



InTouch

TITCHFIELD, TITCHFIELD COMMON & CATISFIELD – 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 have to decide how to incorporate 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.

PHOTOS: Kay Mandry discusses the proposed Old Street development and its impact on Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve with Peter Wason and Bill Hutchison. 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



Footpaths cycle ban

'NO CYCLING' signs will be erected on footpaths around St Peter's Church, Titchfield.

A resident complained to Councillor Connie Hockley that cyclists were using the paths endangering elderly people.

Connie said: "I contacted Hampshire County Council who advised me that as these footpaths have been adopted by the County and records show that, as there is an enforceable Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting cycling, then these signs should be displayed."

"A County engineer will visit the site to identify suitable locations and they will, hopefully, be in place in 8-10 weeks after the visit."

Karen Healey says 'thanks'

"I would like to thank all Titchfield Common residents who voted for me in the recent elections.

"Sadly I didn't win, but achieved a lot of votes for a first-time candidate and reduced Jack Englefield's majority considerably.

"I am continuing to deliver your InTouch and hope to be able to stand as the Conservative candidate again in the future."

Reasons why items can't be recycled

Residents ask why plastic pots, tubs and trays can't be recycled.

Councillor Tiffany Harper says mixed recycling is sorted at one of two material recovery facilities (MRFs).

There they are sorted by manual or mechanical methods into two streams using an infra-red optical device. That accounts for 97% of plastic bottles.

However, plastic pots, tubs, trays etc comprise a wider variety of polymers which can't be successfully sorted by the MRFs without investment in costly equipment, which would be prohibitively expensive.

WOMEN FOUGHT HARD TO WIN RIGHT TO VOTE: 100 YEARS ON MOST DON'T BOTHER IN LOCAL ELECTIONS



Make voting compulsory

CONNIE HOCKLEY, who thanks her supporters for re-electing

her to the Borough Council, says it should be made compulsory to vote.

Only 2,114 of the Titchfield Ward electorate of 5,435 bothered to vote in May.

"When many people in the world are barred from carrying out their democratic duty, I wonder why we get such low turnouts at elections.

"Some residents feel it makes no difference or don't understand so don't bother. At the end of the day, there is an old saying 'use it or lose it'.

"I think the argument to vote is particularly relevant as this year we are remembering the Women's Suffrage movement when in 1918 The Representation of the People Act gave women over 30 the vote, but it was not until 1928 that this was extended to all women over 21."

Centenary party

LOCAL Councillors Connie Hockley and Sarah Pankhurst were guests at a party to mark 100 years of Women's Suffrage.

The event was held by volunteers and members of Y-Services at Xperience Youth Club in Fareham.

Sarah Pankhurst said: "We had some really fun activities based around women and politics and I was impressed with the variety of political-based activities our youth have engaged in."

PHOTO: Fi Durrant of Y-Services (centre) tempts Sarah and Connie with some mouth-watering cakes.



Two birthday celebrations plus a prestigious award for volunteers

1 Titchfield Village Trust

Happy birthday to the Titchfield Village Trust which is celebrating 50 years as an organisation that has contributed to making the village a pleasant place to live and visit.

The Trust was formed in 1968 to assist towards the preservation, protection, development and improvement to the Village's features of historic or public interest.



One of its first tasks was to try to save the dilapidated old Market Hall dating from 1612.



It was saved but only after being dismantled and restored at the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton.

All are welcome to the TVT's general meetings which are held in the Parish Rooms 3 times a year.

More information at www.titchfieldvillagetrust.com.



PARKING on pavements and verges is becoming a nightmare in Titchfield and across the Borough.

Pavement parking nightmare

It's exacerbated by multiple vehicle ownership in households not designed to accommodate it and Fareham has one of the largest car ownerships in the UK.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst has been working with County Councillor Geoff Hockley to get to grips with the issue and they have been discussing difficult areas with police.

But a Western Wards police spokesman said staff numbers had been so badly cut that priorities had to be given to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

He said: "If officers during their normal beat patrols see obstructive parking, then an on-the-spot fine will be served. There are not the resources for officers to be dedicated to bad parking."

Sarah Pankhurst said: "This is not a witch hunt on all pavement parking. I acknowledge for some areas parking is very difficult and such parking keeps the roads accessible.

"Unfortunately, we are hearing of more incidents where obstruction is forcing pedestrians onto the highway and of driveways becoming inaccessible. I urge drivers to park sensibly and considerately."

Basic rules are:

- Roads with yellow lines in place before 2017 – it's Fareham Council's duty to issue penalty notices.
- Roads with yellow lines in place after 2017 – it's the County Council's responsibility.
- Roads without yellow lines where pavement parking causes an obstruction – report it to the police.

Sarah's smart and saves money

SMART HOMES are the way ahead, says Councillor Sarah Pankhurst (pictured).

Professionally-installed devices can save time, energy, money and keep your property secure. They can also be operated remotely and interact, for instance in a fire emergency.

She said: "I have recently upgraded my flat as a smart home. I have voice-activated lighting, an app to activate my heating remotely, a smart burglar alarm system that also switches my heating on when I arrive home.

"I also have invested in new heating infrared technology which has health benefits for people with Reynaud's Syndrome and other circulation problems - something I unfortunately have to deal with. I also expect my electric bill to be reduced by at least 30%."



If you want new friends, go to the Shed

COUNCILLOR Connie Hockley was invited to visit the Fareham Men's Shed when BBC Solent presenter Nick Girdler officially opened a new rest room.

She saw the variety of activities and work the group of gentlemen achieve there, whilst enjoying quality time together.

Since opening in 2016, the group has constantly expanded and now has over



40 members. If you are interested in making new friends, call in any day between Monday and Thursday at their shed behind Titchfield Festival Theatre in St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield.

Contact: info@fareham-mensshed.org

PHOTO: Connie Hockley (right) next to Nick Girdler, with Chris Hodgson (Shed member) and Councillor Pam Bryant.

2 One Community 'double'

In their 40th birthday year they have also been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Since they opened for business, many voluntary organisations throughout Fareham will have made use of their expertise such as finding volunteers to work in the community, helping with fund raising or with the various policies that need to be in place these days.

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

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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."

