



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH – Autumn 2018

Planning strategy in turmoil as Whitehall imposes more houses

Fareham's planning strategy is in tatters due to the Government's 'crazily inflated housing figures'.

It is in such disarray that officers have been told to tear up the Draft Local Plan and add even more houses to those already proposed.

Intensive lobbying of Housing Minister Kit Malthouse and senior civil servants by the Council Leader and Fareham and Gosport MPs fell on deaf ears.

Only 3 months ago we highlighted Whitehall's imposition of 30% more houses equating to allocation of another 2,000 on greenfield sites.

But the baffling criteria continue to change like the wind.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "The government will allow councils to submit plans on their original figures (for Fareham 420 houses per year) rather than in Fareham's case an additional 30% (544 houses per year) if they can get them in by January.

"Apart from being an impossible timescale to reach, the result of submitting such a plan would probably mean that after it was adopted the Council would need promptly to review it on the basis of the new figures, putting us back to square one.

"Coupled with that, the Government will impose an additional 20% 'buffer' on Fareham for failing to deliver the new figures over the last few years.

"That is based on the figure imposed on the Council just 3 months ago – rather like being failed in an exam for incorrectly answering a question that was not even in the syllabus!"

Councillor Woodward asked for the following assurances so the Council could submit its current Draft Plan for inspection:

- Protection from the Housing Delivery Test which will increase numbers a further 20%
- Appeals to be judged on current need in the Draft Plan
- Once adopted, no requirement to review the Draft Plan immediately based on the new numbers being far higher than Fareham's actual need.

"Despite the Council's commitment to deliver 6,000 new homes in one of the country's largest new communities, Wel-



NO MINISTER! Nothing to smile about when Kit Malthouse refused to budge after meeting Fareham MP Suella Braverman, Council Leader Seán Woodward and Deputy Leader Trevor Cartwright.

borne Garden Village, as well as an additional 2,000 on greenfield sites elsewhere, ministers have failed to give us the required assurances.

"Reluctantly, we have asked officers to commence work on a new Local Plan to accommodate the Government's crazily inflated housing numbers.

"We will now spend 2019 bringing that new Draft Plan through public consultation and onwards so that a public inquiry can be held.

"Throughout this period we will remain at risk of the Government making further changes to the numbers and, therefore, at risk of hostile planning applications and appeals.

"Without doubt strategic countryside gaps could be at very real risk due to the Government's insistence on Fareham building too many houses.

"I would also like to reflect on the assurances given by Planning Minister Brandon Lewis that appeals would be judged on the 2015 Plan figures which proved worthless when the Cranleigh Road refusal was overturned leading to a developer frenzy.

"Finally, we have the very recent issue of the Office for National Statistics figures which demonstrate that far from a need for 300,000 new houses a year nationally, the need is actually only 213,000, meaning that Fareham currently has sufficient planning consents to last the required 5 years.

"The government has made its intention clear that it will insist on disregarding the new ONS figures thereby pushing the requirement back up again."

Fareham MP Suella Braverman and Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage said they were "bitterly disappointed" that Fareham would not be allowed to proceed with its original plan.

Suella Braverman said: "This has not been an easy matter to resolve.

"We need to build more and better houses to support people in owning or renting their own homes and Fareham Borough Council has been working hard to deliver.

"I was pleased to enable extensive discussions between the Government and Fareham BC but am disappointed that we were ultimately unable to find a way for Fareham BC to proceed with its original Local Plan."



NEWS ROUND

St Francis Chapel, Funtley

We were sorry to learn that the little chapel on Funtley Hill was closed in July.

It was built in 1836 as a school for the industrial hamlet of Funtley, but after the school moved to larger premises, the chapel was formally licensed for public worship in 1885, following a reordering of the interior.

The Grade 2 listed building was bought by the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in 1933. It was built in a Georgian Gothic style of considerable charm including a stained glass window.

Recently, congregations dwindled and it became unviable for the upkeep.

The vicar and churchwardens therefore felt they had no alternative but to close the chapel.

Councillors' surgeries

Ward Councillors Louise Clubley and Pam Bryant, and County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett continue to hold monthly surgeries in the café at Fareham Leisure Centre on the second Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 11.00am. The next surgeries are December 8 and January 19.

