



# InTouch

**PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – 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 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 discount-

ing 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:** Resident Val Young shows Park Gate Councillor Simon Martin where land at Beacon Bottom has already been allocated for development.

## **Millions pumped into Whiteley development road schemes**

**DELAYED development of 3,500 houses, roads and schools north of Whiteley should begin in October.**

Thanks to a grant from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership of £14m, the following will happen:

- Roads programme brought forward to deliver connection of Bluebell Way to Botley Road at Curbridge by end of 2019

- Dualing of Whiteley Way to Tesco by 2020 with new junction to Parkway with traffic lights and first school (Cornerstone) in September 2020

- Works costing £20m to improve junction 9 of M27, Whiteley Way and signalling Solent Hotel roundabout to start in 2019. Completion in 2021

- Improvements to Pinkmead junction at Botley by 2020 involving traffic

lights and cycleway to Botley Station. Botley by-pass scheduled for completion by 2021.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am pleased that the support of the Solent LEP means that these important roads schemes can be brought forward by years so that there will be an additional northerly exit from Whiteley by the end of next year."



**Alderman Brian Bayford**



Four years after being Fareham's first citizen, Susan Bayford took the chain of office for a second time at the Council's annual meeting in May. Her husband, Brian Bayford, who is also a former Mayor, is once more her Consort. The Mayor is pictured recently investing her husband, a former Park Gate Ward councillor, as an Honorary Alderman following his retirement in May after 16 years' service on the Council.

**Ian thanks voters**

Conservative candidates around the Borough benefited from strong support in the local elections in May. They included Ian Bastable, who was elected in Park Gate to succeed the retiring Brian Bayford, Ian said: "I'm so honoured to have been given this opportunity to bring the approach I advocated in the election to the decisions that the Council will have to take over the next 4 years." He has been appointed vice-chairman of the planning committee

**Simon's appointment**

Following the successful local elections which saw us increase our majority on the Council, Simon Martin has been appointed as the Executive Member for Streetscene. The Streetscene department provides some of the Council's key services including waste collection and recycling services together with street cleaning, grounds maintenance and hedge cutting.

**Start imminent on new flats development**

FOR OVER a year, many residents have been wondering what is happening at the Middle Road/Station Road development site.

Councillor Ian Bastable said: "The lack of progress has led to many questions from residents about the state of the site, access around the site, and the poor appearance in the heart of Park Gate.

"Finally, we have been advised that the developer is able to make progress towards



the development of 14 much-needed new flats with commercial units beneath "A new contractor has been appointed and we should see work restarting imminently resulting in an improved appearance during developments with hoardings to obscure the

site." Works are scheduled to take approximately a year during which the pathway will remain closed.

**Nature reserve 25 years old**

CELEBRATIONS were held to mark the opening by naturalist Chris Packham exactly 25 years ago of Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve.

The beautiful venue was set up thanks to the tenacity of Fareham Council in negotiating a deal with the Civil Aviation Authority when granting planning consent for the Air Traffic Control Centre.

Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust came on board and have brilliantly managed the area.

County Councillor Seán Woodward, who attended the original opening, said: "Swanwick Lakes represents one of the best examples of planning gain any council has ever achieved on the back of a major planning application and I know that the reserve and walks are enjoyed by thousands."

**Fury at wanton damage to ancient hedgerow**

OUTRAGED residents have accused contractors of wanton destruction of an ancient hedgerow and wildlife.

It happened in Beacon Bottom where a 30-metre length of hedge was ripped out so developers could gain access.

Furious Councillors Simon Martin and Ian Bastable denounced the act in March at the start of the bird nesting season.

Disturbing nesting birds is an offence against the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The contractors returned in June and started shredding the chopped-down vegetation, putting a range of breeding birds at risk.

Simon and Ian have ensured no further work can be done at this stage after discussions with the Borough Council and moves by the landowner to get Foreman Homes to develop the site.

Foreman Homes promised to consult residents, who are demanding what remains of the hedgerow should be left to recover in time.



PHOTO: Beacon Bottom residents pose in front of the gap torn in the ancient hedgerow.

But opening up the site has also led to fly tipping and there are still fears about disturbance of nesting birds.

Simon Martin said, "I am outraged that certain developers feel that they can do whatever they want without seeking local authority approval and this is a warning that we should all be on the lookout for unscrupulous activities in our ward.

