

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

WHITELEY – Summer 2016



Tranquil: The beautifully restored pond. **Above:** Past and present councillors admire the orchard.

THE DREAM COMES TRUE

HOLLY HILL Leisure Centre is on course for its public opening in September.

Everyone Active, who will operate the £9.5m centre, will start fitting out at the beginning of August.

A Portacabin has been set up on site to deal with membership inquiries and job opportunities.

Two new junior football pitches will be provided next to the centre, plus a new children's play area and a multi-use games area once building is complete.

This will cater for a range of ages and abilities, providing space for sports such as football, basketball and netball.

Part of the Coldeast Park site which is open to the public has a variety of habitats including a pond, woodlands, meadows and orchard which had been neglected for years.

The Council asked one of our rangers, Helen Sosnowski (pictured) and her team of volunteers, to clear the site.

Much of the orchard was an impenetrable

jungle of brambles and ivy, but once clear the trees had their first prune for years and blossomed in May.

Urgent work was also needed on the unkempt pond and overgrown path on one side of it; so in early autumn 2014 the path was widened and overhanging trees were cleared.

However, the pond needed dredging and in winter 2015 it was pumped out, cleaned and re-filled by a natural spring feed. All the wild life and fish have returned.

This winter, volunteers were hard at work clearing other parts of the site, especially the overgrown meadow which was once used to house pigs!

Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Helen and her team of volunteers have our full admiration for all their hard work and I congratulate them on their brilliant achievement to date.

"Holly Hill Leisure Centre has been a goal that we have shared for many years. It takes a long time to acquire the land and save the



Stripping bureaucrats' powers could boost local economy and enterprise

THE GOVERNMENT proposes certain powers wielded by Whitehall bureaucrats can be decided by local council leaders working with an elected mayor.

A deal has been offered to councils in South Hampshire, including Fareham, which would provide:

- Annual £30m funding for 30 years to invest in economic growth and housing including power to borrow
- Extra to funding already announced for Local Enterprise Partnership and 8 local councils; will meet estimated

£2bn costs for infrastructure in South Hampshire

- Keeping local business rates (£400m); leaving current system of government funding for local councils
- Powers over statutory plans for housing and infrastructure, ability to designate greenbelt
- Increase productivity, create more and better jobs by supporting business growth
- Control adult education and training budget, focusing on skills so people

get jobs and businesses prosper

- Deliver much-needed new homes, particularly affordable homes for local people.
- Control of dedicated transport budget, franchised bus services and local authority roads

Once in place, we hope to demonstrate our successes and negotiate for further powers for Solent region.

It does NOT mean reorganising or scrapping borough councils and creating a unitary council covering Hampshire as proposed by HCC.

England's 5th lowest district council tax – that's CONSERVATIVE budgeting

NEWS ROUND



Bid to end hospital scandal

Action is under way to cut the NHS red tape that ties up progress at Fareham's £24m Community Hospital.

The hospital has operated office hours only 5 days a week since it opened 5 years ago.

Fareham MP Suella Fernandes set up a task force comprising representatives from local NHS organisations and Friends of Fareham Community Hospital.

She persuaded Health Minister Jeremy Hunt to visit the hospital in January when he was told about its problems, and asked the task force to identify specific proposals to rectify the confused management.

Grants available

County Councillor Seán Woodward has £8,000 available to award in grant support to local organisations.

Projects that can be supported are generally for specific items needed by community groups rather than for running costs.

He recently awarded £900 for audio equipment and sweatshirts for SIGN4FUN who meet at St Margaret Mary Church in Park Gate and bring singing of songs to hard-of-hearing groups in the Fareham area.

He said "It was a really uplifting experience to join the group for rehearsals recently."

"What they do is truly inspiring and will I know be much appreciated by deaf people in our community, young and old alike."

No smoking

Following residents' comments, all bus shelters in the town will carry stickers requesting the public not to smoke while waiting.

New Mayor's charities

Fareham's new Mayor, Councillor Connie Hockley, has chosen as her charities the Wessex Haven Breast Cancer unit in Titchfield and Y-Services, with a mission to support and develop delivery of quality youth work that meets the needs of local children and young folk.

Concern over bad parking



AMONG many residents' complaints with motoring and traffic issues is inconsiderate parking.

This is particularly dangerous at junctions, shown in the photo taken in Sweethills Crescent, Whiteley.

The car turning right had to go directly into the path of oncoming traffic to pass the parked VW, which is also too far from the kerb.