Baffled by the Highlands bump

Engineers say there is no easy solution to find the cause of the Highlands Road 'bump'.

It is located above where the old railway deviation line once ran and Hampshire Highways are trying to find out what happened to the road structure and former bridge after the line closed and the area was back-filled.

County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett, who have been monitoring the problem, were told the issue had been passed to Operation Resilience which would carry out further investigating.

We're on Facebook. Go to Councillor Louise Clubley and Councillor Pamela Bryant

Travellers dodge Park Lane bollards

Travellers breached the Council's defences and invaded Park Lane recreation ground.

As usual, they left piles of rubbish which had to be cleaned up after they got their marching orders.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "Despite bollards having been fitted at the main entrances to the recreation ground last year, travellers found the one small section of the area not fitted with bollards to set up camp with 3 campervans, 3 cars and a caravan.

"This area was viewed as being very steep and not to be of high risk. Officers have now taken steps to review the area and fit extra concrete bollards."



Solar bins lessen emptying frequency

Solar powered waste bins are being trialled in two parts of the Borough.

One has been installed outside the old Post Office building in West Street, the other at a coastal location in Hill Head.

Fareham North Councillor Louise Clubley (pictured) says: "This trial of a new type of bin is another initiative from Council officers to improve facilities for residents.

"When the waste in the bin reaches a set level, it is compacted using the power generated by the solar cells on the top of the bin.

"This allows more waste to be inserted and there's no need to empty the bins so frequently."



Disruptions ahead as work begins to convert M27 into smart motorway

North Fareham Bridge

- Due to remedial work over the hard shoulders, subsequent potential safety issues, North Fareham Bridge requires replacement.
- The existing bridge will need to be closed during the construction work - diversion route to be agreed.
- The new bridge will be a prefabricated steelwork bridge installed over a weekend. This will necessitate a closure of the motorway after 10pm on a Friday, reopening to start on Monday morning.



Drivers can expect lane and hard shoulder closures on the M27 between Junctions 4 and 11 as preparatory work starts to convert the 15-mile section into a smart motorway.

Highways England say some of the hard shoulder work must be done during night time lane closures, which will enable them to install traffic management before main construction begins this winter.

Councillor Pam Bryant, pictured at the Ferneham Hall exhibition showing the plans which will provide an additional lane to increase traffic capacity by 30% and reduce congestion, said there would be more technology on the road to manage incidents and more reliable journeys.

The new layout will include high visibility emergency areas approximately 1 1/4 miles (2km) apart with emergency telephones in each area. There will be variable mandatory speed limits to set smooth traffic flows and congestion monitoring technology with 100% CCTV coverage.

Work is scheduled to finish in spring 2021.

Information is available at www.highwaysengland.co.uk



Fareham shows its flower power to win 15th consecutive gold award

Fareham is celebrating another year of success at the South and South East in Bloom Awards.

The Borough received its 15th consecutive winning entry in the Small City category, receiving a gold award and was declared category winner.

Fareham in Bloom also received the County Award for the highest marked entry in Hampshire.

Titchfield Village in Bloom achieved a gold award as winner of the Large Village category.

This is an amazing achievement in only

their second year of entry.

Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards, including golds for the Sensory Gardens, Westbury Manor and the Civic Gardens.

Once again Fareham North residents were winners in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards, with Burnham Wood receiving a Level 4 award - Thriving.

Congratulations to Jan Purnell who encourages the residents to make the road so colourful. She was aptly rewarded at the presentation evening with a 'Life Time' Award.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "Congratulations to Jan Purnell on her well-deserved award.

"These are outstanding results, showing the commitment and hard work of those who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep their local areas of the Borough looking beautiful.

"I would like to congratulate everyone for being so diligent."

PHOTO: Jan Purnell receives her 'Life Time' Award from Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford, with Mayor's Consort Brian Bayford on the right.

Festive lights plan to boost west end trade

Traders at West Street's western end met Council Leader Seán Woodward and Ward Councillors Louise Clubley and Pam Bryant to discuss ideas to increase the footfall at their end of town.

The meeting in the coffee lounge of Crumblejacks brought several businesses together with a variety of ideas to revitalize the area.

It is hoped to revive the shops for the Christmas



trading period by having small Christmas trees and lights attached to the outside to attract customers.

