



Gosport Constituency Conservative Association Newsletter

Editor Councillor Roger P Allen

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Brian Taylor
Chairman - Gosport Conservative Association

Christmas 2011



Message from the Chairman - Brian Taylor



As we speed towards Christmas, we at the Gosport Conservative Association are already working on the May 2012 elections, not having forgotten our friends and family of course at this festive time and of the reasons why we celebrate the birth of a child 2011 years ago.

Forward planning is the key to the Conservatives keeping overall control of Gosport Council. We intend to contest all of the 17 wards in the Gosport council elections in May and our friends and colleagues in Hillhead and Stubbington who are part of our constituency are working to retain one seat and take the other from our Lib Dem "Friends" in those wards.

In Gosport we need to win at least 12 of the 17 wards and we are quietly confident that we can do better than that. We are always pleased to accept help from any of our fantastic supporters even if you can just agree to putting a "VOTE CONSERVATIVE" poster or board in your window or garden we will be grateful. That to us is a major step forward in getting our message across.

Over the past months we have seen life in government become more and more difficult for our leaders. We have some real stars such as George Osborne and Michael Gove who have certainly made their mark. We work hard as an association to provide feedback to central office through all of the various channels from chairman's meetings to the Conservative Policy Forums. If you feel strongly about any issue, please let us know. We will be happy to take your views on board.

We have an excellent MP in Caroline and she has not been slow to show her mettle. A rebel? No just a grass roots Conservative who is not afraid to stand up for what she believes is right. We most certainly made the right choice in selecting Caroline to be our MP

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a

Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Gosport in Bloom 2011

At this year's Gosport In Bloom award ceremony hosted by Councillor Chris Carter and Mrs Julia Carter the Mayor & Mayoress, it was once again Fred Dinenage who compered the event and presented the prizes and certificates to the worthy winners. Fred has made this annual event his own and it certainly would lose something if he was not there doing what he does best.



Your Conservative Councillors turned out in force to support the event as always. It is important that events in the borough are attended and that people can see their elected representatives getting involved in the activities .

There was no representation from the Liberal Democrats, and none from the Labour Group, just two independent councillors Bob and Inge' Forder were there to their credit.

Gosport Remembers

Record Attendance at Remembrance Observances



It was extremely gratifying to see so many people turning up at the War Memorial on Sunday 15th November to pay their respects for our fallen servicemen and women not only of past conflicts, but also for our deployments in Afghanistan.

Among the crowd it was very encouraging to see many of the younger generation proudly wearing their poppies reflecting a new appreciation has been born for those who put themselves in harms way for our sake.

Once again, it was Gosport's own Honorary Freeman Dot Simpson who despite her advanced years and frailty, in a clear voice uttered those words that mean so much, **"We will remember them"**.

The weather was kind to us this year but as when the rain poured and the cold winds blew in 2010, it was absolutely right that we as a community give of our time once a year to mark the sacrifice of those who had much more to endure than just a soaking.

On the 11th of the 11th 2011, a ceremony at the Lee on the Solent War Memorial saw the unveiling of two more names added to the memorial by the Mayor Councillor Chris' Carter. Family members had travelled for far afield to witness this important event that honoured their relatives who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of Queen and country.

**Corporal Phil' Bryant RAF died in an air crash in 1950 deep in the Malayan jungle.
POMEM D.R. Briggs DSM RN who died aboard HMS Sheffield in 1982.**



"We Will Remember Them"



Leadership and Commitment from your Conservative Councillor team

At a local level your Conservative Councillors are working constantly to streamline services to ensure that Gosport people do get the best for the money available. We choose not to fool ourselves or you the people of Gosport as to what needs to be done. Common sense is our guide and fairness our ideal.

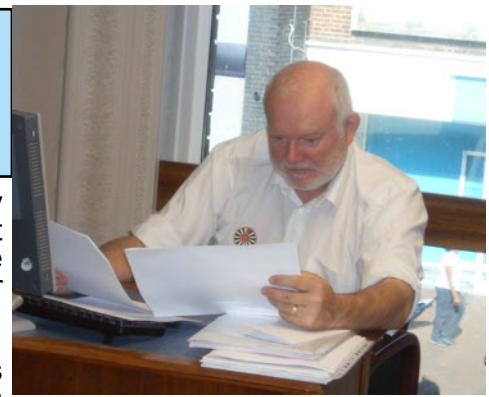
We are extremely fortunate to have good people with the right skills and commitment. For the first time in over two decades. Conservatives have a working majority in our council and it shows.

