



# InTouch

PORTCHESTER EAST – Autumn 2017

## Devastating impact fears

Portchester residents' overwhelming objections to developments at Winnham Farm and Romsey Avenue being included in the draft Local Plan have been expressed by Councillors Sue Bell and Nick Walker. While Sue Bell has demanded that both proposals should be rejected, Nick Walker, as chairman of the Planning Committee, cannot give any personal opinion that might influence a planning decision.

### SUE BELL SAYS:

My concern is the impact these extra houses will have on our infrastructure, roads, school places, doctors' appointments, wildlife and on residents.

Both sites have been submitted before by the owners or developers for inclusion the local plan, so residents should not be surprised that they have been submitted again.

**Romsey Avenue:** Is next to but not adjoining Cranleigh Road. It is clearly separated by a piece of land where the appeal inspector for Cranleigh Road stated 'no housing development including gardens and roads shall take place to the west of the hedgerow running north-south through the site'.

Romsey Avenue is different from Cranleigh Road in that it has a designation of uncertain feeding area for brent geese and wading birds. Residents have sent me many pictures of this area being used as a feeding ground.

I ask, therefore, that the appropriate surveys will take place to ensure this important feeding ground for wading birds is protected; also, why was it included in the draft local plan above the other sites that have been submitted for consideration?

Traffic from the site has only one way to go – through the farmer's gate between two residential

### NICK WALKER SAYS:

I am speaking in my capacity as a ward councillor for Portchester West and I am expressing views and concerns raised by many residents who over the past few months have contacted me from the areas around Romsey Avenue and Winnham Farm.

I attended both consultations by Miller Homes for Winnham Farm and Foreman Homes for Romsey Avenue. It is fairly easy to summarise the majority of views on both sites which have been expressed to me by concerned residents.

Foremost is the impact that potentially hundreds of vehicles will make on the local highway network. In the case of Winnham Farm, Down End Road – which already has a heavy goods vehicle weight limit on it – there is unsatisfactory pedestrian access, particularly over the railway bridge, and the ever increasing use of Down End Road by traffic from the top of Portsdown Hill as a rat run from the east to avoid the busy A27 between Portsmouth and Portchester.

Traffic lights at the junction with the A27 both east and west give concerns over the proposal to make only minor adjustment at this controlled junction.

With the Romsey Avenue proposals, residents raise concerns about traffic coming out of a



Nick discusses plans with residents.



**Continued on P4**

## Busy start for Fareham's new same-day GP appointments service

**A NEW SERVICE** for Fareham people to make urgent same-day GP appointments got off to a smooth start.

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

Fareham Primary Care Service,

based at a hub at Fareham Community Hospital, Park Gate, dealt with 60 patient calls in its first 3 hours

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

Those wanting urgent same-day

appointments phone their GP practice as normal and, if they agree to their details being shared with the service, they will be called back in order of clinical priority with a nurse/GP having a detailed conversation, which may result in the patient being given advice over the phone or offered an appointment at the hospital or the surgery.

# NEWS ROUND



## 'No' to hospital bus service

First Bus has refused to run a bus service from Portchester to Fareham Community Hospital at Locks Heath.

In a letter to Portchester Practice Patient Group, copied to ward councillors, the company said it had assessed the situation many times.

"Unfortunately, there has not been significant demand to operate a commercial bus," it stated.

## Alternative to the bus

Taxishare is a public transport service for anyone who needs to travel from Linden Lea, Hill View Road, and Leith Avenue to Fareham town centre (Monday and Friday) or Portchester Precinct (Wednesday).

You must register with Hampshire County Council by calling 01962 846786. You will be sent a membership pack and the booking number to ring when you wish to travel.

## Keep village's postal identity

Royal Mail is to be formally asked by Fareham Council to keep the Portchester postal address.

It follows a 1,500-signature petition calling on the Council to preserve the unique identity of the village.

The Council recommends Royal Mail to add Portchester as a new locality to addresses within the old parish boundary, subject to support from the MP and Hampshire Chamber of Commerce.

