



# Gosport Constituency Conservative Association Newsletter

Editor Cllr Roger P Allen

## Issue One

### Moving Forward **Brian Taylor** Chairman - Gosport Conservative Association



It is a fact that the internet has changed our society and we as an organisation must take advantage of this ever more popular means of communication.

The benefits are massive in that all of our members and supporters with an internet connection can be contacted with information and news at the click of a mouse. The costs incurred in sending out printed newsletters has soared with the price of a stamp the cost of paper, envelopes and printing.



Email newsletters have been tried in the wards by ward councillors and found to be extremely popular with residents. It has to be a logical step to carry the idea forward to serving our members and supporters.

We already have a database of email addresses and this will be the first of the newsletters, but we need to reach as many people as is possible to inform the people of Gosport what is happening in our Borough, County Councils and in Westminster. Serving Councillors will be encouraged to contribute articles for publication addressing issues that are current.

Please spread the word and get your friends, neighbours and family to let us have an email address to add to the distribution list.

### 'Gateway to Gosport'



Gosport has her new pontoon and the people have given their verdict. **Excellent !**

If the coverage by the 'News' is to be believed it is absolutely awful, people cannot get a good view of the harbour when they stand behind the small section of metal cladding. Tosh!

The old pontoon had plastic windows that had become fogged up over the years and the view of the harbour was similar to that on an extremely foggy day.

The general consensus is that the design is excellent, it provides a Gateway to Gosport that we can be proud of, modern and stylish and at the same time fit for purpose.

Compare it with the pontoon on the Portsmouth side if you will,

perhaps the 'News' would like to flag up the idea that the council on that side of the harbour should provide a facility that equals ours.

The deal struck with the ferry company means that Gosport taxpayers will not be picking up the £5m cost of the pontoon and that is good news indeed.

There are still a number of cosmetic jobs to be completed but that is well in hand and when completed will ensure that ferry users will have the best facilities that truly reflect the determination of Gosport's Conservatives to move our town forward with continuing improvement.

## Gosport's New leisure Centre Gets Green Light

At a meeting of the Regulatory Board on 21st July, the plans for the new leisure centre to be built on the site of the old 1970's buildings came before the members of the board for consideration. With a unanimous decision, the final hurdle of the process has been overcome and the work to provide the much needed replacement for the extremely tired facilities can begin.

Work is due to start in September and we look forward to meeting our target of having the new leisure centre open in time for the 2012 Olympics.

In order that leisure services will be preserved as far as is possible during the new build, the new centre will be built to the west of the old facilities before demolition.



### What we will get:-

- A 25m x 13m six lane swimming pool plus a 12m x 8m teaching pool.
- Wet health suite including sauna, steam room and showers.
- A 18m x 33m x 7.6m high 4 court sports hall designed to Sport England standards
- 70 station fitness suite.
- Studio
- Creche/soft play area.
- Reception, vending area, seating/spectator area, toilets, wet and dry changing, cleaning stores refuse stores, circulation etc.
- Associated hard and soft landscaping including a pedestrian boulevard through the centre of the site.
- There will be an all weather synthetic turfed facility with 1 x seven a side football pitch and 8 x five a-side pitches. These will be floodlight and fenced.
- The childrens' play park will be resituated about 30m to the west of its present position



Councillor  
Peter Langdon

### Travel Lodge

A 64 bed hotel and a 180 cover pub restaurant on the site comes as a very welcome bonus for Gosport. There is a distinct need for hotel facilities on the peninsula with many businesses in the town reporting that visitors are often forced to seek accommodation in either Fareham or Portsmouth.

The donation by Travelodge of £1m is of huge assistance towards providing the excellent facilities that will come with the new leisure centre, reducing the cost to Gosport people.

**Councillor Peter Langdon** has said, "This development is of huge importance to Gosport. With the Bus Rapid Transport route due to open in April of next year the improved transport links can only enhance the popularity of the new leisure park".

