



FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON – Summer 2018

Fury as new housing criteria wreck Fareham draft plan

NEW HOUSING levels forced on Fareham by Government will wreak havoc with the draft planning strategy, putting hundreds more acres of countryside under the bulldozers.

Whitehall moved the goal posts by applying a new factor relating to the ratio of average income to average house prices.

Fareham must now find yet more space to cram in another 1,500-2,000 homes – doubling the current number of greenfield houses required.

Work preparing the well-advanced draft local plan has been halted and much of it will have to go back to the drawing board.

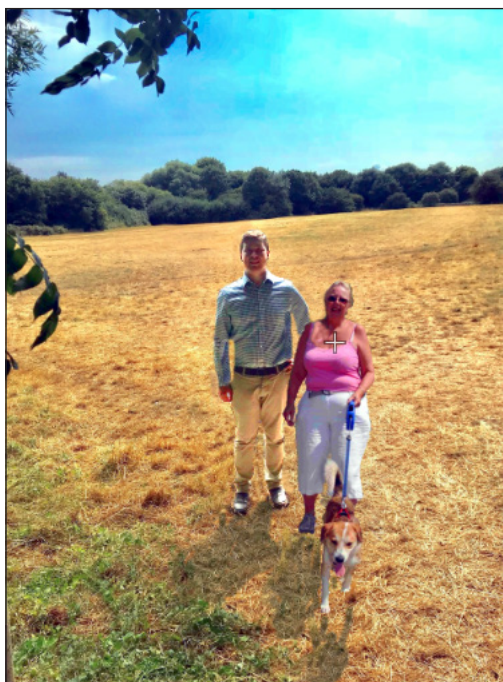
And there's worse to come when yet another Government rule change – the Housing Delivery Test – comes into force in November.

Furious councillors rounded on the minister responsible, James Brokenshire, telling him-enough is more than enough.

Council Leader Seán Woodward and MP Suella Braverman will meet the Secretary of State and lay it on the line that the Borough should not be expected to cope with an ever-rising volume of housing thrust on it by Whitehall.

Councillor Keith Evans, executive member for planning and development, said: "We responded to the Government by rejecting the proposals as unreasonable and unachievable in the short term. It fell on deaf ears.

"We now have to decide how to incorporate all these additional requirements and consult on the new recom-



mendations.

"All this will take additional time and leaves the Council exposed to even more unwelcome applications."

Fareham had already met previous Government criteria by objectively assessing the 5-year housing supply requirement.

This showed 11,300 homes were needed. After discounting Welborne (3,840), completions and permissions (2,995) and remains from the existing plan (208), the Council had to accommodate an extra 4,250 and had managed to find brownfield and windfall sites for around 2,000.

When developers learned the rest had to come from greenfield sites, it sparked a Klondyke-style rush with over 100 proposals totalling 12,700 homes submitted against the 2,500 still needed.

As Fareham cannot now publish its new plan, it must consider applications without the protection of the usual planning policies.

Under the fresh Government diktat, the 5-year housing land supply (5YHLS) will see the current annual need for 487 dwellings raised to 571, assuming a 5% buffer.

If Fareham fails the Housing Delivery Test, the figure could go up to 653 per annum for the next 5 years, with massive extra impact on the suspended draft local plan.

PHOTO: Councillor Tom Davies walks with local resident Kim and Buster across Wallington's ancient water meadow, which could still be vulnerable despite it being designated as a Site of Interest to Nature Conservation.

Fareham pioneers first conference to deal with rough sleepers problem

GIVING money to begging rough sleepers will not help to remove them from the Borough's streets.

Donating it directly to many local charities which are working hard to help the homeless is a far better idea.

This was the conclusion of more than 70 delegates who attended the first conference hosted by Fareham Council to tackle the problem.

Its aim was to share information and identify strategies to support the work of agencies and to launch 'Fareham StreetAid', a new initiative through which joint communications can be published.

Outreach workers said drug addiction was one of many issues they were dealing with daily, so any money given would simply be used to fund that habit.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "We are determined to help rough sleepers off the streets rather than helping them to stay on the streets.

"It is so important that people who wish to offer support such as money, food, sleeping bags, clothing etc should give it to the local charities who, with support agencies, deliver what is needed to these vulnerable people."



NEWS ROUND

Kites flying high

Red kites, large birds of prey, have been spotted along Fareham Creek for the first time.

They are still uncommon this far south and are always a great sight to behold.

Measuring 60 to 70 cm (24 to 28 in) long with a 175–179 cm (69–70 in) wingspan, they eat mainly mice, voles, shrews, young hares and rabbits.