## Better behaved

Anti-social behaviour and complaints from residents have decreased since the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced in 2016.

Support agencies are now regularly undertaking joint patrols and engaging with rough sleepers. Incidents directly linked to the PSPO: 2016 – 99 reported offences 2017 – 34 reported offences

## Mayor goes on parade with the Gurkhas

MAYOR Geoff Fazackarley was honoured to attend the VJ Day commemorations with the Gurkha Regiment in Stone, Staffordshire.

The connection between Stone and HMS Collingwood started in 1969, when HMS St Vincent in Gosport was closed and the Fareham base took over the link

Admiral of the Fleet Earl St Vincent, one of the Royal Navy's most distinguished commanders, was born near Stone in 1735 and is buried in the parish churchyard.

He was renowned as a great naval reformer and it was he who introduced block-making machines patented by Marc Isambard Brunel into Portsmouth Dockyard.



## A vibrant culture hub

FAREHAM'S Westbury Manor museum reopened in July after £665,000 refurbishment.

The new 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 to the infamous work scandal of 1837 and its traditions of strawberry growing and brickmaking.

The reception area and café were remodelled and a shop selling Hampshire produce introduced; the second floor was turned into creative studios.

## Inspector ignored Council's long-term housing plan



PORTCHESTER councillors say the inspector who conducted the Cranleigh Road appeal inquiry refused to heed the Borough Council's housing plans.

Councillors Sue Bell, Nick Walker and Geoff Fazackarley said: "We were extremely disappointed with the outcome of the appeal, having both spoken at the hearing representing the Borough Council and local residents' views against the development.

"The inspector failed to acknowledge the Council's clear long-term commitment to housing delivery."

Persimmon won outline consent for 120 homes and approval was also given for a new vehicle access from Cranleigh Road.

However, there are numerous conditions, importantly that 40% of the homes must be affordable. They also include public open space with a locally equipped play area and pedestrian links, surface

water drainage and landscaping.

The detailed planning application was received by the Council on October 6 and includes design of the houses, construction materials, height etc. Residents had the opportunity to comment.

In his report, the inspector also told Persimmon:

1 No development including gardens and roads allowed to the west of the hedgerow running north to south.

2 Dwellings shall not exceed two storey eaves height.

3 No development to start until an arboricultural impact assessment report and method statement for tree/hedgerow protection has been submitted and approved.

A report will go to the Planning Committee outlining how proposals for residential development should be considered in the context of the Cranleigh appeal.

## US twin town marching band visit

ON A trip from Port Chester, New York to twin town Portchester, Michael Miceli met Fareham Mayor Geoff Fazackarley.

The band leader from Port Chester College will bring his marching band here next year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this district in Westchester County.

Geoff has been invited back to Port Chester for the celebrations there.

The US village (pop. 29,000) is on land bought by settlers from the Indians in 1660 and was originally named Saw Pit.



## Local golds galore

GOLD AWARDS came Portchester's way in the Britain in Bloom competition.

Northern Junior School received a gold level award for Hampshire in the 'Our Community' category and Portchester Crematorium got a gold and won the Crematorium Grounds category.

The Borough received its 14th consecutive gold medal and won the 'Small City' category.

Fareham in Bloom received the Hampshire County Award for the high-



est marked entry and the parks and gardens also featured highly in the gold medal table.

PHOTO: Northern Junior pupils with Mayor Geoff Fazackarley at the awards ceremony in Ferneham Hall.

## Heave ho! Mayors show they have pulling power



Former mayors and local bus drivers helped Fareham Mayor Geoff Fazackarley to pull a vintage bus through West Street to raise money for his charities – Sam's Haven and the Moving On project.

## 'Rabbit, rabbit, rabbit....'



There was plenty of 'rabbit' when Geoff Fazackarley met cockney entertainers Chas & Dave who appeared at Ferneham Hall.

