

## Young leader meets 'inspiring' local MP



**POLICY MAKERS** Anastasia Lonergan and Alan Mak MP

Picture: Habibur Rahman

A NEWLY-ELECTED young leader got the chance to discuss current affairs with her political role model.

Year 10 student at Oaklands Catholic School in Waterlooville, Anastasia Lonergan, sat down for a cup of tea with the local MP she hailed as 'inspiring'.

After winning an election to represent Havant, Gosport and Fareham as a member

of UK youth parliament (MYP) last month, Miss Lonergan enjoyed a lengthy chat with Conservative MP for Havant, Alan Mak, yesterday afternoon.

The pair touched on a host of current issues, including the school curriculum, the NHS's provision of mental health services, the lowering of the national voting age and the safety of the LGBT community.

Anastasia, 15, said the meeting was 'really useful. It's given me an insight into what Alan does as an MP for his constituents and it's given me advice for what I can do for the youth in the constituency.'

Alan Mak joked: 'Anastasia represents three constituencies and I only represent one, so she's already ahead of me in the political race!'

# Office building is targeted in plans for 113 new flats

by **LOUGHLAN CAMPBELL**  
Political reporter  
loughlan.campbell@thenews.co.uk

AN OFFICE building is set to become flats under ambitious new proposals.

Roebuck House, the seven-storey building next to Cosham interchange in Roebuck Close is subject to plans to turn the site into 113 self-contained flats.

The application from Caridon Holdings LLP has been submitted as a prior approval to the city council – meaning it does not need planning permission for the works to be carried out under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015.

Under the proposals, the units would be split into 47 studio apartments, nine one-

## Site next to bus interchange has been left empty for four years

bedroom flats and 57 two-bedroom apartments.

The site is currently occupied by officers from the Department of Work and Pensions.

Councillor Luke Stubbs, deputy leader of the council said that demand for office space was decreasing.

He said: 'The demands are changing as more people switch to hot-desking and working from home these days so fewer businesses are looking for fixed places of work.'

'Of course, it is sad to see places of work turned into homes but the city has a real

need for homes and using office space for housing is a good way to bring them back into use as long as apartment space is within standards.'

Roebuck House was built in the 1970s, with office space on all of its seven floors. Cosham railway station is 100m away from the site.

The plans to convert the building come as yesterday *The News* revealed new proposals to transform Portsea's 12-storey eyesore Brunel House into 153 flats.

It came after previous proposals to convert office space at the site into 242 microflats were scrapped.

In the planning statement provided by Caridon Holdings LLP for the application, it reads: 'The proposed change of use is permitted by Class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015.'

'It would not appear that there are any issues which would preclude prior approval from being granted.'

'The new residential dwellings will assist in addressing housing need in the area.'

'As a consequence we consider that this proposal is compliant with local and national planning policy and prior approval should be forthcoming.'

To comment on the plans, head to [portsmouth.gov.uk](http://portsmouth.gov.uk) and search '17/00007/PACOU' to have your say.

## Change at the top of blind talking paper

A TALKING newspaper has announced a new chairman of its committee.

Fareport Talking News is a news service for the blind and visually impaired in the Fareham and Gosport area.

New chairman, Suzie Lyczewek said: 'When I first became aware of the Fareport Talking News charity I immediately knew this was something, so extremely good, that I wanted to become involved and since that very first day I have never lost that feeling and it is such a great privilege to become Chairman.'

My wish is to further



develop the organisation'.

Long-standing member, Helen Wilson, who has been an editor for ten years, also announced her retirement from the organisation.

### Fundraiser tomorrow

A GROUP of NCS participants is hoping to renovate Goldsmith Nursery garden with a fundraiser at Havelock Community Centre in Fawcett Road, Fratton, tomorrow.

The event, which will run from 12-3pm, will include a cake sale, face painting and a raffle, among other things.

### Event tickets go on sale

TICKETS for a wrestling event taking place in October have gone on sale.

On Friday, October 13 at Thorngate Hall, Gosport, the wrestlers will take to the ring to prove their mettle.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £8 for concessions – to book call (023) 9251 0012.



Station Road, Amberley, Near Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT  
01798 831370  
[office@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:office@amberleymuseum.co.uk)

### Events at Amberley Museum

Monday 14th to Friday 18th August  
**Art Award Explore Activity Week**

A special full week of activities for children age 8-12 years. Each day will look at a different skill working towards the 'Explore' Arts Award. Pre-booking essential as spaces are limited, at a cost of £50 per child for the whole week, running from 10.30-15.30 each day. Children will be fully supervised during the activities. Please contact the office for more information or visit our website.



Tuesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August - **Toddler Tuesdays**

A morning of activities for under 5's, with story time, song and crafts. Each week will have a different theme for the children to explore around the Museum.

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August - **Activity Wednesdays**

A day of hands on activities for children of all ages. Each week will have a different theme for the children to explore around the Museum.



**BOOK NOW - [www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)**  
Adults £11.50, Senior/Student £10.50  
Children £7.00, Family £34.00

With 36 acres to explore and over 40 exhibits to visit, take a ride on the narrow gauge railway and historic bus. Plenty to see in any weather. Accessibility friendly and Dogs are welcome on leads. Please see our website for tickets and more information.



[www.amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk)