



InTouch

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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."



Soldier silhouettes

To mark the centenary of the end of World War I, The Royal British Legion invites the public to say 'Thank You' to the generation who fought and sacrificed.

Sponsored by the Borough Council, 8 near life-size Silent Soldier silhouettes have been unveiled at locations across the Borough, including the memorial in the town centre.

They depict 'Tommy' returning home silently after the war and will remain until the end of 2019

They have also been placed at Fareham Railway Station, Warsash Victory Hall and Stubbington and Portchester war memorials.



There is a new World War I memorial in the town centre, where Geoff Fazackarley is pictured with Mayor Susan Bayford who unveiled it.

Make more use of buses

Bus routes are to be reviewed as part of FBC's 'Let's Clear The Air' campaign to encourage more people to use public transport.

Ten new vehicle charging points could be installed across Fareham and Gosport to encourage drivers to switch to electric.

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Jim's stunning display wins 5 golds

Fareham is celebrating another successful year 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 Men's Shed group.



But the biggest success went to Fareham South gardener Jim Carpenter, from Alexander Grove, who amassed 5 gold awards.

Jim, pictured with Councillor Geoff Fazackarley, transformed his garden into a stunning display.

He also contributed a power saw to the local Men's Shed group. "He's a true community champion," said Geoff.

Christmas trees to boost trade

Festive trees and lights outside their shops may help traders at the west end of West Street to boost sales.

The idea was suggested when they met Council Leader Seán Woodward to discuss ways to increase the footfall at their end of the street.

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

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."



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.

County 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 various projects.
- Training facility for young people, including volunteer-



ing opportunities to enhance their CVs, learn new skills and develop confidence to be 'job ready'.

- 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 of work, including 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 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 shortly afterwards.

For further information contact info@yesrvices.co.uk or go to the website www.yeservices.co.uk

PHOTOS: (left) Andy Kennedy of Y-Services removing thousands of staples before polishing the floorboards.

(right) Councillor Geoff Fazackarley, pictured with Council Leader Seán Woodward and Tom Armstrong-Collett, is a keen supporter of Fareham's young people and Y-Services.



Why didn't they crack on with it?

Residents are baffled as to why the Hampshire Highways did only half the job of resurfacing East Street.

They did the part of the street leading down to the Delme roundabout, then stopped work.

Local resident Paul Hawkins (pictured) said: "What's been done is great, but why didn't they do the rest of it? They've left the really bad bit."

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "The quality of the road surface at the junction with Bath Lane and going round the bend to High Street is cracked and poor. It's likely that the next cold snap will create significant potholes."

Hampshire Highways have been asked if they can come back to finish the job. Meantime, a feasibility study is being carried out.



£5m more to fill potholes

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

County Councillor Peter Latham said severe winter weather in February and March contributed much to the damage. A 'pothole busters' programme was started immediately and work would continue through to 2019.

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

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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.

Faith's and Bethany's litter poster goes Borough wide



'Let's lose this litter'. Residents will soon notice some new posters around the Borough, encouraging people not to drop litter.

The posters were designed by two nine-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.

Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford said: "This is a really great poster. It's nice to see young people taking pride in the cleanliness of our community."

"Littering has become a real problem in our town and I'm pleased to be able to back this campaign."

The Mayor 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.

County's U-turn on weeds issue

The County Council has relented on its cost-cutting decision to limit weed spraying to once a year.

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

Discussions with HCC led to an agreement to provide a second weed treatment and undertake a review of the service.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "Fareham is trialling different items of equipment as part of their street cleansing service and we are looking at a range of other options 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."



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.

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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.

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.

Rough sleepers' needs can be complex, from substance mis-

use and health concerns to money and employment difficulties.

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."

Months of delays ahead as smart motorway conversion work starts

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 and lasts until spring 2021.

An exhibition at Ferneham Hall showed the plans which will provide an additional lane to increase traffic capacity by 30% and reduce congestion.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said there would be more technology on

the road to manage incidents and more reliable journeys.

It 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.

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