

CONSERVATIVES keeping our community



InTouch

FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON – Autumn 2017

Time to scrap this outdated planning appeals system

THE OUTDATED system that allows government planning inspectors with no local knowledge to dictate what is or isn't built in Fareham must be replaced.

"I lay the blame for the Council losing the Cranleigh Road, Portchester appeal squarely at the Bristol inspector's door," said **Conservative InTouch** team leader Tom Davies.

"Regrettably, Persimmon Homes won their appeal to build 120 homes on land off Cranleigh Road and this decision shows why the appeals process needs an overhaul. The system is broken.

"In a time of devolution and letting communities have their say, how can it be that the Planning Inspectorate over 100 miles away in Bristol is given absolute power to decide what is or isn't built in Fareham?"

"As a double slap in the face, the Inspector even decided to make Fareham Council pay costs to Persimmon Homes for the appeal. – an outrageous ruling when there were very clear grounds for refusing the application.

"How the Inspector could grant the appeal when this site had every previous planning appeal turned down – once by the Labour Government Minister – is beyond me.

"The situation hasn't changed; the site is still a haven for



wildlife and one of the area's last remaining green spaces. "I ran a petition on this 2 years ago which received enough signatures for a formal Council response, which resulted in the original application being rejected. I will continue to fight on to protect our wildlife and green spaces. "FBC gave it their best shot, but the system must change. In the modern era of devolution, house building must be decided by local people, com-

munities and councils."

Tom Davies accused the **Liberal Democrats** of 'sensationalism' in their newsletters, adding:

"Their alternative of not building on green space at all would have culminated in the same result; if anything, more green space would be under threat from developers who have run riot in **Lib Dem** controlled Eastleigh.

"I would remind residents that neither of Fareham East's **Lib Dem** councillors bothered to attend the Welborne public inquiry, so it's a bit rich for them to complain."

PHOTO: Former Wykeham House School, which closed in 2015, was granted a change of use consent and is an example of a brownfield site which is being converted to 15 dwellings, with garages and parking spaces.

Fareham same-day GP appointments service off to steady start

A NEW SERVICE for Fareham people to make urgent same-day GP appointments welcomed its first patients in September as it got off to a smooth start.

However, only 40% of surgeries have so far agreed to participate and patients who use the others are encouraged to get their GPs to 'sign up'.

Fareham Primary Care Service (FPCS), based at a hub at Fareham Community Hospital dealt with 60 patient calls in its first three hours.

Four of the 10 GP practices in Fareham are working together to develop a new way of offering urgent appointments to patients who want to see a health professional the same day.

The participating practices are Highlands Practice, Jubilee Surgery and Whiteley Surgery. Stubbington Medical Practice will join the scheme, from January 2, 2018. Other practices may follow if the scheme is successful.

Routine appointments at GP practices continue as before.



Dr Tom Bertram, from Jubilee Surgery, and Amanda Gray (left), manager at Highlands Surgery, discuss the service with Dr Derrin Wilkins.

Almost England's lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES



NEWS ROUND

End for farmers' markets

The farmers' market held in the precinct is to close from December.

Despite having room for 30 traders, only only 8 or fewer have been attending recently.

Traders are encouraged to join the general Monday market instead.

New health hub

Welborne will have a health and well-being hub within the development.

The Clinical Commissioning Group is committed to offering a range of high quality health services to meet local needs.

New technology, an ageing population and a shortage of GPs mean the CCG have to change ways that care is provided in the future to ensure that delivery is possible.

Phone scam warning

Fareham's Neighbourhood team report that residents have been receiving scam telephone calls.

An automated voice states that the recipient has had a complaint made against them by police and to 'press 1' to be passed through to their local police department to be spoken to.

When 1 is pressed, hold music is played for a prolonged period.

Police said they would never contact a suspect or victim using a prerecorded automated message.

If you receive one of these calls, report it by dialing 101.

Popular path reopened

Long overdue repairs to the shoreline at Deanes Park Road have been carried out.

Hampshire Ranger Nina Coxwell, a member of the team who carried out the works, said: "The new path is a great improvement. It had become a swamp and impassable, so it is good to see people again being able to enjoy a walk along the creek."

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Dangerous electric box fixed

AFTER months of complaints, the partially open door of this electrical junction box in Laburnum Road has been fixed.

Tom Davies, who followed up the complaints, said residents were worried that youngsters playing in the area might try to get inside – with fatal results.

