

THE GRAPEVINE

Community newsletter for Fareham North West
From Conservative Councillor Peter Davies

February/March 2018

Number 102

YET MORE DEVELOPMENT THREATS TO FAREHAM PARK ROAD

As we all know over recent years there has been so much newbuilding in infill plots behind bungalows, in the new homes now being built in Tewkesbury Avenue and in the seven homes to be built at the top end of Fareham Park Road where Hope Lodge used to be.

Now a developer has circulated some residents with a plan of 44 (yes 44!) homes on the large field next door to Hope Lodge. **NO PLANNING APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED**



Peter on site at the new development at the end of Fareham Park Road pointing to the large field.

Peter says 'this land is not allocated for housing by Fareham Borough Council, as it is surrounded by ancient woodland, is in the Coast and Countryside Area and forms part of the Meon Valley Strategic Gap.

Local residents have expressed great concern that development may take place there.

AROUND AND ABOUT HIGHLANDS



You will have noticed that the road surface in Highlands Road near the entrance to the old railway line is sinking. This is where the old railway bridge was. It was filled in and now the filling has begun to settle. Hampshire Highways are undertaking a geological survey to see how best to solve the problem, as just putting more tarmac on will have little long term effect.

It was sad to lose the Emotions Florist and an application for change of use to a café and restaurant has been submitted. It is important that we have a range of shops in the Highlands Parade and already almost 30% of shops are cafes/takeaways.

It was also sad to lose a fine oak tree in that line of oaks stretching down Highlands Road from the shops to the garage. It was diseased and has been replaced.

THE GRAPEVINE TEAM
SERVING FAREHAM NORTH WEST FOR 32 YEARS

THE HAMPSHIRE ROSE

The saga continues, but the end is in sight. Fareham Borough Council has approved plans for 18 flats on the Hampshire Rose site and the site of the old bungalow with its large garden at the 2 Fareham Park Road. We do not know when building will start. They will be mainly two storey one and two bedroom Council flats and their 21st century design will add to the regeneration of Highlands.

I know some people objected to the provision of affordable housing in this location, but it is a 'brownfield' site where, I'm afraid the presumption is for development. Unfortunately the Government has ordered Fareham Borough to approve sites for 420 homes each year. I strongly believe that as many as possible should be on previously developed brown field sites (such as in part of West Street and around Fareham Station).

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre is becoming more and more popular.

We have a Youth Club for the older teenagers (13-17 year olds) on Friday evenings.

You can hire the Centre for parties, wedding anniversaries at very reasonable rates

To make a booking, please contact Tim Vincent, our bookings secretary, on 07774249702.

The Petanque Club is going from strength to strength. Why not give it a try one Wednesday evening – just turn up or ring Mary and Mike on 01329 843295. I'm going to join! Why don't you join too?

Every Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30, the members of the Tea, Talk and Tonk group meet at the Community Centre for a range of activities. Sometimes there is a speaker from organisations such as the Fire Brigade or RSPCA, sometimes the group goes out to places such as the nature reserve at Hill Head. As Eve, the Co-ordinator said 'we ended the year with a Christmas Buffet and a really good sing song. So if you fancy a good chat, a cup of tea and to make new friends, come along and join us on Monday afternoons.' All are welcome. They have future plans to have a luncheon club before their meetings

BACK TO SCHOOL AS SENIOR CITIZENS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



In December about 65 senior citizens and their carers packed out the Theatre at Henry Cort Community College for this year's knees up. They were treated to an afternoon of entertainment put on by students from all years.

Principal Claudia Cabbage praised the event, which has been organized by the College for 29 years and said '*The students love it and it helps to bridge the gap between younger and older generations.*'

Henry Cort College also had a visit from Caroline Dinenge, MP for Gosport for a Careers and Enterprise Visit. Caroline was educated at a comprehensive school and has served on the Business, Innovation and Enterprise Committee in parliament. Henry Cort College is proud to be one of the first schools to be part of a pilot linked with a business enterprise network to give careers education which gives real experience for students, in the world of work.

OUR BUSES

Rumours have been spread about possible changes to our bus services in the next couple of months. I have tried unsuccessfully to gain real information.

Service 20 serving Gudge Heath Lane, Hill Park Road and Thames Drive is a Hampshire County Council subsidized service and back in October Hampshire was discussing removing all bus subsidies, but I think they have modified that view and are in discussion about how the 20 might manage without subsidies (presumably less frequent)

Service F2 serving Nashe Way, Highlands Road and Frosthole Crescent is operated as a commercial service. Yes there are a few very busy journeys on this route but some other journeys are almost empty (such as the 14.17 and 15.17 from Highlands, which I often get). Could this become less frequent than before?

Service F1 serving Hillson Drive, Fareham Park Road and Highlands should be safe.

Still no Sunday bus service – we are the only ward in the whole of Fareham which does not have any Sunday bus service. Peter says ‘I have tried and tried to get a service even if it was only 10am to 2pm.

FAREHAM MEN’S SHED

Fareham Mens’shed has been awarded a grant of £1,500 from the County Council by County Councillor Fred Birkett. The Club has a membership of 43 and is a club for men aged 55 and over and is a place to meet new friends and develop new skills . The Group have been involved in several projects such as converting a double deck bus for the homeless and repairing cages at the Ark animal rescue centre. They are currently talking to Redlands Junior school about the possibility of making outdoor equipment.

If you would like to find out more, please visit their website www.farehammensshed.org.uk

DAMAGE TO GRASS VERGES



With all the wet weather we have had, there has been a lot of damage to our grass verges, as selfish people have driven over them. Here I am with my assistant Ryan filling in ruts where a delivery vehicle had parked. I’ll come back with grass seeds when the weather is warmer. We are trying to get bollards in Nashe Way to protect the grass there.

Some people say the grass verges should be taken away to make the road wider. That would be very expensive as it would involve relocating the services under the verge. The Council did remove some verge in Hillson Drive and it cost over £10,000 for each parking space provided.

BEWARE OF CALLERS

We have had a number of cases where suspicious people have cold called residents and caused anxiety. It’s sad that we have to say, put a chain on your door and don’t open it to strangers. Even if it’s a genuine case like gas, water and electricity people or councilors(!), always ask for ID – I always carry mine with me.

NEWS FROM FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL ON COUNCIL TAX

Fareham Borough Council's Conservative administration has agreed another austerity-defying budget which will see ITS PART of the Council Tax rise by just 1p per day for the average home. This despite the fact that the Council has now lost its entire Revenue Support Grant from government.

The resulting budget sees the Council's services remain intact and a district Council Tax which remains almost the lowest in the country. Car parking charges remain frozen for the seventh year. The long stay car parks remain free in the evenings and on Sundays.

Successful initiatives during the last year include:

Transformation for £650,000 of Westbury Manor Museum to make it a real family centre.

A £15m investment to extend the successful Innovation Centre for small businesses.

The provision of 11 new hangars at the Daedalus Solent Enterprise zone to help create hundreds of new jobs.

Completion of the £1m Hill Head coastal sea defences.

Support to keep open the Borough's six youth facilities.

Opening of Sylvan Court a £5m sheltered housing complex for our older residents at Coldeast.



The celebration of 100 years of flying at Daedalus culminating in the visit of HRH Princess Royal.

Holly Hill Cemetery £300,000 extension agreed to support burials for another 30 years.

FINALLY PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

Join me for coffee on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the Highlands Hub.

Phone me on 01329 846239 or email pdavies@fareham.gov.uk

Say Hi because I'm always around in the ward, down the shops, in the Hub and on the Highlands bus.

PETER DAVIES 142 Highlands Road

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