Rule 243 of The Highway Code says: DO NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 ft) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.

Keeping accesses clear

COUNCIL-OWNED woodlands are well used by residents.

Councillor Jon Butts has been working with Council officers to see how to make the most heavily used accesses passable more of the time, especially after wet weather.

He also wants gateways which have failed due to the effects of weather replaced.

Jon says: "I have clarified responsibilities for cutting the common grass areas which have recently become unkempt."

"The housebuilder concerned has been ap-

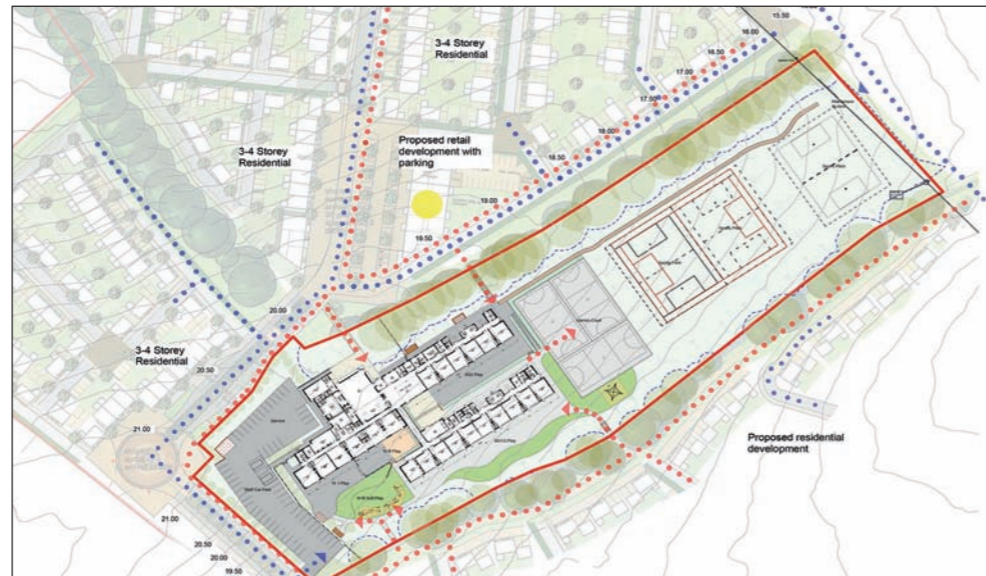
proached by Council officers to ensure grounds maintenance requirements, which formed part of planning consent, are upheld."

PHOTOS Jon Butts (right) discusses grass trimming in Kingsley Way with resident Barry Wilkinson.

TOP: Tom Butts walks Gizmo at the renewed access to Bushy Land, Whiteley.



Parents welcome Whiteley school expansion plan



CORNERSTONE C of E (aided) Primary School has been granted permission to expand and relocate.

Hampshire's director of children's services approved the relocation, subject to planning consent, to allow up to 90 places in each year group.

It will eventually allow the school to cater for 630 pupils across 7 year groups.

Councillor Jon Butts said: "As a parent who, with Councillor Seán Woodward and other parents,



campaigned for more primary school places for Whiteley I am delighted there will now be a steady increase to 1,260 primary school places with more to come and a secondary school."

The County Council held a consultation in June and the plans, which include a chapel and vestry for Whiteley Church, can be viewed at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/cornerstone-school-consultation>.

PHOTOS: Plan of proposals (left). Councillors Seán Woodward and Jon Butts outside the school.

Broadband inadequacies meeting

A MEETING was due to be held at Whiteley Community Centre on July 22 to discuss local broadband issues.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who was chairing it, said it involved inadequacy of Whiteley telephone exchange (housed in shipping containers) and roll-out of the publicly-funded superfast broadband.

Some residents have no access to Virgin fibre and have to suffer appall-

ingly slow modem download speeds.

Representatives of businesses, BT and the County Council were attending the meeting, with MPs Suella Fernandes and George Hollingbery.

Councillor Woodward said: "There is a publicly funded upgrade programme with a target of 2017 for completion. I want BT to commit to both upgrade the exchange and provide a realistic timetable for a universal provision of superfast broadband in Whiteley."

A 'thank you' message from your new councillor

JON BUTTS writes: "I am grateful to all who encouraged and supported my candidacy, and I will endeavour to continue the good work of my predecessor, David Swanbrow."

"It has been a pleasure to meet many residents over recent weeks, hearing first hand what people think about Council services and our local area.