It has not been easy in the current financial climate to ensure that front line services are maintained, but Gosport is doing well under a Conservative administration free from political posturing and we are able to provide the strong leadership that will take us forward.

In May next year we will have local elections and we will be relying on the determination of residents to make certain that the votes are cast and that stability is not lost through apathy.

You can guarantee that the opposition parties will try to demean and diminish the efforts and achievements of your Conservative Councillors. They will tell you that common sense is not the answer, but we rely on the good sense of Gosport people to determine who is best suited to ensure that Gosport is effectively managed.

We stand on our commitment to do those things that are right and responsible however difficult, always for the benefit of Gosport people.



Cllr Mark Hook
Leader of Gosport Council

Vascular Surgery Proposals

Many will have seen in the press the articles about the proposals to centralise vascular surgery. This could mean that patients requiring this treatment have to go to Southampton. The Portsmouth Hospitals Trust are saying that nothing has been decided yet, but we in Gosport have had experience of the way that the truth can be distorted as we remember the loss of our magnificent Haslar Hospital.

We are told that the proposals have nothing to do with finance, but that it would be better if certain disciplines were concentrated at one location. We are told it is nothing to do with money??

At a recent meeting with the Hospitals Trust Councillor Roger Allen pointed out that the majority of people requiring vascular surgery are of the older generation and it would be ridiculous to expect relatives to travel from Gosport to Southampton to see their loved ones. It is difficult enough getting to Queen Alexandra Hospital.

Councillor Peter Edgar has introduced a motion to have the Gosport scrutiny board examine the proposals.

It was also pointed out that Gosport people were made promises of a superb hospital on the hill that would serve all of our secondary care needs and to that end some £259 million has been spent on providing that hospital. QA is now up to its stethoscopes in debt through a monstrous PFI contract that was allowed to escalate out of control. We now see one third of the hospital's budget going in debt and maintenance contract payments to Carillion.

Queen Alexander Hospital is hugely reliant on revenue that is earned through the treatments that are purchased on behalf of patients by the commissioning bodies. Many of the departments providing renal, coronary and stroke care and A&E amongst others that rely on the vascular surgeons backup will be compromised in the absence of emergency availability of vascular surgeons on site.

If we follow the logic of the proposals, we would eventually see 'centres of excellence' all over the country specialising in just one aspect of care, perhaps a hip replacement in Manchester, appendectomy in Bristol and so on. **This is not what we were promised**, we want health care local to us not scattered over the country to satisfy the bean counters who appear to have no consideration for the opinions and wishes of patients.

We will continue to fight for the best healthcare provision for Gosport.

The Blair/Brown legacy

For too long we have been living beyond our means. Government's tax revenues have not kept up with the vote catching generous spending promises, so every year Britain has run a larger budget deficit. The money we can't raise from taxation has had to be borrowed, and **as taxpayers, we're the guarantee on the loan.** Every year, this budget deficit has been added to our national debt.

In 1997 Labour inherited a budget that was actually in balance. After a painful and turbulent decade under the Tories, the **public finances** had finally been brought back under control, then came New Labour. Four years after he first came to office Gordon Brown, having first sold our gold reserves at the bottom of the market, took out the country's credit card and let rip. He had us all believing that we were doing so well, but it was all on borrowed money and borrowed time. Pricewaterhousecoopers calculate that the country's deficit could rise to **£10 trillion** by 2015, this a figure we can scarcely comprehend! Our country now faces more turbulence and pain as we once again embark on the necessary actions to repair the damage.

We have been exceeding sensible borrowing limits almost every year, even in the good times. If a private company were run like this, it would have long been declared bankrupt. So how much longer can we defy financial gravity? Well, we're about to find out.

Public finances out of control

With the new coalition government in power, getting the country's finances back under control has to be the priority. This can only be achieved by a two pronged approach of cuts in public spending and the encouragement of business and industry to achieve economic growth and reduce unemployment. We are faced with the legacy of Labour's irresponsible spending, the banking disaster, a world economic turn down, the Euro crisis and obligations left by the last government that still have to be honoured.