Councillor Woodward said: "The Council will support your efforts; we are not ruling anything out and we are not ruling anything in, but we definitely want to help."

Shane Davies, from The Crafty Makery who instigated the idea, said: "If everyone is working together and we have a plan, then we can succeed."

Amazed by the activities

Councillors met staff at Fareham's award-winning Leisure Centre's open day and were amazed by the variety of activities offered.

They saw group exercise classes, a gym challenge, 30-minute personal training taster sessions, gymnastics displays and dance, plus soft play for the younger ones.

Councillor Pam Bryant, pictured with Councillors Louise Clubley and Connie Hockley and centre manager Ryan Grant, said: "No wonder it is such a busy centre."



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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 North Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Pamela Bryant on 01329 281427.



Britain has good reason for post-Brexit optimism



We have every reason to look forward to life outside the EU. After some tough years following the recession our economy is growing strongly, firms are starting up and unemployment is at a record low.

Under Conservatives people are more likely to be in work than ever before, are paying typically £1000 less income tax than in 2010 and are saving £850 in taxes at the petrol pump.

The number of people in absolute poverty is at a record low, disposable incomes are higher in real terms than 2010 and our national living wage means the salary of a full-time worker previously on the minimum wage is now £2000 higher.

Labour would limit our ability to make the most of Brexit, taking us all back to square one.

And they would attack businesses that create jobs, pay taxes that fund our public services and provide the products and services people need.

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

I held my annual Health Summit at Fareham Community Church where over 100 local people attended to ask questions and share their views about local health services.

Thank you to health bosses of Fareham and Gosport CCG, QA Hospital, Dr Tom Bertram and the CEO of Southern Health who attended to listen to Fareham residents.

People are rightly worried about the loss of phlebotomy and eye testing at Fareham Community Hospital as well as the need for a more accessible breast-screening service.

And it was great to hear how people are welcoming the Same Day Access Service at FCH thanks to the collaboration of local GPs.

If you would like to attend my frequent local events, join my mailing list at Suella@suellabraverman.co.uk.



Housing and planning matters are worrying local residents too. That's why I have talked directly to the Secretary of State for Housing, James Brokenshire, with fellow Gosport MP Caroline Dinenge.

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New website will help to tackle rough sleeping

A new website, Fareham Street Aid, has been launched as a platform for agencies working to help vulnerable people off the streets.

www.farehamstreetaid.org.uk gives information about all the agencies who help those sleeping rough in the Borough.

It explains how people can help, whether by donating their time, goods, money or food, and provides contact details for charities who can collect and redistribute items.

Fareham Street Aid's message is that it is better to give to the charities that support rough sleepers and have staff specifically trained to help them, rather than giving direct.

Key agencies involved are the Borough Council, Fareham's Community Safety Partnership, Fareham Housing, Two Saints Hostel, Hampshire Constabulary, One Community and Inclusion Recovery Hampshire, and there are also support agencies such as Hampshire County Council and Acts of Kindness.

Georgina Shane, of Two Saints, said: "If you donate money through our website, we'll use it directly to help people who are homeless, vulnerable or in need of support.

"Just £5 will provide socks and toiletries and £20 to £40 could provide a move-on pack including kettle, iron, cutlery and crockery for someone ready to return to independent living.

"We also use donations to pay for bus tickets to attend important appointments or clothes and equipment for work or college. All donations will be put to excellent use."

Hayley Hamlett, of One Community, said: "We have an information centre inside Fareham Shopping Centre where, by prior arrangement, we can accept donations which we will directly hand to the organisations that support those in need.

"We work closely with 'Acts of Kindness' which has an office above our shop where we store toiletries, bedding and sleeping bags. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept clothes."



Girls' litter poster earns invite to meet the Mayor 'Let's lose this litter'. Residents will soon notice some new posters around the Borough, encouraging people not to drop litter.

They were designed by two 9-year-old friends, Faith Fairman and Bethany Ternan, who wrote to the Council recently about litter dropped near Faith's home in Fareham.

So they sent in a poster they had drawn and everyone liked it so much it has now been made

into artwork for all 42 notice boards in the Borough.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "This is a really great poster. It's nice to see young people taking pride in the cleanliness of our community."

Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford invited Faith and Bethany to the Mayor's Parlour to thank them for their hard work and presented them with Litter Champion certificates and a framed copy of their poster.