

## Councillor Paul Hopfensperger

### Report to Howard Estate Association of Residents and Tenants (H.E.A.R.T.) Monday February 18, 2019

#### 1. Memorial plaque in Howard Primary School for three members of the community



Carol Todd, who started the campaign, Barbara Bannister, Jean Procter and Paul Hopfensperger at the new school where the plaque could be installed

## Community rallies behind memorial for 70s schoolboys

**Rhoda Morrison**  
rhoda.morrison@liffepublishing.co.uk

The lives of two schoolboys and a father from Bury St Edmunds could be remembered with a new plaque almost 50 years after their deaths.

Cllr Paul Hopfensperger and a group of residents on the Howard Estate have sparked a community campaign to have the memorial, dedicated to Christopher Sanders, eight, Paul Bayford, nine, and his father Sidney Leonard 'Len' Bayford, 51, installed at Howard Primary School, where both boys were pupils.

Christopher Sanders' death was logged by the then-headteacher Mr Firth on February 7, 1972, as having been caused by flu with which he had been sent home from the school,

which at the time was in St Olaves Road, the previous day.

Paul Bayford, the youngest of two brothers, died of appendicitis on June 22, 1972, and a tree was later planted in his memory which still stands on the old school site.

Jean Procter, who lived two doors down from the family in Beeton's Way and is still good friends with Paul's mother Gwen, said the youngster's death was a 'huge shock'.

"The doctors took him in for observation because he wasn't in any pain and when they went to operate on him they saw that his appendix had already burst," she said.

"I went to the hospital with Gwen and I remember the worst bit being Paul begging for a drink and we couldn't give him one. Gwen was too upset so we left and when we got

back, we got a phone call to say he had gone."

She added that his dad Len, who was found hanged a year and a half later in January 1974, had trouble coping after his son's death.

"Len was terrible. He hit the walls and he wanted to hold Paul. It was really terrible," she said.

"They were such a close family and I think that was really the end for Len. He never got over it."

Cllr Hopfensperger, who intends to use his locality budget to fund the plaque at the new school in Beard Road if he is re-elected in May, said the story 'brought him near to tears' because his son, now 26, had suffered with appendicitis as a 10 year old.

"This story makes me want to cry because I remember when my son went into hospital with appendicitis

and thinking 'is he going to die?'," he said.

"I feel quite attached to it. When I think how those parents must have felt at the time and those who were at the school, it must have been so distressing for them having to go through that and I just want to do something to help."

He added: "All three stories are just tragic and each one deserves to be remembered. I think a plaque to all three is the right thing to do."

Laurence Ball, current headteacher at the school, said: "I think it's a really important thing if it'll help support these families through something which is obviously still something they are working through decades on."

"It'll be good for them and good for the community."

As I mentioned at last month's meeting, I have been working with Carol Todd, Barbara Bannister and Jean Procter to locate the original memorial plaque for Paul Bayford who tragically died of appendicitis on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1972. He was a pupil of Howard Primary School and his dad never got over it and tragically

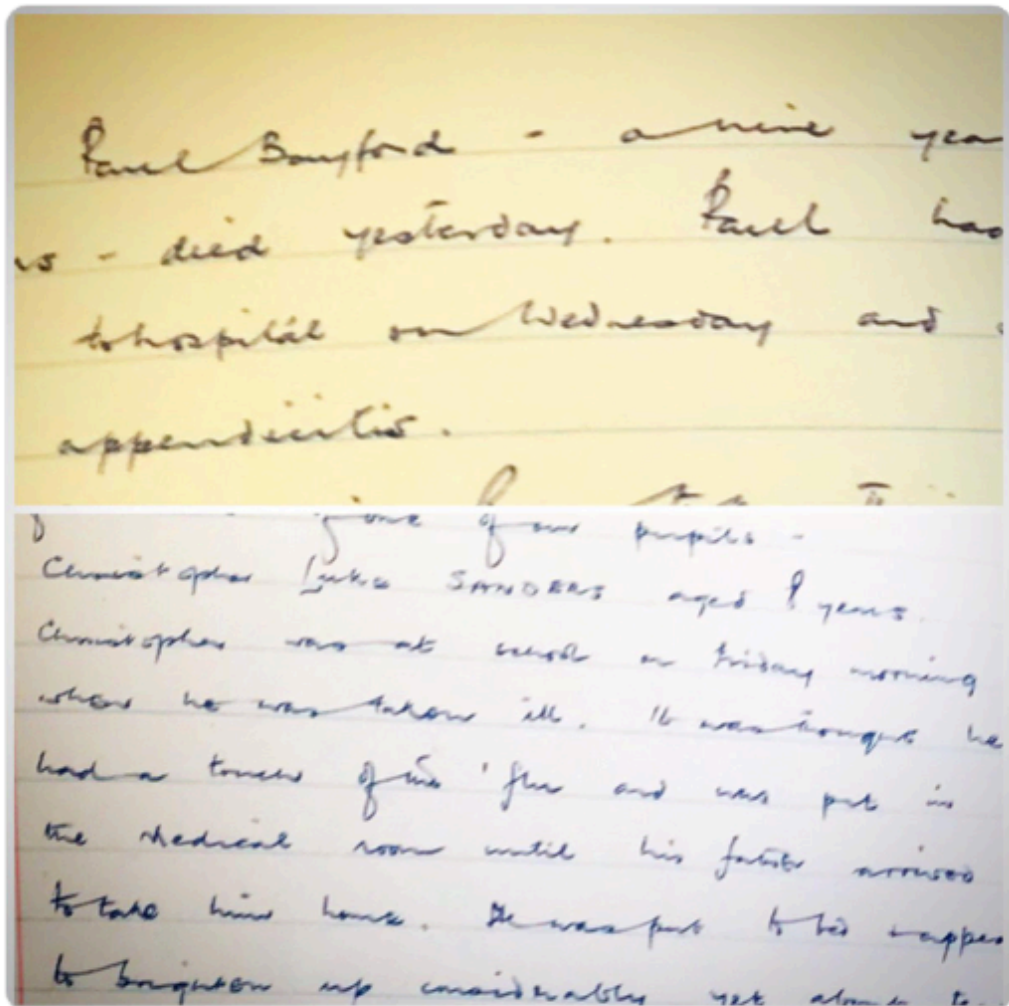
took his own life some time later. We have been able to locate the existing tree which was planted in his memory, but not the plaque.

