



InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – 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



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.

The Council sponsored 8 near life-size Silent Soldier silhouettes that were unveiled – one each week – at locations across the Borough, including Sarisbury (pictured).

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



China celebrations

China National Day celebrations at Kams Palace, Park Gate were attended by Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford and Portsmouth Lord Mayor Lee Mason.

They were guests of the Portsmouth Chinese Association and were greeted by its chairman, Albert Choi, who paid tribute to the way the UK had welcomed the Chinese community.



PHOTO: Susan is seated beside Wang Xiaowei, from the People's Republic of China, and Alderman Brian Bayford.

Mayor's charity lunches

The Mayor will hold two Sunday lunches to raise funds for her charities. These will be at Portchester Parish Hall on December 2, when Mike Ford will talk about his cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats, and on February 24 when Warsash resident David Riley will be guest speaker.

Strike up the band for a great year

It's been a great year for fund raising at Abbeyfield Court.

Senior house manager Neil Thompson told Councillor Susan Bayford that over £1,000 had been raised at various events.

A further £380 was presented by Locks Heath branch of Waitrose as proceeds from the green coin box.

Neil said the residents were grateful to the shoppers who donated and said Abbeyfield would welcome visitors to events planned for the run-up to Christmas.

Residents are pictured listening to Solent Sunrise Band, which has been entertaining at Abbeyfield for several years. "They travel to local homes and are a brilliant band," said Susan.



Facelift for popular sports venue

A refurbishment has spruced up Locks Heath Community Centre sports hall.

The popular venue was re-opened when Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford (pictured) cut a ceremonial ribbon.

It cost £9,700, with contributions of £1,000 from County Councillor Keith Evans' devolved budget and a £500 donation from Horndean Freemasons, thanks to the husband on a member of the Badminton group.



Locks Heath flower power reaps golden rewards



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

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

Fareham in Bloom received the County Award for the highest marked entry in Hampshire and Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards, including golds for the Sensory Gardens,

Westbury Manor, the Civic Gardens, Holly Hill Woodland Park and Warsash Common.

Locks Heath chalked up two gold awards

Pictured (left) the Mayor receives a cheque for £3,000 for her charities, raised by residents who opened their gardens to the public.

On the right, the Mayor and Consort Alderman Brian Bayford with Locks Heath Day Care Centre manager Mandy Rowlands after presenting the centre's award.



£5m extra 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 Keith Evans 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.

They cycled the length of the land for charity



Warsash Councillor Mike Ford and his friend, Peter Brown, completed a gruelling 874-mile charity bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in the summer heatwave.

They handed the fruits of their labours – a cheque for £1,400 – to Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford to put towards her charities.

It will be shared between Abby's Heroes, Acts of Kindness Solent and the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.

Mike, seen left arriving at the famous landmark sign, and Peter are pictured with the Mayor and Consort Alderman Brian Bayford, who thanked them for their outstanding efforts.



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 Susan Bayford said: "The Council 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."

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Locks Heath



Susan Bayford
6 Abshot Manor
Little Abshot Road
Titchfield Common PO14 4LN
Tel: 01489 577772
email: sbayford@fareham.gov.uk

BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR Locks Heath



Keith Evans
94 Abshot Road
Fareham PO14 4NH
Tel: 01489 582450
email: kevens@fareham.gov.uk
email: keith.evans@hants.gov.uk

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 by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one 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.

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.

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)

Hospital could gain breast screening service

Blood tests are to be mostly removed from Fareham Community Hospital and handed back to GPs.

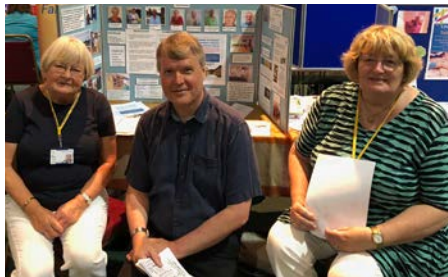
"This is an unnecessary blow to the hospital which has been providing increasing numbers of services and is still only 50% used," said County Councillor Seán Woodward.

However, he also had some good news after meeting Dr Jonathan Nash, consultant in charge of the breast screening service, to discuss moving it permanently into the hospital in time for the next round of screening in 2020.

Councillor Woodward said Portsmouth Hospitals Trust had decided to end the blood test contract for the GP-led service, handing it back to Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group which had passed it back to GPs.

The consultant and GP-led service at the Community Hospital performed 9,000 tests annually, administration being done free by the Hospital Friends.

In future, tests will have to be done at GP surgeries, adding



to pressures of parking and space, although Whiteley patients will have a choice of their local surgery or the hospital.

The providers' excuse was that patients preferred to have tests at their GP surgeries. "Thousands clearly wish to attend the hospital so I find that hard to believe," he said.

A renal dialysis service should also be starting at the hospital next year but sadly the Red Cross medical loans depot will remain in Fareham Health Centre.

On the breast screening issue, he said Dr Nash and colleagues supported moving screening to the hospital and were working with the administration to find the best place to site it.

Councillor Woodward added: "Ladies availing themselves of the all-important breast screening service deserve more dignity than a lorry in a supermarket car park."

PHOTO: Seán Woodward chats to members of the Hospital Friends Jill Sadler (left) and Sally Matson.

Smart motorway work means 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 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.

The scheme will provide an extra lane to increase traffic capacity by 30% and reduce congestion and there will be more technology on the road to manage incidents.

Work is scheduled to finish in spring 2021.