Geoff said: "I asked them for their support for our charity by signing their autographs which we transfer-printed on to a vinyl which is stuck to the Y-Bus."

'Rabbit and pork' is cockney rhyming slang for 'talk', hence 'rabbiting' for a woman who can't stop talking.

It was a big hit for the pair in the 1980s.

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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 by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Phone Geoff Fazackarley on 02393 112231 or Trevor Alford on 0751 782 9466.

# Fareham MP says local schools will benefit from fairer funding formula



Portchester Community School will be one of those that will receive the new government funding.



Fareham MP Suella Fernandes with teachers who met Schools Minister Nick Gibb.

## FAIRER national funding has been welcomed by Portchester schools.

From April 2018, the new national funding formula will replace the out-of-date system that saw Hampshire's schools receive one of the lowest levels in the country.

Fareham Conservative MP Suella Fernandes, who had been pressing for changes, said: "I am pleased I was able to arrange a meeting with the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, and a delegation of Fareham teachers representing local schools during the consultation.

She said: "It is an historic reform, meaning that for the first time Government funding for schools will be distributed according to individual needs and characteristics of every school.

"We are investing an additional £1.3bn in schools and high needs over the next two years, on top of our existing spending plans.

"As a result, core funding for schools will rise and per pupil funding will be maintained in real terms for two years as we transition to the new NFF.

"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 our most vulnerable children."

and out either through a congested Hatherley Crescent or a congested Beaulieu Avenue.

This is unacceptable. In fact, the exit from the house to the east of the access road has its entrance as part of the proposed new splay into Romsey Avenue.

In a recent consultation, Foreman Homes were promoting 250 dwellings on just over half the site, but in the draft the whole site is included with the number of dwellings being 225. I would like clarification of these numbers.

**Winnham Farm:** The main issue here is only one access onto Down End Road, a busy road with a narrowing at the railway bridge making walking along it highly dangerous.

For anyone who lives or drives through Portchester, the area around the junction at Down End Road traffic lights can be a nightmare, so can you imagine the effect of hundreds of extra vehicles at this congested junction? Chaos.

What efforts will be made to engage Hampshire County Council Highways in the consultation process to review these proposals and the potential impact these extra homes will have on roads within Portchester, including the A27? Is there any money from CIL or section 106 contributions for improvements to ease the impact these extra dwellings will have on our current road network?

Having read the Cranleigh Road appeal decision, I was surprised that the Local Education Authority raised no objection to that development and even went so far as to say the development would not result in unacceptable pressure on local education infrastructure.

Although the appellant identified that the 5 infant and junior schools in Portchester were full, the proposals to expand Northern Infant School and to increase Northern Junior School in 2019 were noted.

## Development – Continued from Page 1

small access to the site onto Romsey Avenue; there is a house with its vehicular access right on the junction.

Another issue is traffic turning into Beaulieu Avenue, which is so narrow that all residents already park on the east side to allow vehicles to pass through, and even with that concession two cars cannot pass each other and on occasions traffic wanting to turn into Beaulieu Avenue has to queue on the A27.

Again, there are concerns about the adverse effect of hundreds more vehicle movements will have on this already restricted road system and on movements on the clogged A27 in both directions, particularly into Fareham.

Another concern that has been expressed to me is what will be the effect of all this traffic on air quality.

Many residents were worried about school places for children of all ages and, while there is some future capacity at Northern Schools, there is nowhere near enough to cope with potentially 600 new dwellings which are bound to require extra school places.

Concerns have been raised about the over-stretched doctor facilities, with residents complaining about being unable to get appointments in a reasonable time and the increased pressure on Queen Alexandra Hospital which on some occasions is overloaded.

Both Winnham Farm and the land south of Romsey Avenue are intensively farmed, so there are fears about the loss of agricultural food producing land.

Wildlife foraging areas south of Romsey Avenue could be lost and in this connection I have been sent many pictures of all sorts of wildlife including brent geese, wading birds, deer, foxes and badgers.