So, if I get re-elected in May, I will help design and install a new plaque in the school to commemorate not only Paul and his father, but also to Christopher Sanders who also tragically died of flue in February 1972. The new head teacher at Howard Primary School, Laurence Ball, is fully supportive of this project and keen to help us. It is a tragic tale of three losses of life in this community, and I am very keen that these three residents are commemorated and not forgotten.



**Rhoda Morrison** @RhodaFMorrison · Feb 7

The stories of Paul Bayford, nine, Len Bayford, 51, and Christopher Sanders, eight, will be in tomorrow's [@buryfree](#) so grab a copy (I'll warn you it's sad). In the mean time, here are the entries in the then-headteacher's logbook where he recorded both boys' deaths in 1972.



1



1



3



I would like to personally thank Rhoda Morrison of the Bury free Press who took up this story, did some great investigative journalism and came up with a lot of very useful information. Above are the original entries in the Howard Primary School register which Rhoda found and put on Twitter.

## **2. Former Police Constable Mark Ellis to join the Bury St Edmunds Town Council PCSO team**

As stated at last month's meeting, the Bury St Edmunds Town Council will be employing a new P.C.S.O. to replace Emily who left recently. I am delighted to inform you that is none other than our very own Mark Ellis who will join us in the next few days. This is fabulous news not only for the town, but for the estate here as he is a local lad, and regularly attends our H.E.A.R.T. meetings.

Another P.C.S.O. will be joining us later in the year after having undergone the correct training.

## **3. No Council Tax Rise on the Bury St Edmunds Town Council of West Suffolk Council**

Before I start this section, I am a **Bury St Edmunds Town Councillor** and **St Edmundsbury Borough/West Suffolk Councillor**. I therefore have no say on Suffolk County Council or Suffolk Police Authority's budgets mentioned below.

**The councils I sit on have frozen the council tax for 2019/2020 (0% Increase).**

- 3.1** As you know, on April 1, 2019, **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** and **Forest Heath District Council** will merge to create **West Suffolk Council**. Historically, Forest Heath have paid less Council Tax than St Edmundsbury.

The Local Government (Structural Boundary Changes) (Finances) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 set out rules for the harmonisation of council tax from the predecessor authorities of West Suffolk Council. So subject to approval at tomorrow night's meeting of the Full Shadow Council, the recommendation which should go through as it was a recommendation from Cabinet, would set the following Band D council tax levels for 2019/20, for each of its predecessor areas:-

- Forest Heath - £152.28 (an increase of £4.95, 3.4%)
- **St Edmundsbury - £182.16 (a freeze) – This equates to a 0% Council Tax Rise.**

- 3.2** The annual Revenue and Capital Budget sets out the Bury St Edmunds Town Council's spending plans for the financial year and shows how these are to be funded including the contribution required from the council tax payers of the Parish of Bury St Edmunds via the Council Precept.

The Town Council Precept is basically the amount that the Council has estimated that it will require to be raised from Council Tax to fund the many services that it provides to the local community and is the amount on which the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill is calculated

The **Bury St Edmunds Town Council** 2019/2020 PRECEPT has been confirmed as £438,341.00 which equates to £33.30 per Band D equivalent property for 13,163.40 properties in the parish of Bury St Edmunds. **This equates to a 0% Council Tax Rise.**

**3.3** Suffolk County Council met on **14<sup>th</sup> February 2019** and set its precept at £71,139,651.41 resulting in a Band D council tax of £1,292.13 – a 3.99% increase (including 1% increase for the Adult Social Care precept).

**3.4** **Suffolk Police Authority** set its precept of £11,713,737.96 at the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019, resulting in a Band D council tax of £212.76, a 12.7% increase on the 2018/19 figure of £188.82.

**So, in summary, as residents of Bury St Edmunds, Band D Council Tax would be as follows:-**

- £33.30 + £182.16 + £1,292.13 + £212.76 = **£1,530.79**

#### **4. Newbury Community Centre AGM & New Centre Update**

Last Monday was the Annual General Meeting of the Newbury Community Association who run the Newbury Community Centre. I was delighted and honoured to be voted in as one of two official observers for another year.

I am also pleased to report as a member of the new Newbury Community Centre Project Board, that work on the new centre and associated housing is now in a very late state of design, and it is anticipated that work on the new centre will start in the Autumn of 2019 as we originally promised. It has been over 7 years of hard work and grind, but we are nearing the stage of getting what we all hoped for – **a brand new state-of-the-art community centre!**

*Paul J. Hopfensperger*

**18/02/2019**

---

**Cllr. Paul Hopfensperger**

Independent Councillor for St Olaves Ward

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Council and West Suffolk Shadow Council**