"We are fully supportive of the residents in Beacon Bottom and will fight this attack on our countryside and will be looking very carefully at any proposals that may follow from Foreman Homes with a view to opposing the planning ap-

**Act fast for cash**

COUNTY Councillor Seán Woodward has a grant pot of £8,000 available to help local organisations with small, important projects they would like to achieve in Park Gate/Priory Park area.

The money is specifically for capital projects, not running costs, and anyone interested should contact him.

The application process is simple and online, but you need to act fast.

**Residents' victory in parking fines row**

DRACONIAN parking restrictions imposed by a management company will cease on September 17 after a storm of protest.

Chamonix Estates, appointed by developers Taylor Wimpey to control on-street parking at Greenacres, were imposing £100 fines for not parking in formal bays.

Similar measures planned for Strawberry Fields were defeated by a majority of residents.

Councillor Simon Martin said he was awaiting a reply from Taylor Wimpey confirming the lifting of restrictions would apply to all the Strawberry Fields and Greenacres development.

"It will be important for residents to park sensibly and ensure that roads are not obstructed, particularly for access to emergency vehicles.

"I will be discussing this with Taylor Wimpey and the local residents' group to ensure this decision does not result in parking free-for-all. Ian Bastable and I will continue to hold Chamonix and Taylor Wimpey to account."

PHOTO: Resident Shona Bishop is delighted with the outcome.



**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
**Fareham Sarisbury**



**Seán Woodward**  
8 Persian Drive  
Whiteley PO15 7BJ  
Tel: 01489 881030  
email: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk



**Ian Bastable**  
5 Blake Close  
Whiteley  
Fareham PO15 7LT  
Tel: 074 4455 2194  
email: ibastable@fareham.gov.uk



**Simon Martin**  
230 Botley Road  
Burridge  
Southampton SO31 1BL  
Tel: 01489 325805  
email: smartin@fareham.gov.uk

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**  
**Park Gate & Priory Park**

**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.

**County cost-cutting causes massive weeds invasion**



WEEDS are running riot in streets and footpaths across Park Gate 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.

Park Gate Councillor Simon Martin, executive member for Streetscene, 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 with the Borough Council 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."

PHOTO: Rebecca Adam shows where weeds have taken over the gutter and kerb in Pimpernel Close.

**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 Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Contact Simon Woodhams 07971 288993 or simon@sjwuk.com

# Development sparks demand for more Western Wards school places

- Temporary reception class to be set up
- New entry form needed for 210 children
- Developers to foot bill

**DUE TO abnormally high reception class numbers for this September the County Council has decided that a temporary class for 30 children is necessary for the Western Wards area.**

The classroom will be situated at Sarisbury Infant School and the extra 30 children will make their way through the school and the Junior School over the next seven years.

Without doubt the extra development in the Warsash and Park Gate Wards around Greenaway Lane at Warsash will require a permanent additional form of entry at primary school level which is 210 children.

Discussions are currently taking place between the education authority, Hampshire County Council, and Hook-with-Warsash Primary School and Sarisbury Infant and Junior Schools to decide where this extra form of entry (7 classrooms) will be sited – either at Sarisbury or Warsash.

This will be entirely funded by the developers following a change to Fareham planning policy allowing money to be collected via legal agreements for education as well as roads and affordable housing.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: “It is important that local children, particularly primary-aged, are educat-



**Sarisbury Infant School: A new class will be set up here.**

ed as locally as possible to their homes.

“I am very grateful that the Sarisbury schools have agreed to accommodate the temporary extra group of 30 children in their schools.

“It is critically important, looking to the future, that the decision is made rapidly on the accommodation for the additional form of entry so that schools can properly plan for expansion as appropriate.

“It is also important that proper provision is made for any expansion of secondary provision that may be necessary, bearing in mind that new secondary schools will be built in Whiteley and Welborne.”

## Hall to close for revamp

**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.

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 fulfil one of the **Conservative** Council’s long-term ambitions to provide a community venue in the town centre.

Executive member for leisure and community Councillor Sue Bell said: “Remodelling of Ferneham Hall offers a real opportunity to combine a new arts and entertainment venue with a busy community facility.”

It includes changes to the box office and foyer, better access with a lift, community rooms, auditorium reduced to 400-500 capacity for more comfort, smaller 100-seat secondary performing space, dance studio with sprung floor.

## Smart M27 & M3 imminent

**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: “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.

“Concerns about loss of a hard shoulder are unfounded as many 70mph dual carriageways work well with an occasional lay-by and lanes can be closed in an emergency.

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