"It was an accident waiting to happen," he said.

The box and surrounding equipment have also been repainted.



Is your area gritting ready for winter?

SEVERAL grit bins will be refilled before the winter.

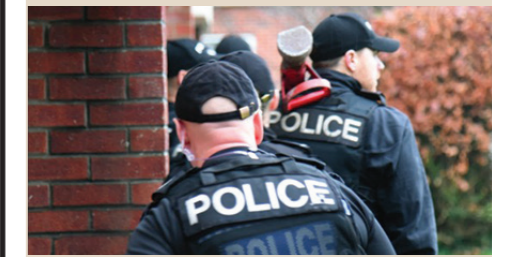
Tom Davies has been touring the ward to check on the bins and discovered problems with those sited in Bath Lane, Waterside Gardens, High Street, Wickham Road and Old Turnpike.

If you know of any that are empty or broken let Tom know and he will inform the County Council.

Tom recently appeared on Solent TV to stress that these bins are for public use, not just the council's.



Public Protection Order reduces crime figures



CRIME figures show a significant drop in Fareham since the introduction of the 2016 Public Space Protection Order.

But there is still a drugs problem which must be tackled.

Tom Davies said: "I was always confident the PSPO would bring crime down as it gave police new powers.

"It's brilliant news for residents who live in and use the town centre, especially in the evenings.

"I reiterate my promise to everyone in Fareham East that I will continue to push the Council to be tough on crime.

"For too long, the antisocial drunks and the druggies have been left unchecked after dark and it will be one of my top priorities to bring better policing and security to our area."

There were 99 incidents in the town centre in the year before the PSPO was introduced, and 34 in the following year.

The Manor reborn

Fareham's Westbury Manor museum reopened in July after a £665,000 refurbishment.

The museum, which will be managed by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, has become a vibrant culture hub in the town centre.

On the first floor, three galleries tell the story of the town's rich heritage from its origins as a Stone Age settlement and its long traditions of strawberry growing and brickmaking.

The reception area, café were and second floor were also remodelled.



Flats fire risk assessment fears

RESIDENTS fear there may be a fire risk in a block of apartments recently converted from commercial to domestic use.

They claim there has been no proper fire risk assessment carried out at Furze Court, Wickham Road by Ensign Management, the

company contracted to maintain the flats.

There were also complaints of blocked drains, raw sewage and toilet paper overflowing in to the garden and poor outside lighting.

The issues were pursued by InTouch team leader Tom Davies and Fareham Conservative Councillor Sarah Pankhurst (pictured), who lives in one of the apartments and threatened to sue Ensign if they did not reinstate parking bays which are owned by residents and registered with Land Registry.

She said: "The Fire Safety Officer gave Ensign 3 months to rectify fire safety shortcomings. This expires next month and to date work has not been completed. After this time enforcement proceedings will start.

"I still believe that within the private sector, some enforcement and checks should be made with respect to fire safety and final building regulation sign-off.

"After I issued legal proceedings against Ensign Management and the landlords Castelnau, our parking bays were properly rectified.

Ensign Management is the company to which tenants pay management fees.

"I have inquired what is happening but have yet received no response," added Councillor Pankhurst.

Tom Davies managed to contact Mr Smitherman on October 11.

He said a fire risk assessment was being carried out and, after a report by Dynorod that there was no problem with the drains, blamed residents putting wet wipes down toilets for the sewage leakage.

Mr Smitherman added: "Everybody has access to their parking bays which are clearly numbered. Sarah seems to think because there isn't a letter C next to her number then it isn't her spot. However, her car is parked there every day."



A waste of money

THE COUNCIL spends more than £920,000 a year of your taxes cleaning up Fareham.

Tackling litter is one of our key objectives so we are launching a litter campaign aimed at changing behaviour.

There are three strands to the campaign – general littering, dropped cigarette butts, discarded chewing gum.

Events are planned across the Borough. Look out for our newly branded litter lorries (pictured) carrying anti-litter messages.

Later, freebies will be available to help people dispose of cigarette ends or chewing gum. Keep an eye on our social media for updates.

The Council can issue on-the-spot fines of £80 to those caught littering.

'No cold callers' stickers available

MANY residents tell Tom Davies they've been having issues with cold callers and some have faded 'No Cold Calling' signs and stickers.

"I have received 100 'No Cold Calling' stickers from HCC and will dish them out on request.

