



InTouch

Fareham North West **GRAPEVINE No 103** 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

Pop in for a coffee

We have a 'Grapevine' drop-in coffee morning at the Highlands hub on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We would love to chat with you.

If it is more convenient, give us a ring and we'll come round to your home. Our contact details are at the foot of the page.

Fareham panto stars

It's not too early to book your tickets as Fernham Hall welcomes Hollyoaks star Andy Moss to the cast of Cinderella, this year's panto.

They are also rolling out the red carpet for Ed Petrie, who will be playing Buttons. Ed is best known for presenting the Royal Television Society Award-nominated 'Marrying Mum and Dad' and the BAFTA-nominated 'All Over the Place'.

Councillor Fred Birkett says: "Ferneham Hall always puts on a great panto and it's a great way to support our local theatre and get in the Christmas spirit all in one."

The pantomime runs from December 14 to January 6.

Expect delays

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, so they can install traffic management before main construction begins this winter and lasts until spring 2021.

It will provide an additional lane to increase traffic capacity by 30% and reduce congestion and there will be more technology to manage incidents.

It will include high visibility emergency areas 1/4 miles apart with emergency telephones in each area and 100% CCTV coverage.

Extra £5m to deal with potholes

On-going work to deal with thousands of potholes on Hampshire's roads is being carried out by 12 highway teams.

County Councillor Fred Birkett (pictured) said severe winter weather in February and March contributed much to the damage.

He said a 'pothole busters' programme was started immediately and the work would continue throughout this year and 2019.

"The transport budget made savings this year and the County Council has in addition approved a one-off increase to the Highways department of £5m to help pay for pothole busting and other structural damage at no extra cost to taxpayers."



County U-Turn over weed spraying

The County Council has re-lented on its cost-cutting decision to reduce weed spraying to once a year.

Roads, gutters and verges across the Borough were choked by the weed invasion during the summer.

County Councillor Fred Birkett said discussions were held with the County Council, leading to an agreement to provide a second weed treatment and undertake a review of the service.

He said: "This is positive news."

However, it will only help to keep the weeds at bay and will not resolve the problem.

"The Borough Council is trialling different items of equipment as part of their street cleansing service and we are looking at a range of other options in conjunction with the County."

"We will report back on progress. Meantime, if there are particular areas that are bad, contact us and we will pass on the location of these hotspots to the County Council."

Youth Service volunteers restore old hospital

Volunteers have been working hard to renovate an old Council building in Frosthole. Close to it can be used by the Fareham-based charity Y-Services.

The Victorian building, once an isolation hospital and physiotherapy unit, had lain empty for 5 years.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "The building with its unusual shape will provide opportunities for the charity to undertake several different services, including;

- A community scrap store. Local companies donate surplus materials which can be reused



for art and crafts projects by nurseries, schools, youth clubs

- Training facility for young people, including volunteering opportunities to enhance their CVs, learn new skills and develop confidence to be 'job ready'. This also includes customer service experience, team work and administration skills.

- Community facility for meetings, with two dedicated rooms available. Y-Services will provide free space for other charities and organisations that are supporting the community.

- Drop-in facility for young people requiring support by a youth worker or other professional.

- Creative sessions for the community, providing regular arts and craft sessions helped by volunteers

The building needed a significant amount work, includ-

ing window repairs, internal painting, new kitchen units and toilets, two floors renovated, water ingress and damp remedial work and removal of ivy from outside. Much of it was completed by Y-Services volunteers.

Fred Birkett commented: "I believe the work Y-Services has and continues to offer our young people is amazing, and the amount of effort from the volunteers in transforming this building is equally amazing."

"I feel privileged in a small way by authorising a grant to provide new flooring in the large meeting room."

It is hoped to complete the work during November, with an opening event being planned shortly afterwards.

For further information on Y-Services please contact info@yeservices.co.uk or go to the website www.yeservices.co.uk

PHOTO: Andy Kennedy of Y-Services removing one of thousands of staples before polishing the floorboards.

That bump still causing headaches

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.

Meantime, the local highways repaired the surface and will continue to monitor the road and keep it in a safe condition until a permanent solution has been implemented.

Fareham's 'Berlin Wall' about to fall

Ecologists have been continuing work to capture and relocate protected species from the Hampshire Rose site.

The protected species clearance is a key step that will allow the Council to keep to its schedule for a start on site in spring/summer 2019.

The Conservative-run Council has invested £2.85m to redevelop the former pub site into 10 one and 8 two-bed affordable flats in 4 blocks. Nicknamed 'Fareham's Berlin Wall', it's been a derelict eyesore since 2005.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "I am determined to drive this development forward to deliver the social housing Fareham NW needs."



Let's 'swing low' and give it a try



A Rugby club has asked the Council whether it can relocate to sports pitches at Hillson Drive.

Locks Heath Pumas say their current home at Brookfield School is restricting their ambitions to expand and develop colts', women's and girls' teams.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "I am a great believer in team sports bringing communities together, giving our younger generations a sense of belonging and an avenue towards an active lifestyle."

"Therefore, I do support this move to Fareham NW."

"However, we must balance this with looking after the interests of all our residents in Fareham NW."

"If this proposal goes forward we must make sure all are listened to and all considerations are addressed."

Pumas chairman George Winch said: "We want to be part of the community and work with the residents of Fareham NW."

"For example, we use modern mobile fully directional floodlights to protect against light pollution to nearby houses."

"We have been in contact with Fareham Hockey Club to understand how they operate within the local area, and we will also seek dialogue with Henry Cort Community College in the near future."

Training would take place a couple of evenings during the week, with match days on Saturday. At all other times the pitch would remain for general use.

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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 North West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.



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 to directly 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 Terman, 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.

Website: www.farehamconservatives.org.uk Email: farehamconservatives@gmail.com