Cold callers targeted

Tom has now extended his 'No Cold Calling' campaign and has more stickers to give out.

"If you'd like one please just ask. I am also keen to help streets create new 'No Cold Calling' zones."

Queen's Award

It was a double celebration for Fareham's One Community, which marked its 40th birthday by winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Many voluntary organisations across the Borough will have made use of their expertise whether it be finding volunteers to work in the community, helping with fund raising or assisting with the various policies that need to be in place these days.

Cash for good causes

If you know of an organisation that may benefit from a small grant to assist their work, ask them to contact County Councillor Fred Birkett.

He said: "Over the past year I have been able to help charities, sports clubs and youth organisations with cash totalling £8,000."

One of the organisations Fred helped was Fareham Bowling Club which bought outdoor lighting as an aid to safety.

"I would be happy to hear to from any organisation – not individuals – and I will certainly do my best for you."

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Call for better allotments security

ALLOTMENT holders are demanding better security after thieves raided over 35 sheds at Wickham Road.

It happened on July 11 when they also broke into the shop to steal the charity tin.

Councillor Tom Davies said: "This is a particularly disgraceful crime in such a community spirited part of town.

"That they would steal the charity tin shows they are the lowest of the low. Given the number of break-ins, there had to be multiple persons involved."

Resident Pam Chisham, who runs the allotment shop, said she wanted to set up a meeting with the police neighbourhood watch and possibly a Borough Council representative to discuss ways of beefing up security at the gate and the rest of the site.

Police are investigating the raids.

Council responds to anti litter pledge

THE COUNCIL is following up one of Councillor Tom Davies' election pledges – to clean up Fareham.

He said: "I'm taking feedback from residents in areas where people are littering and the Council is going to monitor affected sites for 6 weeks each and then hopefully add additional bins."

One resident who got in touch with Tom was Nicky Miles, who brought up the littered mess by the Eastern Parade play area.

"The problem was that people were not

only littering, but crows were raiding open bins, spreading the rubbish.

"This is just one site being monitored."

Nicky said, "That's great news. I shall halt my litter picking in the park for a few months so they get accurate results."



County cost cutting sparks weed invasion



WEEDS are running riot in streets and footpaths across East Ward and the rest of Fareham Borough.

Warm weather and thunderstorms have combined to help them grow at an alarming rate.

Residents are demanding that the County Council, which is responsible for highways weed control, should take urgent action to clear up the unsightly mess.

Some have even been forced to take action themselves by buying and spraying their own weed killer.

Up to this year, the County Council undertook pesticide spraying on roads and pavements twice a year to kill the weeds, which were then removed by Fareham Council's

street sweeping service.

But Hampshire reduced the treatment to once a year to cut costs.

Councillor Tom Davies said: "It's a false economy as it simply allows the weeds to take greater hold and causes damage to the highways for which the County Council will have to pay to put right."

"We are working to find ways of introducing new weed removal methods which will not involve the use of pesticides and working with the County Council to bring the weeds back under control."



PHOTOS: Tom Davies shows where the verge by Malthouse Lane car park and gutters in the street above are weed infested.

He won't take no for an answer

HOPES for more 'residents only' parking zones in Fareham have been dashed by the County Council.

A disappointed Councillor Tom Davies said HCC had a duty to the town's residents and he wouldn't give up on his election pledge.

He had contacted Andy Smith, from HCC's traffic management department, who said such schemes were a lengthy, complex and costly measure and very low priority.

He stated: "With Fareham BC ending their Traffic Management Agency Agreement last year, this means that HCC is now responsible for all traffic and parking issues in Fareham (excluding parking enforcement).

"Parking issues rarely give rise to injury accidents and so they generally will be a much lower priority than other traffic management matters."



War memorial vandalised

AFTER the Trinity Church memorial had rubbish strewn all over it, it's now the turn of the memorial by Wilko

Vandals for some reason decided to draw on it in marker pen.

Tom Davies contacted the Council when he heard to get it cleaned up.

He said: "Why anyone would want to vandalise a war memorial honouring our dead with graffiti is beyond me."

The Council responded quickly to Tom's request and cleaned up the memorial.



Voters reward Tom the listening Tory candidate

AFTER 18 years, Fareham East once more has a Conservative seat on the Borough Council.

It was a triumph for the tireless efforts of Tom Davies, who was unstinting in his gratitude to voters who supported him and the ward team that backed him.

Tom said: "I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all the residents who voted for me.

