

St Faiths Ward Matters

Keeping Residents up-to-date with Issues in the Ward

Summer 2023

St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party

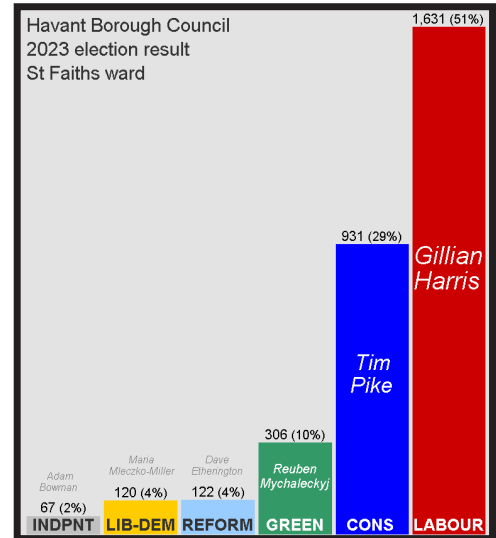


Welcome to our summer update on news and issues around St Faiths. Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to all residents who voted for our candidate Gillian Harris producing a stunning result. Both Phil and Gillian are absolutely committed to keeping you informed and following up on your concerns. We are also working hard to encourage the Council to have more open discussions with local residents.

High Street Task Force visit to Havant

The High Street Task Force, which is funded by central government, visited Havant in March. Their role is to provide advice and support to local councils to promote and regenerate their town centres. They produced a short and insightful report on Havant. They acknowledged that our town has many strengths but identified 'the lack of an organisation or group to take responsibility for the town centre as the main barrier to transformation in Havant'.

Phil says, *'Councillor Gillian Harris and I have been keen to get action on this proposal and after lobbying officers are pleased to see that the Council is planning to set up a consultation process in the Autumn.'* It will be very important to involve all the key stakeholders in setting this up and moving forward quickly.'



Repairs to Langstone Sea Wall

Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council have both committed to financially supporting at least a temporary repair to the wall. However, Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) and Natural England are both unable to consent to

works that cause any adverse impact on the environmental condition of the Harbour. This is because their policy position is to allow the harbour water to flood fields due to rising sea levels. The only exception where new defences are allowed is where people and properties are at risk.

After pressure from residents and now support from the Council, CHC have agreed to commission an independent report on the unique and valuable wildlife in and around the millpond and the significant importance of the adjacent horse field. If the report supports this view, then CHC may allow temporary repairs. Coastal Partners (who are supported by Havant Council) have researched possible options and funds are available for this. It is important that the Council also make the case for the economic significance of the mill pond to both local residents and visitors.



In the longer term, Havant Council are lobbying for CHC to conduct a detailed analysis to ascertain which parts of the harbour shore need to be protected and in which parts we should allow 'managed retreat'

This is a difficult situation but it is vital that all the supporters of the petition and others continue to lobby for a proper solution. Councillor Gillian Harris and I will continue to do all we can to encourage the Council to keep up pressure.

Erecting electronic signs on Hayling Beach to warn of levels of sewage in the water

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Hayling Island
NORMAL

No discharges Last 72h
Last Sample: 10 cfu/100ml

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Hayling Island
CAUTION

Discharges in last 72h
Last Sample: "GOOD"

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Hayling Island
AVOID

Discharges in last 24h
Last Sample: CALCULATED


WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Bathing Water
HEADLINE

No discharges Last 72h
Last Sample: 10 cfu/100ml

SIMPLE with VERY BASIC INFO
One quick look is all that's required from vehicle on entry
Prefer to see Green (not blue) Amber Red [more understandable]
Outfall details not relevant and will complicate user interpretation

Last Sample:
CALCULATED - by Beachbouy software
BWD category - Actual rendered from WQ buoy/Fluidian device
XX cfu/100ml - Actual from WQ Buoy/Fluidian device

 QR Code to go to Beachbouy

Example of the information the signs will be able to display

All three opposition parties worked together to push through a motion at Full Council on 21st June, asking the Council to 'investigate' putting electronic signs on the beach at Hayling seafront to warn visitors of the level of sewage in the water. We have quite accurate data which predicts pollution levels following an outfall of untreated sewage and we already know how often that happens!

