

# St Faiths Ward Matters

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

Winter 2023

## St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party



Welcome to our Winter update on news and issues around St Faiths. We know these continue to be difficult times for many residents. We have tried to keep you up-to-date with many of the issues we have been involved in and around St Faiths.



### Update on Langstone Millpond

There has been great local concern about the collapse of the seawall between Langstone Mill and Wade Lane. In September 2023 Chichester Harbour Board commissioned an independent report into the future of the failing sea defences which has just been published. The report indicates that to fully protect the millpond from rising sea levels would be very costly.

However, it also considers different options to at least protect the millpond for the near future, including repair and reinstatement of the sea wall to its current height or the creation of earthworks across the paddock on top of which could go a footpath. Gillian Harris attended the recent meeting of Chichester Harbour Board, where the report was presented.

*She says 'I felt that there was a genuine willingness of all parties to find a solution to at least protect the millpond in the short term. Now we need to agree a solution which is acceptable to residents and ensure that we can provide adequate funding to undertake the work. Phil and I will be working hard to find the best resolution for residents.'*

## Concerns over Manor Farm planning application

An application has been made to widen a gate onto the Southleigh fields through the Manor Farm estate. It appears the application is from a developer. We are most concerned because this would effectively access part of the Southleigh site. By permitting piecemeal development we allow developers to avoid putting in proper infrastructure including



the link road from Bartons Road and Southleigh Road to the A27. Local roads are already heavily overcrowded. We must protect our residents.

Phil Munday says *'I have raised a formal question at the November Council meeting. The Borough is losing our remaining green field sites rapidly and we need to protect them and only consider them if improvements to infrastructure are in place. On their response to our last local plan, now withdrawn, the Inspectors were clear that 'the development of Southleigh should not take place unless and until the link road was built'.*

## Shoplifting problems in Havant town centre

Traders are telling us that there has recently been an increase in shoplifting in the town. Shopkeepers have banded together to share information and challenge the worst offenders but it remains a difficult problem for them. Councillor Phil Munday met with Police Inspector Neal Harvey, who has responsibility for Havant to discuss the problem. He agreed to prioritise Havant Town for the next few months. Phil says: *'The police are keen to work with shopkeepers and are looking at simpler ways to report issues. I have also discussed with council officials installing CCTV in Havant.'*

## 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 town centres. They produced a short and insightful report on Havant. The report acknowledges that our town has many strengths but identifies 'the lack of an organisation to take responsibility for the town centre as the main barrier to transformation in Havant'.

Councillor Phil Munday says, *'Councillor Gillian Harris and I have been keen to get action on this proposal and after lobbying officers are pleased that the Council started the consultation process in November. A Partnership Board is being set up. Both Gillian and I have applied to be members. We want all groups to be represented so that we can do our best to support our town and traders.'*



## Proposal to recycle treated effluent water to Havant Reservoir

We are concerned about this proposal because we are convinced there are cheaper and greener solutions. There is already a breakdown of trust with **Southern Water**, which has been fined for illegally dumping untreated sewage into our harbours. We are also concerned that the proposed changes to the original planning application include a bridge and tower in the reservoir, something residents negotiated with designers out of the original plans for safety reasons because it would attract children to swim out to the tower. Gillian Harris says: *'A bridge and a tower within the reservoir would also change the appearance of the reservoir, which had been planned to look like a natural body of water.'*

## Work around the Ward

Phil and Gillian have been busy at Council. Phil led a review for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee into the work of the Meridian Centre and Gillian, as part of her work with the Audit and Finance committee has been involved in renewing the whistle-blowing, fraud and money-laundering policies. We have been busy working around the ward with the help of Daniel our new recruit, including:



- Persuading Hampshire County Council to re-erect barriers to prevent motorcyclists driving between Wren Grove and Japonica Way using the pedestrian cut through as well as getting replacement trees for those that have died on the Green.
- Working to get the lights replaced on the Nutwick Road railway footbridge.
- Getting damaged bins replaced (such as the one in St Faiths graveyard) and other bins, including dog waste

bins cleared. Sharp-eyed residents will have noticed the new litter and dog waste bin at the west end of the School Lane footpath.

- Phil and Gillian have both supported the pedestrianisation of West Street outside St Faiths Church with disabled parking moving to South Street.
- Raising concerns of residents about overhanging hedges and trees, which cause pavements to be too narrow for mobility scooters, children in buggies and wheelchairs.
- Gillian also organises litter-picks in the ward - dates are posted on the facebook page of [Havant Community Litter Pickers](#). After our last newsletter several people got in touch to offer to keep streets around their home



litter-free. Thank you very much to those people. Do get in touch if you can do the same in your area or can join an organised litter pick.

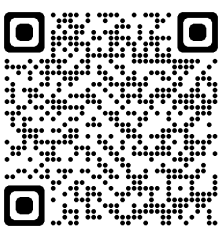
## Important Local Elections in May 2024



Next May in the local elections you will have a chance to vote for three Councillors for St Faiths Ward. This is because of boundary changes which mean all 36 council seats will be selected across the town. Phil and Gillian will both be standing again and have been joined by Dan Berwick as our third candidate. Dan has been a resident of Havant for the past 13 years, where he and his wife have been raising their three children who all go to local Havant schools.

Dan explains: *'Like most residents, I share many of our frustrations when it comes to our ward. Important issues include; the poor state of our footbridges, the unacceptable situation with sewage dumping including the latest reservoir proposal, the amount of dog mess on our streets, the growing traffic queues at our train gates, planning issues with new builds in the area, and many others.'*

*In my career I manage quality assurance teams. This aligns with my belief and passion that everyone should be entitled to high quality products and outcomes, a passion I also hold to our vital public services, and the area we all live in day to day. I believe in a working council that co-operates for the greater good of the community and the area.*



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