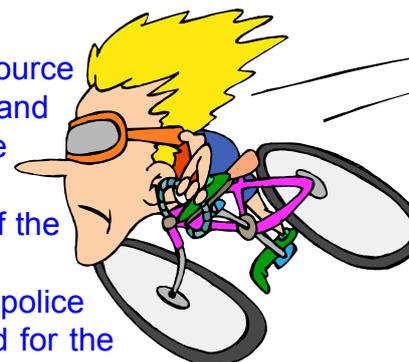
## Your Conservative Councillors Delivering for Gosport

### Cyclists fined in High Street Crackdown

The flouting of the prohibition of cycling within the High Street has been a source of frustration to many. The Council does not have powers to fine cyclists and there has been a constant campaign by councillors to get the police to act. We have seen people cycling through the crowds on market day, What on earth is in these peoples' mind, causing pensioners to dodge out of the way and women to rush to protect their children

17 cyclists have been fined £30.00 for breaking the no cycling laws as the police took action. It is absolutely essential that this prohibition must be enforced for the safety of all who use the pedestrianised High Street.

If just one person is injured through the inconsideration of one cyclist, that is one too many.





# Town Hall Report

## How Are We Doing?

Following the last elections and the subsequent entering into coalition with the Liberal Democrats, there were many who voiced their reservations and concerns about a partnership with Lib Dem's; after many years of experience of their duplicity here in Gosport. How can we trust them?

In the situation that exists, it was essential that a government was established that would move forward with the hugely complicated repair job that needs to be tackled addressing the legacy of debt and chaos that was the Labour Government's.

It was obvious that the Liberal democrats would want to include some of their key policies in the mix and necessary that considerations and concessions would have to be included in the efforts to find a way forward.

The Liberal Democrats rapidly found themselves having to face up to the realities of the task and that the wild and ambitious un-costed promises made to their supporters were not feasible or possible. University fees soon had them scurrying for cover as those realities hit home in this new world (*for them*) of actual responsibility.

We then had the debacle that was the proposed changes to the voting system, now a very dead duck indeed. I do apologise for mentioning the word 'duck' here in Gosport.

We find ourselves in a cleft stick and it could be argued that it may have been better for the Conservatives if Labour had won the election and been confronted with the mess of their own making. The fact is though, it would have been disastrous for Britain if Gordon Brown had been allowed to follow his policy of spending our way out of recession. The concept of 'when in a hole, stop digging' is not one that would be realised.

To my mind the coalition is working and already we see the result, £4.3 billion saved through radical cost savings and stamping out of waste. There is of course so much more to do before we as a nation will be able to feel secure in our economy..

Here in the Gosport Borough elections the Conservatives achieved an excellent result taking 22 of the 34 seats and the new administration is taking on the task of dealing with reduced Government grant and the need to make the necessary cuts without hitting the vital frontline services that so many rely on.

The hugely successful negotiations that resulted in the long term contracts for essential services such as the waste management and grounds maintenance that will have saved Gosport taxpayers in the order of £10 million over the term of those contracts have to be applauded.

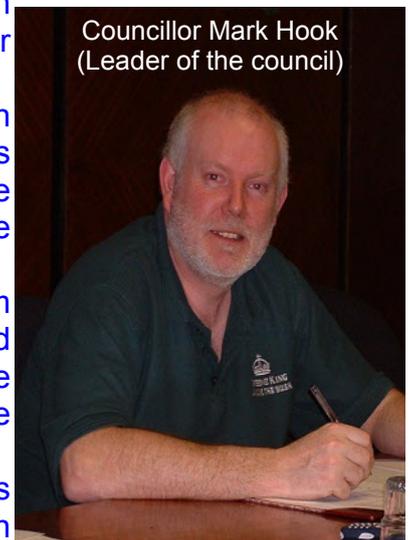
It was necessary that town hall staffing levels be reviewed and this was achieved with full cooperation with the unions and with just seven compulsory redundancies.

The Council Tax was frozen and that in the present climate is a real bonus for the people of Gosport. A determination to achieve the same for next year is something that is high on the priority list for councillors.

Gosport is moving forward with a new confidence with a Conservative majority administration; the first in twenty years and we have a new slogan :

**'Gosport, Open For Business'**

**With your help we will keep it that way!**



Councillor Mark Hook  
(Leader of the council)



## Caroline Dinenage MP Reporting Back

The sun may not have always been shining but my role as your local MP has kept me out and about these past few months in Gosport, Lee on the Solent, Stubbington & Hillhead.

