and phone/email details.

If you'd like to receive eFocus, a monthly online supplement to our regular newsletters, include the message: *Yes please, I'd like to be sent eFocus (see our privacy policy below).*



Portchester's own Winter Wonderland coming soon!

For many years Bill and Barbara Wright have lit up The Crossway for us all to enjoy and share their love of Christmas.

Every year they receive donations towards their chosen local charity from the amazing people of Portchester.

When Covid struck and had a massive impact on everyone, Bill and Barbara decided that their next display would raise funds to support the vital food bank service that was set up in Portchester.

Our local food pantry - now fondly and aptly named "Woodsy's in memory of another local hero who did so much for the community - supports the people of Portchester who are struggling.

To date the amounts donated are: Grand Total £9022.82. made up as follows 20/21 £3230, 21/22 £3000, 22/23 £2792!

Portchester people have really pulled together here to support this cause.

Bill has been lighting up The Crossway



for many years now at his own expense and in his own time.

Over the past couple of years he has had to call in help from local businesses to help out with the ever increasing demand on his electricity supply and to help out with the ladders and working at heights.

Thank you in advance for all of your generous donations and support.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/WinterWonderland2023

Blow to climate change fight

Fareham Council has scrapped plans to install solar panels at a new car park. The decision is a blow to the Borough's proud record as leaders in the fight against Climate Change.

The panels were to be an important feature of a proposed surface car park after demolition of the Osborn Road multi-storey building.

They were to provide power for vehicle charging bays, and car park lighting, and for the new theatre and concert hall.

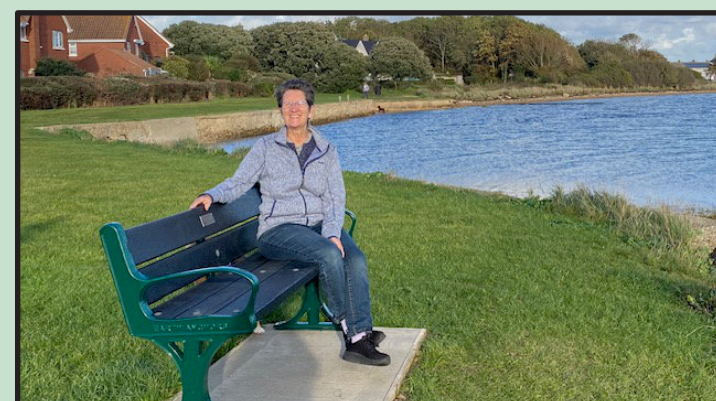
Cancellation undermines the pledge to make Fareham carbon-neutral by 2030, adopted after the Council unanimously backed a Climate Emergency motion put forward by the Lib Dems.

The U-turn was announced just hours after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak horrified world leaders by watering down Britain's policy to defeat Climate Change.

Fareham's Lib Dem leader Cllr Chrissie Bainbridge said: "This local u-turn adds to the endless list from this farcical Tory government, and is a slap in the face for our climate pledges."



Fitting memorial on Wicor shore



Chrissie was pleased to be able to help get a memorial bench for a resident's late mum installed on Wicor shore.

It is a fitting tribute, being close to the place they would sit together and enjoy the great views and have a natter.

Now others will have the opportunity to sit for a while and do the same.

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