



Action on climate change



Fareham Labour Party members joined the recent climate strike march in Fareham.

Our Women's Officer Julie Kidby who attended said, "It was fantastic to see Fareham residents turn out to make their voices heard. Just like the 16 year old climate activist Greta Thunberg, who started all this in Sweden just over a year ago, Fareham's strike was organised by a 16 year old girl too and I extend my congratulations and thanks to her for doing a great job."

It is now down to those in office in our government and councils to take fast, significant and long term action to help save our planet and environment. There are many things that need to be done, but in particular Fareham borough is a heavily car-dependent area due to insufficient and expensive local public transport - this must be a priority area for improvement to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

A statement from the leader of the Conservative run Council said: We will be setting-up a working group that will identify what further actions we can take to mitigate climate change in Fareham and reduce our carbon footprint.

At Fareham Labour we look forward to hearing what plans and actions the new Council working group will put forward. This must be substantial action to help elevate climate change which will affect us all.

Saving our shops

Fareham's shopping centres are facing a real threat to their very survival.

Retailers are facing high rents and business rates, while internet shopping, high parking charges (in Fareham town centre) and the loss of banking services have added to the problems.

Urgent work needs to be done to revive our shopping centres.

A Labour council would join together with retailers' groups and local residents to consider measures to improve the shopping experience. Local specialist markets and cultural events could be included in any plan to revitalise our shops. We would hold meetings with property owners to see how we could help to reduce unaffordable rents and business rates which threaten the viability of many independent retailers.

Parking charges in Fareham shopping centre discourages shoppers. We would introduce free parking after 3.00pm in town centre car parks and oppose the introduction of charges in Portchester or Stubbington.



More affordable housing needed

Fareham Labour Party has pressed for more affordable housing in the Borough.

In a submission to Fareham Council's recent affordable housing consultation Labour said, "Given the proposals highlight the urgent housing need for 1000 families, the building of 3500 affordable homes over the next 17 years is totally inadequate. This plan does not cater adequately for current demand or for further growth over this period. These Tory proposals fail to provide a bare minimum of good living conditions for local families."

We were disappointed that the council proposals steps away from it's previous commitment which defined affordable as being mortgage payments which amount to no more than three times that of a households earnings. The consultation stated that notwithstanding the 1000 families currently on the housing waiting list another 3000 families needed affordable housing. Both these figures show that there is a need for more housing than the proposed 3500.

Fareham Labour is also concerned that sheltered accommodation, often designed with older people in mind, is included in the Council's definition of affordable housing. Whilst the affordability of sheltered housing provision is important, we believe that it should be placed in a separate category as it meets a specific need. By including both types of housing, the Council's affordable housing category it is 'hiding' lower provision for families than the headline figure suggests.

We demand that the plan includes sufficient provision for the many thousands of people in desperate need of good housing. These proposals fall far short of what is needed to help local families. Fareham Labour Party Chair Matthew Randall said:

'Almost 70 years after the UK adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which amongst it's values declares the right to housing, it is a sad fact that we still struggle to house the most vulnerable in our society. Without a serious effort to tackle the issue of affordable housing, how can we expect families to put down roots, our local economy to flourish, and to create a sustainable community for all in Fareham and the wider area.'



Labour condemns Tory plans for Fareham

In response to the Council's consultation on future development, Fareham Labour has raised serious objections to proposals that seek to build on previously protected green spaces, which local Tory's had claimed were protected by the new housing development at Welborne under their now abandoned local plan.

The new Tory proposals now threaten these green spaces. Labour is on record as saying that Welborne, should supply most of the housing development within the borough with brownfield sites meeting any additional requirements.

Labour said: 'We would support prioritising brownfield sites, including building higher density housing in existing town centres. We see town centres as one area that can provide much needed affordable housing. We object to the current proposals which seek to designate areas of green space that were previously protected under their now defunct plan which was rejected by the national Tory government.'

Keep in touch



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Printed by Southampton Labour Party, Unit 017, Solent Business Centre, Millbrook Road West, Southampton. SO15 0HW