"After 22,000 leaflets and surveys, over 1,500 doors knocked, Facebook interaction and 'Politics in the Pub' events, residents have rewarded us for our hard work using one simple formula – listening.

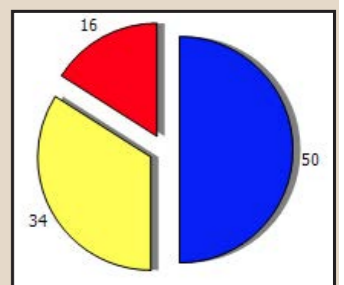
"And that's what I plan to do. I'm not here to represent the Council to residents; I'm here to represent our residents to the Council and be a strong voice for our part of town.

"I will be feeding back your comments and requests to the Council and I'll try and do what I can to make requests happen.

"I will fight to achieve what I set out in my election campaign. 'No cold calling', litter and resident parking remain at the top of my agenda. I've started to make some headway on these issues as you'll read.

"I hope I will be a strong representative for all our residents, whether you voted Conservative or not, and if you have any local issues please do not hesitate to contact me."

Tom had a majority of 360 and the chart shows his share of the vote.



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BOROUGH COUNCILLOR
Fareham East



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 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.

Tired old Ferneham Hall to get a multi-million pound refurbishment

FERNEHAM HALL, Fareham's top venue for stage shows, exhibitions and main events will be closed at the end of 2019 for a massive multi-million pound overhaul to meet 21st Century demands.

After almost 40 years' service, the building is looking tired, dated and in need of a facelift and the Executive decided it was time to meet modern demands.

Councillor Sue Bell, executive member for leisure and community, said: "In 2015, a feasibility study showed the layout and design no longer met customer expectations which have changed significantly since 1982."

It means temporary venues will have to be found elsewhere across the Borough and when the hall reopens it will be under a new management structure.

But it will also fulfil one of the **Conservative** Council's long-awaited ambitions to provide a community venue in the town centre.

She said: "Remodelling of Ferneham Hall offers a real opportunity to combine a new arts and entertainment venue with a busy community facility.

"A key part of this vision is to plan a new facility which will be more commercial in its outlook and this will be achieved by appointing an operator."

Today's patrons demand large, air-conditioned buildings, space and natural light, auditoria with comfortable seats, unrestricted views, wheelchair access and café facilities. So the new Ferneham Hall will include:



- Alterations to foyer and box office area to provide a sense of arrival
- Improved audience facilities, toilets, catering areas, in terms of comfort, appearance and overall experience

Improved access including a lift

- Fuel efficiency – individual parts to be lit, heated and ventilated independently

- Improved cast/crew areas, including stage and back-stage, to support high quality performances

- Community rooms for hire and/or workshops enabling venue to operate as a busy community centre

- Improve comfort of main auditorium to suit audience numbers (400-500 seats)

- Smaller, intimate secondary performance space (100 seats) including screen and projector room

- Options for retractable seating and dance studio with sprung floor

When it reopens it will be under the management of a leisure trust operator.

Councillor Tom Davies, who is part of the working party set up to deliver the project, said: "Our vision is to provide a busy community and entertainment venue which includes daytime and evening activity, seven days a week.

"I can assure residents this is going to be a modernisation programme for our venue and that Ferneham Hall is not going to become more flats."

South Downe Musical Society is one of many groups that use Ferneham Hall regularly to stage their productions.

Chairman Nick Williams said: "I'm looking forward to the proposed changes at Ferneham Hall."

Start is imminent on M27 and M3 Smart Motorway work

HIGHWAYS England will shortly start work on a major scheme to increase the capacity of the M27 by a third between junctions 4 and 11 and the M3 between junctions 9 and 14.

It includes a replacement M27 all-moves junction 10 to serve Welborne.

The design for junction 10 is currently with Highways England for sign-off, so the Council will be able to determine the Welborne planning application for 6,000 new homes over the next 25 years.

Council Leader Seán Woodward,



pictured with Regional Sponsor for Smart Motorways Adrian McCrow, said:

"I have campaigned for years to see the M27 and southern section

of the M3 upgraded to Smart Motorways and am delighted that £500m are now being spent to do just that.

"A third increase in capacity will bring many benefits to businesses and residents who suffer daily on these roads. Delays cost money, put off trade and add to pollution.

"I believe concerns about the loss of a hard shoulder are unfounded as many 70mph dual carriageways work well with an occasional lay-by.

"Thirteen emergency refuges will be placed on the M27 – one every 75 seconds for somebody travelling at 60mph."