"Please drop me an email or alternatively head to the InTouch with Fareham East & Wallington Facebook page.

"I did a small amount of canvassing and gave a few of these away already, I will be promoting them via Facebook and offering them there."



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If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham East Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please call Tom Davies on 0783 299 1436

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

Extra 3,100 homes plan goes for consultation amid protest storm

AMID A STORM of controversy and protests, the vital new draft Fareham Plan was approved by the Executive for public consultation

It followed heated debates, depositions from residents and objections from councillors whose wards will be affected.

It covers the period 2011 to 2036 to include the Welborne element and extends the rest of the Borough from 2026 to 2036 – an extra 10 years – to have a single terminus date.

And it is essential to prevent scores of developers climbing on the bandwagon in a free-for-all as happened in **Lib Dem** controlled Eastleigh.

Councillor Keith Evans, executive member for planning and development, said housing requirements were co-ordinated by local councils participating in the South Hampshire area using a premeditated formula.

The method covers aspects such as population growth, age, household sizes and economic growth.

Fareham's requirement for the plan period is 8,300 houses and 85,000 sq metres of employment space.

He said: "We are 6 years into this timeline so some of the houses and some employment space has already been delivered or agreed.

"The net balance for which sites need to be identified and agreed are around 3,100 houses and 13,000 sq m of employment space.

"Developers and landowners have submitted over 200 sites to be considered, but if all these were used, we would have an extra 10,000 to 11,000 houses and an extra 65,000 sq metres of employment space. We have prioritised using brownfield sites in the town centre.

Council officers faced the massive task to assess each

site's suitability, sustainability and developability with reference to other bodies such as education and health.

Many sites were rejected with others identified with varying degrees of suitability, leading to development of a planning strategy with a 3-pronged approach:

1 Large (or clustered) sites that would enable delivery of community benefits.

This resulted in proposed sites in Warsash (700 homes), Titchfield (400 homes), town centre (600

homes), North Portchester (350 homes), South Portchester (350 homes) and Stubbington (475 homes)

2 The balance (about 500 houses) from smaller sites

3 Try to spread the burden and impact across the Borough

The plan is a statutory requirement to meet annual housebuilding aims of the political parties.

In fact, **Conservatives** have the smallest target of 200,000 homes, while the **Lib Dems** want to build 300,000.

The consultation period ends on December 8 with all responses being considered in the preparation of the formal plan to be published by next summer.

This will be subject to further consultation before

everything is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate to arrange a public examination, probably at the end of 2018.

He added: "Any Borough Plan is contentious and frequently unwelcome to many. It brings changes to locations and areas, some good and welcome, but others, such as increased road traffic, not so welcome.

"I strongly urge all residents to find time to read the plan and respond to the consultations."

The plan with all supporting documents is available on line and paper copies in libraries and the Civic offices.

Some developments are planned at Pinks Hill and Wallington, but the rest will go on brownfield sites so Fareham East is mostly unaffected.

The table below shows the total number of houses on sites across the Borough on which developers want to build. Most will have to be defended at public inquiries.

Fareham N	304	Portchester E	103
Fareham NW	133	Portchester W	921
Fareham E	785	Sarisbury	1,124
Fareham S	0	Stubbington	2,302
Fareham W	254	Titchfield	1,161
Hill Head	198	Titchfield Common	438
Locks Heath	0	Warsash	2,698
Park Gate	64	TOTAL	10,485

Conservatives stress the importance of affordable homes.

We have over 1,000 Fareham families on the housing waiting list needing Fareham homes.

These could be for rent (council housing @ 60% market rent, housing association @ 80% market rent), shared equity (part rent part buy), starter homes at a 20% discount on market value or even self-build.

*See Fareham Today Special at <https://tinyurl.com/y8f3f54t>

Fareham's schools will benefit from fairer funding formula

FAIRER national funding has been welcomed by Fareham schools.

From April 2018, the new national funding formula will replace the out-of-date system that saw Hampshire's schools get one of the low-

est levels in the country.

All secondary schools will receive at least £4,800 per pupil and all primary schools will receive at least £3,500 per pupil in 2019-20, as well as a minimum cash increase in respect of every school of 0.5% per

pupil, rising to 1%, up to 3% gains per pupil in 2018-19 and a further 3% in 2019-20 for under-funded schools.

High needs funding will also be increased which supports the most vulnerable children.