In May I visited the Falkland Islands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. The trip saw me undertaking an overnight camp and live firing exercise with the Infantry as well as a stay on-board HMS York, the scheme was designed to give MPs a better understanding of armed forces by allowing us to experience life on deployment with our service personnel. The experience was all the more special to me given Gosport's special links with the region (as home to so many Falklands Veterans as well as the Memorial Garden).

We recently learned that the Olympic Torch will be travelling through Hampshire on its way to London, I have been campaigning for the route to include Gosport and have met with Olympic officials to show all that we have to offer. I have also been urging the local schools in the area to register with the Olympics' 'Get Set' Scheme, which will give thousands of school children the opportunity to get free tickets.

This month we heard the fantastic news that Daedalus has been chosen as one of 10 new Enterprise Zones across the UK. I've been campaigning to ensure that businesses in the South of England receive a fair share of support from the Government. It's frustrating that so much money has been diverted north when our area so badly needs investment and employment. In the Gosport peninsula there are 0.4 jobs per working adult – one of the lowest figures in the country. I led a debate in Westminster on this subject and managed to bring the Minister, Mark Prisk, down to Daedalus for a helicopter tour of the area, to help him understand the scale of ex-defence estate that is in need of regeneration.

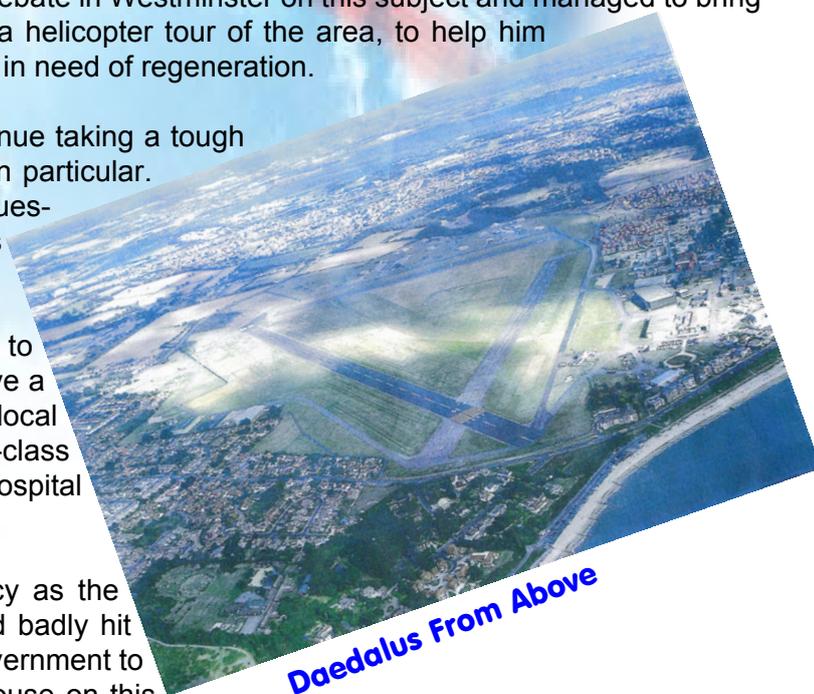
I've also been pressing the Government to continue taking a tough line on crime, and tackling the affects of drugs in particular.

I asked a question about this in Home Office Questions and have met with Theresa May to discuss what more can be done to tackle this blight.

I also took the views of my constituents straight to the Prime Minister, as I helped to deliver the Have a Heart petition to Downing Street. Over 200,000 local people have signed up to save the world-class children's heart unit at Southampton General Hospital from closure.

It is vital that we talk seriously about fuel policy as the threatened double digit energy price rises would badly hit families and pensioners, I've been urging the Government to take more action and raised questions in the House on this subject.

July saw Gosport getting into the holiday spirit with the Rowner & Bridgemary Carnivals filled with a parade of colourful and creative costumes. There was also Gosport's very first Sustainability Fayre, an excellent advertisement for some of our local produce.



Daedalus From Above

was also impressed by the great success of the fly-in organised by the Flying Club at the Daedalus Airfield. Planes flew in from all over the country to the event, demonstrating what a relevant and viable airfield we have right here on our doorstep.



