



InTouch

FAREHAM WEST – Summer 2018

Fury as new housing criteria could ruin 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 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.

PHOTO: Councillors Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis survey the Hallam land between Longfield Avenue and Stubbington, which is now highly vulnerable.

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

CAT areas combine

Since 2015 to make the Community Action Team (CAT) areas more equal, Fareham West has been united with Titchfield.

At these meetings topics applicable to your ward are presented by the Council leader, Police officers and other speakers. You also have the opportunity to talk to your local councillors at the end of the meeting.

These meetings are yours and please ask if you wish to have a particular topic discussed. For dates, venues and other queries either phone FBC or go on line www.fareham.gov.uk/cats.

A garden to dream about

For many years, Chris and Colin Tait, of Longmynd Drive, have opened their lovely garden to hundreds of people for a small fee (£2.50 this year).

Their efforts have raised thousands of pounds for charity, with £800 raised this year alone.

For a donation, you can have a delicious cakes and a cuppa and wander round the gorgeous flowers and a variety of memorabilia.

Lock your sheds

Police have warned about thefts of garden tools and mowers and advise people to keep garden sheds locked.

Leslie says thanks

I was extremely grateful and humbled at the recent May elections when I was re-elected as your Councillor.

Of 2,260 votes cast, 1,659 of you voted for me, giving me the largest majority of all Conservative candidates standing. Thank you all very much.

All in a good cause

Sixteen teams met in the Conservatives' quiz evening at Palmerston Indoor Bowls to support former Mayor of Fareham Geoff Fazackarley's two charities – Sam's Haven and The Moving on Project.

Charity box thief fails to deter Abu

CUSTOMERS at Gandhi's Takeaway in Anjou Crescent would like to get their hands on the heartless thief who stole a charity box while owner Abu's back was turned.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "It didn't deter Abu who once more showed his generosity by donating an evening's takings of £550 to the Mayor of Fareham's Charities. Many thanks Abu."

PHOTO: Abu also presented a cheque for £1,700 to Nicola Dunford, fundraising manager for Cancer Research. Also in the picture are Leslie Keeble, last year's



Mayor Geoff Fazackarley and Caroline Pryke, who runs three local shops.

Glass peril at kids' play area

HOOLIGANS smashed bottles and glasses and left them with other litter strewn across the Blackbrook children's play park.

Councillor Tina Ellis: "We urge anyone who saw this to call the police on 101 or call me or Leslie.

"We're sure those responsible would not wish to harm young children, so please act responsibly and use the bins provided."

A local resident helped a team from Fareham Council's depot, who responded in under an hour, to clear up the mess.

Leslie (pictured) and Tina also spent an hour picking up litter and glass bottles



Weeds invasion blamed on County cost cutting



Eyesore: Nora had to get neighbour Robert Holman to clear the weeds from her wall beside the path.

WEEDS are running riot in streets and footpaths across West 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.

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.

A notice of motion by Councillors Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis calling on the County to take ac-

tion was accepted by Fareham Council.

Leslie 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."

Tina said: "Gary Grundy, local resident and owner of Novaseal, was so concerned by weeds in his street he bought a gallon of weed killer and sprayed the road.

"He also said reps from other areas of the country visited him recently and made comments about the prolific weed growth and how unsightly and damaging it was. Not something they expect down here."

Meet your PCSO

MEET your local PCSO in the One Community information centre in Fareham Shopping Centre every Wednesday from 10.00 to 12.00 and talk to them about crime issues.

Leslie met PCSO Elise Berry (pictured) and discussed rough sleepers, cyclists riding in the pedestrian area, reduction of police officers.



NOTE: When the police station is closes at 8pm there is a telephone outside which connects you to directly the police.

More investment for Daedalus

OVER £100m of public money – including £30m by the Borough Council – has been invested at Daedalus to provide an engineering college, industry leading office and workshop space in the Fareham Innovation Centre.

Six more hangars have been built in addition to the 5 built last year for general aviation use.

Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis, pictured with Councillor Tom Davies, visited in May and were impressed with the latest hangars which can be rented or bought for marine, aviation or aerospace

businesses. Daedalus has won two business awards.

The engineering college is part of Fareham College (Cemast) to which the 'Digger School' – teaching essential groundwork skills – is the latest addition.

Tina said: "You must go to the Café 05 in the airport control tower, refresh yourself and watch the airport life."



Highlands pedestrian crossing bid ruled out by County Council

IT LOOKS as though a bid by ward councillors to get a pedestrian crossing for Highlands Road is doomed.

Many residents had asked Leslie Keeble and Tina Ellis for a light-controlled for the crossing to make it safer for the elderly and parents with children to catch buses or go to the park.

But Hampshire County Council rejected the request for not meeting several criteria:

- Too few people to meet the footfall count
- Road too narrow for central island, insufficient space to widen footpath
- No suitable straight-across location without compromising residents' turning space into driveways
- No possibility of remodelling road by bus lay-by near Place House Close

A County Council spokesman added: "We are continually contacted about such a crossing and hopefully this long explanation will assist us reducing the requests.

"Highlands is designated 'high load' road through Fareham, another reason given for being unable to have a central refuge for crossing."

Making a wave

For those who were unable to get to Fort Nelson to see the Poppies Wave by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, here is a picture taken by Leslie.

Wave is from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'.



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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, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339 or Tina on 01329 843936.

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."