"More than once, I have been pleasantly surprised to hear the Council being complimented and to 'keep up the good work'.

"Positive feedback helps to maintain perspective while following up on specific concerns and complaints for residents when required. Many residents take pride in our area and its appearance and I will do my best to maintain Fareham as a pleasant

place to live and work.

"Most concerns to date are about traffic, parking and grass-cutting, also school provision for Whiteley when the development north of Whiteley starts. I will work to help resolve these.

"I have begun to meet community-minded local volunteers and organisations, often 'unsung heroes' who provide and manage community space.

"They enable a range of activities which benefit people of all age-groups and help make our communities a success. To all those who volunteer I am happy to offer support as a councillor where appropriate and to all residents who are welcome to get in touch."

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COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Jon Butts 07464 847852.

Minister praises Suella for work on landmark Bill



TERRORISTS, paedophiles and serious fraudsters exploit the Internet, social media and other sophisticated communications to scheme online, making it more challenging to keep track of them and gather the vital evidence to secure a prosecution or thwart plots.

The Commons passed the landmark Investigatory Powers Bill to regulate the interception powers used by our intelligence, security and law enforcement services.

I have taken a close interest in this issue and served on the joint committee of MPs and Lords that studied the draft Bill, and on the subsequent Commons committee that looked at current proposals.

Replying to the debate, Security Minister John Hayes congratulated me on the role I played in both committees.

He said: "The threat she described so vividly is, as she said, worldwide and of a kind that would allow us to do nothing other than take the necessary steps to counter it in the defence of our freedoms."

Suella

FERNANDES MP for Fareham



Time to unite in the wake of Referendum

THANK you to everyone who voted in the EU Referendum. Nearly 80% of Fareham residents took part in the biggest exercise in democracy in decades, resulting in an historic decision.

Whichever way you voted, I was pleased to see many new people vote for the first time, increased numbers of young people taking part and vigorous campaigning from both sides.

People, volunteers, attending meetings, speaking up in debates – all these are the lifeblood of politics and democracy.

By over 1,000,000 votes, Britain voted to leave the EU. Fareham reflected that trend, with a strong majority of residents voting to take back control of our democracy, our laws, immigration and our money and to look beyond the EU to forge more global trade and commercial links.

Many people did not vote to leave the EU and were disappointed, but I reassure them Britain has a robust economy, the talent and experience to secure the best settlement for the country.



I held my 'Big Fareham EU debate' in Portchester when over 100 local people asked questions to find out more about the issue.

I will be working hard to contribute to this effort in Parliament and I know that the spirit of open-mindedness, enterprise, economic prudence, compassion and tolerance that make our country great will be maintained.

As we navigate the next chapter of our history, we need to put past divisions aside and unite in the national interest, respecting each other while engaging in healthy discussion.

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Surgery dates

I will hold surgeries at different venues across Fareham. Please call to arrange an appointment to meet me.

Keep up to date

To stay up to date with all of my recent visits and speeches in Parliament please sign up to my newsletter at www.suellafernandes.co.uk/newsletter

Arrange a tour

I am happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for groups of my constituents. To book please contact my office with a minimum of three months' notice, as they are very popular.

FAREHAM CONSTITUENCY NEWS



APPRENTICESHIPS offer young people a great opportunity to learn professional skills, gain confidence and earn a living.

They also enable businesses to develop careers of talented young people in Fareham, ensuring the workforce of the future has the skills it needs.

I was grateful to work with local companies such as NATS (pictured) and Parcar who sponsored my first Apprenticeships Fair and Fareham College, where it was held, to enable young people to meet employers and learn more.

Many local businesses took part such as Yo Telecom, Babcock International, Lloyds and MB Air Systems, plus the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Over 500 young people attended.

Look out for my event next year. If you are a

local employer keen to learn more about taking on an apprentice or holding a stall, let me know.

Broadband meeting

Many residents have contacted me about problems with their broadband service.

I have organised a public meeting for residents on October 28 at 7pm at Whiteley Community Centre to meet representatives of BT, the County Council and phone companies to voice their concerns. Let me know if you plan to attend.

Join me for a coffee

I enjoy meeting local residents and listening to their concerns.

As well as regular surgeries, you can join me for a Q&A and discussion on any topic at my coffee mornings and town hall events.

I recently held them in the Victory Hall, Warsash and Highlands Hub (pictured). Sign up to my monthly newsletter via suella@suellafernandes.co.uk to get updates on future dates.