This area's reputation as a centre for maritime excellence was reinforced with the launch of the Marine Skills Centre at Gosport Marina, this joint venture between St Vincent's and Mabway Academy will offer courses from September.

We also have a noble heritage of pioneering scientific work – as I learnt on my visit to the Institute of Naval Medicine. I was fascinated by the world-renowned research performed there, ensuring our Armed Forces are at their operational best.

The Coastguard at Lee-on-the-Solent also provide a key local role. I urged the Transport Minister in the House of Commons to commit to its future there, following the announcement of proposed changes to the Coastguard Coordination Centres.

Another campaign very close to my heart is for the Arctic Convoy veterans medal. These incredible servicemen sacrificed so much in WWII to keep supply lines with Russia open. Earlier in the year I brought this campaign to the attention of David Cameron at Prime Ministers Questions. I was also proud to attend a wreath laying service to mark the 70th anniversary since the first convoy left for Russia in 1941. The occasion served as a poignant reminder of the valiant sacrifice these seamen made during the Arctic Convoys.

If you would like to hear more about my activities I have a monthly email newsletter which you can subscribe to via my website [www.caroline4gosport.co.uk](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk)

## Contacting The Gosport Conservatives

Gosport Constituency Conservative Association, 167 Stoke Road,  
Gosport, Hants. PO12 1AG

Telephone: 023 92 588400. Email: [office@goscons.plus.com](mailto:office@goscons.plus.com)

If you have any questions or comments regarding association activities please get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate you. You may have an idea as to what you would like to see addressed in the next issue of this newsletter, or would like to have an article published. We are open to new ideas and welcome all who wish to become involved with taking Gosport forward with a Conservative led council and Member of Parliament.

It is only with your help and support that our ideas and policies can become reality as we face up to the enormous challenges that have been inherited through the complications of hung councils and of course the waste and incompetence that has been the author of our present predicament.

The way ahead is not going to be easy as we claw back the responsibility for making decisions away from unelected bodies and bring into reality the principles of localism that will enable decisions to be made where they are going to have most effect.



### Margaret Snaith-Tempia

Having served Gosport both as a Borough Councillor and County Councillor, Margaret has now resigned after many years of commitment to Gosport and the well being of the town.

Our thanks and appreciation to Margaret cannot be overstated and we will miss her ever pleasant and constructive influence in shaping what we do.

Enjoy your retirement Margaret, you will not be forgotten.

The announcement today of our inclusion in the Government's list of Enterprise Zones is very good news indeed.

But as everyone knows who has heard the key players speak of Daedalus, this is part of the beginning of progress – a major step on the journey, but a beginning. There are issues which are fully appreciated by those seeking to realise the significant potential and massively important value of the Daedalus Site.

The EZ does have real value of itself, but the long term future – a sustainable future – will be realised by:

- Recognition of the value of the site: Operational Airfield, Solent water access, size/scale of the site. Being selected as an EZ nationally helps this and will be an encouragement to potential investors.
- Recognition that there are needs to be addressed in the South of this country as well as further north. This has been uncertain for potential investors, since the majority of the Government's signalling has been that the South has no such need. This announcement recognises the community here and that it has potential that does require support if it is to be realised. This removes some part of the risk investors might perceive when looking at Daedalus alongside other potential sites.
- This is a clear indication of the Government policy of being 'supportive to business led growth' and will reinforce the efforts of the Solent LEP and its economic direction of travel. This bid has had our LEP's support and is an important expression of interest in the area and opportunity for our partners in the region to engage in recognising this site as a priority and realisable opportunity.
- This announcement allows Gosport's local efforts, working to highlight the potential of this site, to be reinforced. Our, Gosport's, plans recognise that any growth initiative in the Borough needs to be business led and sustainable in its own right with a realisable business plan. This makes us a competitor for investment and development. The recognition that comes from the EZ award and other initiatives lift us towards winning these opportunities and for this site.
- As to creating a focus on specific sector employment and skills, the Daedalus plans and documents do this whether nationally (supporting the EZ bid), regionally (The LEP strategy) or locally (GBC's SPD and 'Gosport An Opportunity 2011-2026' strategy).
- This announcement helps set the context for transfer of ownership from SEEDA to the stewardship of HCA. This raises the profile of the opportunity and will increase the opportunity to press for effort to make further progress.
- This announcement will add energy and confidence to the Daedalus Summit Group, composed of the stakeholders in the site.



