



# InTouch

**FAREHAM SOUTH – 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 ad-



ditional requirements and consult on the new recommendations.

"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.

**PHOTOS:** Kay Mandry discusses the proposed Old Street development and its impact on Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve with residents Peter Wason and Bill Hutchison and (inset) 1,100 homes could go on 270 acres between Longfield Avenue and Stubbington.

## **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**

**Anti-social behaviour**

Ward councillors are getting more calls about anti-social behaviour.

They have been working with the police and community safety team at Fareham Council to get to grips with these problems.

“We are trying to improve or install CCTV that will go some way to help the police manage the situation,” said Keith and Geoff.

“This will hopefully give the public more peace of mind when walking around some hot spots, one of the main areas being The Gillies.”

A conference was held involving all agencies concerned to try to work out the way to solve this complex problem.

**Fareham in Bloom**

People have been busy preparing entries for Fareham in Bloom.

We have only one resident in South Ward who opens their garden for the competition, but we have many residents who help.

Councillors Geoff Fazackarley and Keith Barton thanked all those who pitched in to make Fareham in Bloom what it is.

This year, Trafalgar Court entered Britain in Bloom and we have to give special thanks to John Eley who does so much all the year round for his group at Trafalgar Court.

**Thanks to supporters**

Geoff Fazackarley thanks all those who supported him in the May Council elections.

He is determined to work hard for all South Ward residents, regardless of party, to deal with many outstanding issues.

Contact Geoff any time if you have any concerns.

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**New move on Cams Alders project**

THE CAMS ALDERS VISION is back on the table and some wildlife studies were done at the end of June.

Councillor Keith Barton said: “We then hope the planning of the site will be forthcoming and we will address the issue that many residents have raised which is a proper footpath from various access points leading to the BRT routes.

“We are also well aware of anti-social behaviour issues there and are in the process of working with the businesses to find a solution.

“One idea could be a new gate to

restrict access or automated bollards; however, we need all to work together as this is not straightforward because access is needed by many people playing football, going to the bowling club etc, so we would need a way to manage this issue.”

Last year, directors of Fareham Town FC rejected proposals to provide sports facilities there.

So the Council is now seeking alternative ways to provide much-needed sports and community facilities for the ward so long deprived of them.

**Fence funding arrives at last**

AT LONG last we have got the funds to fence in the children’s play area at Crossfell Walk.

The hard court area will be re-painted and tidied up and the fencing has been ordered for the play area to make it safer for the children.

We are still looking for funding for some new equipment over time but of course there is also the the new play area that’s being built at the bottom of the Bloor development in Laurel Grove, Bishopsfield Road.



**Fareham’s One Community wins Queen’s Award for local voluntary work**



**HAPPY birthday to One Community who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary since they opened for business.**

Many voluntary organisations throughout Fareham 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.

In recognition of the service given to the community, they have just been awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

Many congratulations to everyone in One Community for being awarded such a well-deserved honour.

Geoff Fazackarley and Keith Barton are pictured at the organisation’s showcase at Ferneham Hall, giving their support and to thank Hayley Hamlett (One Community voluntary sector development support worker).

**County accused of ‘false economy’ WEEDS are running riot in streets and footpaths across Fareham Borough.**

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 Keith Barton 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.”

**If you need a helping hand, you’ll find it at the Broadlaw Skills Café**



Councillors Geoff Fazackarley and Keith Barton pictured at one of their weekly surgeries where they deal with ward issues.

**BROADLAW Community Centre is proving a real boon for local people.**

It offers a large variety of programmes designed to help and advise.

Ward Conservative Councillors Geoff Fazackarley and Keith Barton stated: “In the Skills Café, we help people to look for work, to write an up-to-date CV, with interview skills and how to use computers.

“At times, we run free courses for people in various subjects like, Food safety, First aid just to name a couple, we can normally put these on for free if we have a minimum of 8 people.”

Every Wednesday, Citizen’s Advice come in as part of their outreach programme for anyone who needs help; One Community also come in

once a month.

Geoff and Keith added: “We are here to support the local community so please come along.

“Also at Broadlaw, there is a new parent/toddler group that has started on Tuesday mornings 9.30am–11.30am. It has begun very well and is being run by local mothers. The more the merrier so please feel free to come along.”

Geoff and Keith hold regular surgeries twice weekly for residents to voice their views.

These are held on Mondays (Excluding bank holidays) between 4.15pm–6.15pm and Wednesday’s 10am–12pm.

The rest of the time the Skills Café is open from 1.15–6.15 on Mondays and 9am–1pm on Wednesdays.



**Mayors’ charities fund raising**

**ACTS OF KINDNESS is one of Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford’s charities and a stall at HMS Collingwood’s open day raised £150.**

The charity helps unfortunate people to get by in emergencies. Her other charities are Abby’s Heroes and Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.

Abby’s Heroes was set up by a Hampshire couple in memory of their 10-year-old daughter to help young cancer sufferers; RNBT helps serving and former RN ratings and Royal Marines and their families in cases of need.

Last year’s Mayor, Councillor Geoff Fazackarley pictured with Courtney from AOK, raised £14,000 for his charities – Sam’s Haven and the Moving On Project.

**Parking: Slow progress**

**A SCHEME to relieve parking problems in Longfield Avenue is moving slowly.**

Councillor Keith Barton said the plan was to convert a recreation space into a residents’ parking area and prevent on-verge parking.

“The land is owned by the County Council so it’s taking time, but we are pushing.

“Other on-going projects are to improve the bus stop by the shops in Bishopsfield Road, where parking issues make boarding buses difficult, and we’re asking for an island crossing near Butser Walk.”

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# 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 community demands.

Portchester 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.

Councillor Bell 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 with space and natural light, auditoria with comfortable seats, unrestricted views, wheelchair access and café fa-

ILITIES. 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
- Reduce size, 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.

Future operations will be based on the premise that the Borough Council owns the hall, the leisure trust manages it and the Council pays an annual revenue contribution to the trust until there is no deficit.

Sue Bell added: "Our vision is to provide a busy community and entertainment venue which includes daytime and evening activity, seven days a week.

"Our new-look building will offer a great choice of entertainment and provide new community facilities for those living around the town centre."

## 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."

