



InTouch

WARSASH – Autumn 2017

Warsash rocked by 800 extra homes bombshell

IT IS FAIR to say that we were both shocked to hear that the Council had allocated the site bordered by Lockwood Road and Brook Lane for up to 700 homes in their revised local plan, state Councillors Trevor Cartwright and Mike Ford.

This decision is both unreasonable, unsustainable and unfair in expecting Warsash to take such a huge number of properties that will, coupled with the 100 homes planned for the redevelopment of the Maritime Academy, increase the village population by up to a third.

Only a few years ago, Warsash residents were promised that the development at Welborne would help prevent such housing incursions in the designated 'Countryside'.

Go back to just January this year and this decision was reinforced when Foreman Homes and Taylor Wimpey's applications for 260 homes to the north of the site was refused by Fareham's planning committee.

These reassurances now lie in tatters and we and local residents will have to live with the consequences of this decision for many years to come.

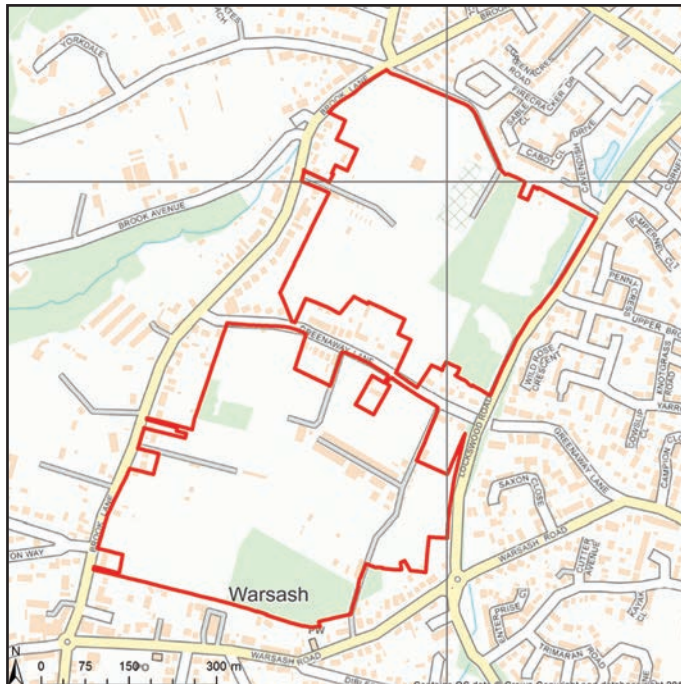
We of course understand that the Council needs to find space for new homes in any event, but coupled with the loss on appeal of Fareham's refusal to allow 120 homes to be built on the Cranleigh Road, Portchester greenfield site, it is understood that Warsash may have to take its share.

We felt at worst that the previously refused Foreman Homes and Taylor Wimpey proposals for 260 dwellings in total may be allowed, but nothing like this proposed number.

This is a flawed and ill thought through decision, totally ignoring the immense pressure that these homes will put on our local roads, schools and medical provision.

The Council's process for selecting greenfield sites for development had as part of its criteria, adequate local infrastructure and highways provision.

These have been ignored here in Warsash and not for



the first time, we have been shocked that Hampshire County Council, the statutory consultee on highways matters, have not raised an objection.

They apparently feel that up to 1,000 additional vehicles travelling along Barnes and Brook Lanes at peak times onto the A27 and progress along this stretch from Park Gate to junctions 8 and 9 of the M27 will be unaffected.

Incredible. And the more we hear of the County Council's traffic modelling system, the more it suggests that it fails to reflect the reality that we all experience and see on our local roads.

Let us now look at education provision. Even accepting the County Council's formula that each new home will generate 0.25 of a child for whom local school provision needs to be found, these new homes will require 200 infant and junior places to be found, a provision of 7 new classrooms.

Given that our 4 local schools, Hook, Locks Heath, Park Gate and Sarisbury are struggling currently to meet even the needs of catchment families, these will need to be funded and built.

Locks Heath school alone received 280 applications for just 120 places in September, leaving many in-catchment families disappointed.

