



InTouch

FAREHAM WEST – 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

Extra £5m 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 Pal Hayre 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," she said.

Snail mail

Royal Mail is not working post haste to remove two old post boxes.

People have been asking when they will remove and replace the two disused ones outside the old post office in West Street to a more convenient location.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "Officers have sent numerous emails, made phone calls and visited the West Street post office.

"Royal Mail indicated they were looking to install a new one in Harper Way beside Westbury Manor.

"But confirmation of this is still not forthcoming... let's hope it arrives before the Christmas mail rush."

County's U-turn on weeds

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 review of the service.

Quiz night

The annual Mayor's quiz will be on Friday, February 23 at Palmerston Indoor Bowls at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £15 and include a 2-course meal, tea or coffee.

Contact Leslie on 01329 845339 for more details.

Military charity concert raises hundreds

A packed Ferneham Hall applauded a rousing charity performance by the Royal Marines Association Band.

It raised hundreds of pounds for the Mayor of Fareham Susan Bayford's three charities – the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Abby's Heroes and Acts of Kindness.

The band, conducted by Lieutenant Colonel



Rule the World and Poppy Red.

It is hoped to repeat the show next year.

Chris Davis, gave a show-stopping programme of songs and music, ranging from In The Miller Mood to their signature tune, A Life on the Ocean Wave.

There was a guest appearance by Portsmouth Military Wives' Choir, who touched on nostalgia with Vera Lynn songs and plucked heart strings with

Fun weekend attracts the crowds

Crowds flocked to the Family Fun Weekend, sponsored by Novaseal Ltd and supported by the shops in Anjou Crescent and the Heathfield Arms, to raise funds for Cancer Research.

The many attractions included live music, close-up magic, a bucking bronco, tombola, stalls, a dog show, tug-of-war and children's entertainers.

Seen here are Paul and Trudi from Richards' newsagent's sampling some ale from the beer festival. Trudi raised over £800 of the total of just over £5,000 selling her delicious home-made cakes.

A super raffle was held with the top prize of a £20,000 conservatory.



MPs join family and friends to pay tributes to Christine Keeble



Loyal party supporter Christine Keeble passed away peacefully at home on September 5, aged 75.

The wife of Councillor Leslie Keeble and mother of Councillor Tina Ellis lost her brave fight against breast cancer.

Over 200 friends, fellow councillors, Fareham's current and former MPs packed Holy Trinity Church for her funeral service, conducted by the Rev Canon Sally Davenport.

The Rev Canon Jeremy Dussek, who was vicar when Christine was Fareham's Mayoress, came from Chester Cathedral to deliver the address.

Former MP Mark Hoban gave the Bible reading and there were emotional tributes from Leslie and their son, Dave, daughter Tina, grandson David Ellis and Fareham MP Suella Braverman.

Christine was well-known for her charity work and devoted a huge amount of time to helping the local Conservatives with campaigning, 'stuffing' envelopes, delivering election material and InTouch, as well as doing general work for 16 years in Fareham Conservative Association office.

Her many talents included flower arranging and baking. She iced and decorated the cake for Suella and Rael Braverman's recent wedding.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Leslie and his family.

PHOTO: Christine is pictured with Leslie and Tina at Daedalus last year.

Golds galore as gardeners show their flower power

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.

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

Councillor Leslie Keeble said: "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."

Again the green fingers and much hard work paid off for West Ward gardeners.

Cliff and Valerie Kearley, of The Cloisters, pictured (left) in their large floral back garden, won a gold award.

They also gained a gold for their small floral front garden, with a silver for the container and floral display section.

Steven and Jane Hurst, of Highlands Road, pictured (right) with Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford and Councillor Tina Ellis, also won 2 golds for a Plantsman's Front Garden and Small Plantsman's back garden as well as

picking up a Special Award for the Outstanding Contribution.

John and Elizabeth Purnell, of Abbeyfield Drive, won gold in the Large Floral Front Garden category and silvers for the Garden Feature and Floral Display. A Lifetime Achievement Award was justly deserved.

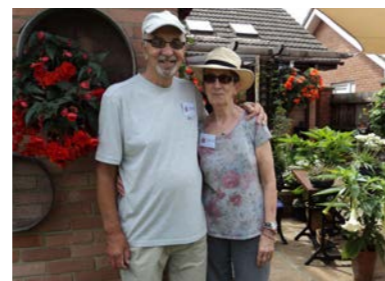
Many others won awards from bronze to silver gilts and Leslie and Tina will write to all the winners thanking them for helping to make Fareham a delightful place to live.



Gardens opened for good causes 'Jungle' cleared in hunt for murder weapon

Colin and Chris Tait, of Longmynd Drive, are seen here in their lovely garden which they opened to the public on July 1 and raised nearly £1,000 for Cancer Research.

As they were judges in Fareham in Bloom, they did not enter this year but opened their garden again on July 22 with others



to raise around £3,000 for the Mayor's charities.



A police hunt for a murder weapon led to a jungle of undergrowth being cleared by the Council.

Residents near Blackbrook Park had complained about the growth invading their fences and that the area was used as a toilet.

Councillor Tina Ellis said that as soon as the nesting season was over the Council cut it back 2 metres from the fences.

Then, police searching for the weapon asked for the rest to be removed.

"I was amazed at the difference," said Tina, pictured (above) in the cleared area.



BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Fareham West



Leslie Keeble
173b Highlands Road
Fareham PO15 5PR
Tel: 01329 845339
email: lkeeble@fareham.gov.uk



Tina Ellis
173A Highlands Road
Fareham PO15 5PR
Tel: 01329 843936
email: tellis@fareham.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Fareham Crofton



Pal Hayre
52 Gosport Road
Stubbington PO14 2AN
Tel: 0771 269 5467
email: pal.hayre@hants.gov.uk



Geoff Hockley
27 Heath Lawns
Fareham PO15 5QB
Tel: 01329 287365
email: geoff.hockley@hants.gov.uk

Fareham Titchfield

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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339 or Tina on 01329 843936.

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.



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.

CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN

Tel: 01329 233573

Email: suella@suellabraverman.co.uk

Facebook: [fb.com/SuellaBraverman](https://www.facebook.com/SuellaBraverman)

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.

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 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 Tina Ellis 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.