Phil explains 'I proposed the motion because I and others think residents and visitors should always have the best information that we can give them.'

We believe it can be self-funded by advertisements which can cover the cost and can also

ask Southern Water to contribute. Portsmouth Council are already working to implement a similar scheme. Why should Havant always be the last to safeguard our residents' health and safety?'

Many thanks to Mike Owens and Hayling Sewage Watch who gave us much of the technical information to make our case. Now we need to make sure it is carried through!

Southern Water's proposed use of recycled sewage water to top up Havant Thicket Reservoir

Portsmouth Water consulted for several years before building Havant Thicket Reservoir. However, only in the last year has it been made public that Southern Water have a plan to 'top it up' with recycled sewage water from Budds Farm Sewage Works. This would involve piping the treated sewage water from Langstone up to the reservoir through residential Havant. Conflicting information has been given by Portsmouth Water on where the water would be used.

We are concerned about this proposal. Southern Water have a poor track record for being open with the public, and an awful record for releasing untreated sewage into the sea. The company have also given out billions of pounds to shareholders whilst underinvesting in strategies to save water such as reducing leakage.

Phil says *'We should all be concerned about this proposal. We need Southern Water to be more open to public scrutiny. Southern Water is now bypassing the Local Authority planning process where the application would be scrutinised by local councillors and instead going straight to the Secretary of State to approve the scheme. This is not good enough.'*

A month in the life of a new councillor

Gillian Harris writes: My first event was the Mayor-Making Ceremony at the Public Plaza on 17th May. This was the formal investiture of the new Mayor (Cllr Rosy Raines).

Many people have written to me since I was elected, on topics including among other things, grass verges, potholes, use of green spaces, safety issues around the



Emsworth Road / Pook Lane road junction, the problem of motor bikes using the short cut between Normandy Way and Japonica Way, speeding traffic on East Street and Southleigh Road, replacement of dead or dying trees and glass recycling. It has been a sharp learning curve finding out who to contact in respect of all these issues.

Success! Mended pavement outside the Post Office

Phil is writing elsewhere in this newsletter about the work we are doing on Langstone Mill Pond and electronic signage for bathers regarding sewage in the harbours, but at Full Council, the length of the housing waiting list and the very slow progress towards building truly affordable housing is a significant issue.

I have also been contacted regarding disabled children's access to playgrounds, about the practice of giving away pets (goldfish) as prizes at fairs and other events and food waste recycling. I will be finding out more.



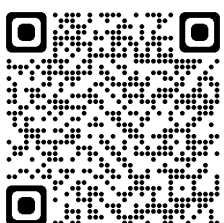
Havant Community Litter Pickers

Councillors Phil Munday and Gillian Harris, both joined Havant Community Litter pickers to help clean up the path between Solent Road shops and Park Road South, and in Elm Lane recently, as well as along Crossland Drive / New Lane, Great Copse and Sharps Copse in West Leigh. Havant Community Litter pickers, led by Jason Horton, our labour candidate for West Leigh, litter pick every Sunday morning and make a huge difference in just one hour. Find their page on Facebook, and join them if you can.

Better still, would you consider adopting a stretch of road near you to keep clear of litter on a regular basis? Some residents are already doing this. For more information, get in touch with Councillor Gillian Harris (contact details below).

Could you be a Labour councillor?

Next year, with boundary changes and changes to the number of councillors on Havant Borough Council, all the councillors in each ward are to be elected. To be a councillor for Labour, you need to join the party by the end of September 2023 to stand for election in May 2024. If you are interested and would like to know more about being a local councillor, please get in touch.



You can find out more at: stfaiths.havantlabour.uk or by using this QR code. Please contact us at stfaithsmatters@havantlabour.uk, or contact Phil directly at phil.munday@havant.gov.uk / 07740 676675 or Gillian at gillian.harris@havant.gov.uk. We would also like to hear from you if you can help us in any way including distribution of our newsletters.