Just look how long it took to provide the new classrooms at the Locks Heath schools and as always, provision lags way behind demand. We can anticipate therefore, that many children from these new properties may be placed in schools out of area, so putting additional pressure on parents and of course, our road network.

This is before we even consider secondary provision at Brookfield which currently educates up to 2,000 students.

Planning law dictates that local authorities cannot consider the provision of health facilities locally in their decision making, but we all know that our **Continued on Page 4**

NEWS ROUND



A councillor's duties

An insight into the duties of a local councillor was given to a meeting of Warsash Residents' Association by Trevor Cartwright.

Trevor, who is Deputy Leader of Fareham Council and Executive Member for Health and Public Protection, covered all aspects of these and his other roles as a member of the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee and Planning Committee. He said he was also appointed to 15 outside bodies, which include the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee.

He also spoke about his responsibilities of chairing the build of the Holly Hill Leisure Centre and the Daedalus Member Working Group.

He reminded the audience that the most important part of being a councillor was to listen and act for all local residents. He answered questions from the floor.

Major road improvements

Hampshire County Council has just approved a £19.6 million road improvement scheme for the M27 Junction 9 and at Parkway South.

At peak times queues can tail back several miles along the motorway.

At junction 9, there will be an additional lane put in on the approach and on the carriageway widening.

These improvements will provide a substantial traffic capacity at both junctions to reduce the queues.

Museum reopens

Fareham's Westbury Manor museum reopened its doors to the public 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 long traditions of strawberry growing and brickmaking.

Vandal-hit memorial bench replaced

A MEMORIAL bench to 'a true friend of the village' was destroyed.

The bench in Strawberry Fields, in memory of devoted Warsash resident Jeff Hamblin, was found broken up and dumped in long grass.

Councillor Mike Ford said: "I am at a loss to understand who would want to do this and it proved to be a great loss to those who wish to sit and enjoy views over the river."

Mike asked the Council to replace the bench.

"I am pleased to say the Council agreed and has now installed a new bench – concreted into the ground. A new plaque was placed upon it so a fitting memory of Jeff is now back for all to enjoy."

PHOTO: Mike shows the new bench to Jeff's widow, Ruth Hamblin.



Same-day appointments service

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'.

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

hours after going live at 8am.

Four of the ten 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 on the day they make contact.

The participating practices are Highlands Practice, Jubilee Surgery and Whiteley Surgery. Stubbington Medical Practice will also join the scheme, from January 2, 2018.

Other practices may follow if the initiative proves successful.

Upgrades to popular River Hamble path



HAMBLE Causeway, one of South Hampshire's most popular footpaths, is being repaired and upgraded.

Emergency repairs were carried out just before Christmas 2016, shoring up a major breach.

These have now been followed up with re-decking and the installation of ramps on the 'Chinese Bridge'.

Further work is planned for late winter/early spring 2018, improving the surface condition and further shoring up of the banks.

This is funded by Fareham Borough Council planning agreements, with additional capital from Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "It will greatly improve access to those with mobility issues and families with small children."

Busy harbourmaster

Hamble harbourmaster Jason Scott reported a busy summer on the river, with 51 incidents or events ranging from speeding boats to diesel pollution.

He told Warsash Sailing Club committee meeting they were also involved with preparing for Bursledon Regatta and liaison with Crown Estates mooring contractor.

Committee member Councillor Trevor Cartwright said he was impressed with the dedication to duty of all staff at the harbourmaster's office.



On the right tack: young sailors learn the ropes

THESE youngsters were keen to get their hands on the tiller of a sailing dinghy and who better to teach them the ropes than Trevor Cartwright.

The racing yachtsman, as chairman of the Community Safety Partnership, gave them the chance during the 'Access All Areas' event in the summer.

Councillor Cartwright said it again proved very popular with 11 to 16-year-olds, with nearly 1,400 registered.

It was held at various locations across the Borough during summer holidays and gave youngsters the chance to try different activities, including sailing, scuba diving and go-karting.

There were also super pool parties and participants were given free bus passes to get to the events.