This can be recognised as a major step forward towards delivering a sustainable effort to realise the site's potential to create sustainable employment in the borough. Will it be easy? No. Is it realisable? Yes. Is it worth the effort and risk to pursue the potential in this site? Yes.

The future potential will only be realised in partnership. We now have national recognition of this site; our MP, Caroline Dinenage, is a key advocate and we benefit from her engagement and access; The Solent Local Enterprise Panel and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) have set a priority for this effort and they bring skills to making it happen. The Planning Authorities are at the table, ensuring that very local aspirations are recognised;

At Gosport Borough Council, as a Conservative administration have a determination to make this work. We are better placed today engage further and with increased confidence with the partner(s) that will make this happen – the business community, investors and developers.

# What's On Dates for your Diary

To ensure that event organisers can choose dates that do not clash with other events, we are publishing as far ahead as is possible. If you are organising an event please do let us know at the association offices so that yours can be included in the calendar.

We want all events to be well attended so please telephone or email the office on 023 92 5858400 Office@goscons.plus.com. Alternatively contact Brian Taylor at brianpauline@aol.com.

## 4th Sept 2011

Hill head and Stubbington Ward 'Garden Party and BBQ. Courtesy of Andrew Gainsford, 133, Newgate Lane, 12:30 start. For more details, please contact Kim Brindley 01329 510723 or 07899 726856. Kim.brindley@btopenworld.com

## 9th Sept 2011

Business and Professional Lunch Club at Court barn. Members only. Lunch with Guest Speaker Steve Brine MP.

## 23rd Sept 2011

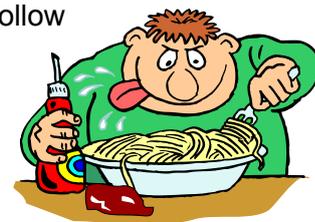
Northern Wards are hosting an Inter-wards Quiz night, to be held at the Inn Off The Post, Gosport Football ground at 7pm for 7:30pm. Tickets are £6.50 which includes a buffet can be obtained from Barbara Bloom on 01329 286923. We would love to see as many wards as possible joining in the fun.

## 25th Sept 2011

Conservative Womens' Organisation Sunday lunch at 167 Stoke Road. Details to follow

## 7th Oct 2011

Hardway Ward is hosting a 'Spag Bol' night at Court Barn at 7pm for 7:30pm. Menu- Spagetti Bolognese and either Apple Crumble with Custard/cream or Cheesecake with cream. Drinks from the bar. Dress smart/casual. Raffle prizes will be appreciated. 'Prize for the messiest eater'.



## 13th Oct 2011

Western Wards are holding a Skittles Evening at 'The Crofton'. 7pm for 7:30pm. Tickets £12.50 includes a basket supper. More information from Jennifer Evans on 02392 550640.

## 14th October

Business and professional Lunch Club at 12:30. Tickets and notice of attendance from Lesley at the Association Office 023 92 5858400.

## 27th Oct 2011

Executive Members meeting at 167 Stoke Road -7pm

## 4th Nov 2011

GCA Autumn Dinner at the Masonic Hall in Gosport. Tickets £25 per head from George or Lesley in the office. Guest speaker - Daniel Hannan MEP for South east of

## 11th Nov 2011

Business and Professional Lunch Club ay Court Barn. Members only. Lunch and guest speaker - Penny Mordaunt MP.

## 1st Dec 2011

CWO early Christmas tea at 167 Stoke Road. Details to follow.

## 7th Dec 2011

'Seasonal Drinks & Nibbles at the home of Jill and Roger Norman . 10:30am. 47, Cuckoo Lane, Stubbington. Tickets from Kim Brindley 01329 510723 or 07899 726856. Kim.brindley@btopenworld.com



**We hope to see you at as many events as possible  
Enjoying yourself among friends**