The result is that even more borrowing has proved to be necessary, with this situation almost certainly continuing until the economy improves and public spending is brought under control; this presently estimated to be 2016. Many economies in public spending have been necessary as we struggle to reduce the deficit. Examples of savings are the brand new and not yet completed early warning aircraft scrapped, the loss of our carriers and Harrier aircraft, welfare reform, severe cuts in council grants and NHS IT systems scrapped to prevent good money being thrown after bad. Last month we reported on the fire control centres costing many millions and that are now useless white elephants. More cuts in public spending may be unavoidable

Along with Mr. Micawber's dictum, the phrase 'failing to fix the roof while the sun shone' now has real meaning as does 'if we continue to rob Peter (*the private sector*) to pay Paul (*the public sector*), Peter is going to run out of money and get really upset'.

A paragraph that says it all

You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931



**Gosport High Street
circa 1915
Do you have any old photos
That we can publish?**

Rumours and Misinformation

As we lead up to the elections in May of next year, we do expect rumours, character assassination and general misinformation will be circulating once again. Already we have seen the 'Focus' leaflets being distributed in Hardway that seek to play on peoples' fears without regard for what is truth.

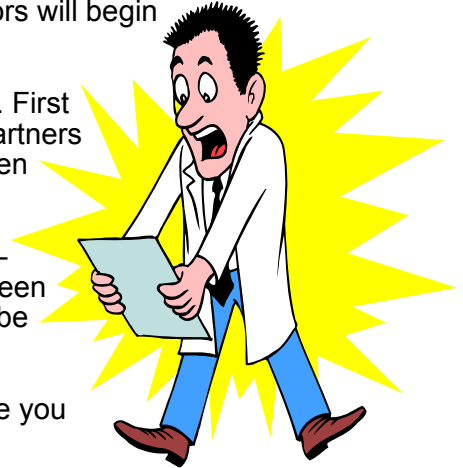
Conservative Councillors are always a target for the Lib Dem's as they go about their legitimate business. Tendering for council contracts is perfectly reasonable and acceptable practice. Like everyone else they can gain a contract or lose it on the strict, transparent and fair rules that govern competitive tendering. Accusations are easily made even when there is no truth in them.

We have been asked if there is truth in the rumour that the Holbrook Recreation Park project is in trouble. The simple answer is **NO**. The contracts have all been finalised and the contractors will begin the work very soon.

Is it true that First Bus will not want to run buses on the new BRT route? **NO**. First Bus have in fact purchased 24 brand new buses and have been essential partners in the project from day one. The finished phase 1 of the project between Fareham and Tichborne Way is expected to be opened in April 2012.

'CCTV cameras are to be switched off to save money'. Is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts. There is truth in the fact that staffing levels have been rationalised at the control centre, but the effectiveness of the system will not be compromised in any way.

If you hear something that you feel is of concern, let us know and we promise you a full and accurate answer without frills.



We will leave the spin to the others and rely on our record of achievement and plain speaking about Gosport's future. **Gosport's Minor Injuries Unit**

It appears that Gosport people are still not certain what can be provided at the Gosport War Memorial Minor Injuries Unit.

So often, people are going to Queen Alexandra Hospital with problems that could have been addressed by the MIU. Greater use of the MIU would save long journeys for the patients and of course relieve the workload of the accident and emergency department at the hospital.

The staff at the Minor Injuries Unit are highly trained 'nurse practitioners' who are able to deal with many of the problems that happen from day to day and I hope that the following will be of help to residents who may have to determine where to go in the case of emergency.

It is really important that we all know just what to do and where to go in the case of an accident to save time and get the best treatment available.

What can be treated at the Minor Injuries Unit?

- Cuts and grazes
- Strains and sprains
- Bites and stings
- Suspected broken limbs
- Minor head injuries
- Stomach upsets
- Ear and throat infections
- Minor burns and scalds
- Coughs and colds

- Minor skin irritation and rashes
- Children and infants
- Minor eye conditions
- Other minor or common illnesses
- Emergency contraception (Morning after pill)

The unit can deal with simple fractures but in the case of more serious breaks may have to refer these to QA. In any situation and if necessary an ambulance may be called by the MIU staff.

In the cases of chest pains or suspected stroke, or if in doubt do not delay - Ring 999