PHOTO: Trevor Cartwright shows the young hands how to rig a sailing dinghy at Seafarers Sailing Club.

Selfish parkers pay the penalty

DRIVERS who selfishly park at a Warsash bus stop are having to pay the penalty.

Councillor Mike Ford received complaints from residents, particularly the elderly, about vehicles using the bus stop outside the Co-op to park.

He said: "When a bus tries to pull into the stop but is prevented from doing so by an inconsiderate driver, it has to stop in the middle of the road, which prevents a two-way flow of vehicles."

"More seriously, many elderly folk have to step out behind it to cross Warsash Road on their way home to Garden Mews, which is clearly very dangerous."

Mike spoke to Council officers and arranged for the bus stop to be targeted by the Enforcement Officer and between April and August, 41 penalty notices were imposed.

Citizens Advice opens local service

CITIZENS ADVICE FAREHAM has been operating out of Fareham Library for many years, offering a marvellous free service to local residents.

Trained volunteers provide support to all residents of the Borough and it is now providing a local service in the Lockwood Library on Tuesdays 10am to 2pm when residents can speak to an advisor face to face.

This new service will provide free, confidential and impartial advice to people on their rights and responsibilities.

Specialist advice is provided on a range of

subjects and practical help can be provided with filling in forms or negotiating on a person's behalf.

Many local solicitors have joined up to offer free half hour appointments to clients on a Thursday evening.

Citizens Advice is also extending outreach work to home visits within the area.

Call the advice line 03444 111306* Mondays to Fridays 9am-5pm and Saturday 9.30am-1pm. If calling from a mobile, you will be asked to enter an area code. Fareham's is 01329.

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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.

COME AND JOIN US

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 Warsash Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Trevor Cartwright on 01489 578519.

Fareham MP says local schools will benefit from fairer funding formula

FAIRER national funding has been welcomed by Western Wards 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."



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

Housing bombshell – Continued from Page 1



local surgeries are already under pressure to grant timely appointments to those requiring such and 2,500 potential new patients will significantly increase the pressure on them. Many think that this aspect of the planning system is seriously flawed.

What have we been actively doing to voice our total opposition to this proposal?

The revised Borough plan came before the Council's Executive at their 9 October meeting, for presentation, discussion and ultimate vote on whether it should be approved for submission to public consultation.

Councillor Ford made a strong deputation against the volume of housing proposed, echoed by Councillor Cartwright in his response.

Both councillors raised all of the issues detailed above, making it clear to the meeting that their objection was not against the principal of development on this site per se, but the sheer volume of dwellings proposed. In addition they raised other issues

relating to the site selection process and alternative un-considered sites and Councillor Ford concluded by urging Executive members to vote against the proposal and send it back for officers to conduct a new review that takes into account their self stated criteria, considering also, all other available sites in the Borough.

When it came to a decision, Councillor Cartwright, being a member of the Executive, duly voted against the proposal.

Despite these deputations, the Executive voted 5 to 1 in favour of the sites being included in the draft plan that will now go out to public consultation.

It is worth saying that this decision has not given any confirmation of these sites being agreed for development, nor is there any suggestion that this gives any planning permission to the developers.

It is solely to agree that the process moves to 6 weeks of public consultation. The fight goes on and it is imperative that residents respond to this consultation.

If and at this moment it is still 'if', this proposal does go ahead, both Trevor and Mike have already told officers of the need for a co-ordinated and integrated development to take place.

This has now been included in the draft plan and our councillors will hold officers to their undertaking that will ensure that we do not have four separate developments but all developers accept the provisions of the site master plan, that will ensure a planned, well thought out and pleasant development that will for example have green public open space running North / South through the whole area.

Trevor and Mike will of course keep residents informed, both within future issues of 'InTouch,' in their column in the monthly Warsash Parish magazine and at the meetings of the Warsash Residents' Association where they give a local news update each month.

PHOTO: Residents Ray and Michele Corrigan are shown the proposed development site south of Greenaway Lane by Mike Ford (left) and Trevor Cartwright.