



# InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – 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."



**Deliverers needed**

We are committed to keeping you all informed of what is going on, regardless of how you may vote in elections. We produce and deliver 3 InTouch editions a year in Park Gate and each is delivered to the 4200 properties in the ward.

It takes time and would be easier if we could expand our band of deliverers.

If you are interested in becoming one of our InTouch deliverers we would be delighted to hear from you.

You can do as many or as few as you can commit to.

Please contact Simon Martin or Ian Bastable for more details.

**New company creates jobs**



Councillor Seán Woodward was delighted to welcome Aerial Direct to their new Segensworth Head Office in Fareham with (pictured) David Kilby (CEO) and David Ainslie (COO).

With 220 jobs already and plans to grow to 400 they will rapidly become one of our largest employers.

He said: "It's a fantastic company with well-motivated staff providing business communications nationally."

**Outstanding entry**

Lockwood Bowling Club gained another accolade in the Fareham in Bloom competition, their entry in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category being classed as Level 5 'Outstanding'.



**Make sure development meets local needs**

Foreman homes started a residents' consultation process following a public presentation of their outline plans at Locks Heath Working Men's Club.

They aim to apply to develop 33 new homes on a greenfield site at Beacon Bottom, allocated in Fareham's draft local plan.

These include provision for up to 13 affordable homes.



Park Gate Councillors Ian Bastable and Simon Martin urge people who have comments, opinions or questions about the development to contact Foreman Homes or the Council to ensure that, if the development goes ahead, it meets the needs of local residents.

Alternatively, concerned residents can contact the ward councillors who will try to help.

PHOTO: Plan area is outlined in red.

**U-turn on weed spraying**

The County Council has relented 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.

Councillor Simon Martin said discussions were held with HCC, 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."

**Hospital could gain breast screening service**

Blood tests are to be mostly removed from Fareham Community Hospital and referred 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.



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.

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.

He said 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.

**£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 Seán Woodward said severe weather in February and March contributed much to the damage.

A 'pothole busters' programme was started immediately and the work would continue until 2019.

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

**'We don't want to build tomorrow's slums'**

The Government's new Housing Minister was lobbied by Park Gate Councillor Ian Bastable over building standards at the Tory conference.

Ian, pictured with Kit Malthouse, pressed the minister to ensure that, as a member of the planning committee, he would have powers to refuse planning applications that did not meet the high standards residents expect.

Mr Malthouse had talked about his vision that new



developments undertaken as part of the Government's expansion of house building will be what future generations want to cherish and preserve, and not become tomorrow's slums.

Ian said: "The Borough Council recently won a planning appeal, rejecting development on design grounds."

"I will continue to press for developers to present good designs that suit Fareham, and not just allow applications for the sake of meeting our un-met five year housing need."

**Fareham's newest park is proving a big hit with locals**



Coldeast Park is the original parkland, woodland and lake of the former Cold-east Hospital.

It now belongs to the Borough Council and is kept in good condition by the Council's rangers and a team of volunteers.

It complements nearby Holly Hill Woodland Park and is proving incredibly popular.

It boasts a lake, community orchard, woodland walks, children's play park and sports pitches. Not to mention the Holly Hill Leisure Centre.

Interpretation boards have been provided at the entrance, at the community orchard and within the woodland and lakeside areas, pointing out to visitors what to look out for.

PHOTO: Ranger Helen Sosnowski with Seán Woodward and Dan and Rosemary Powell who produced the interpretation boards.

**Soldier silhouettes**

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

The Council sponsored 8 near life-size Silent Soldier silhouettes that were unveiled 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.



**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
Fareham Sarisbury



**Seán Woodward**  
8 Persian Drive  
Whiteley PO15 7BJ  
Tel: 01489 881030  
email: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**  
Park Gate & Priory Park



**Ian Bastable**  
5 Blake Close  
Whiteley  
Fareham PO15 7LT  
Tel: 074 4455 2194  
email: ibastable@fareham.gov.uk



**Simon Martin**  
230 Botley Road  
Burridge  
Southampton SO31 1BL  
Tel: 01489 325805  
email: smartin@fareham.gov.uk

**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.

**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 Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Contact Simon Woodhams 07971 288993 or simon@sjwuk.com

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Dinenege.

## 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](http://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.

County Councillor Seán Woodward 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.

Website: [www.farehamconservatives.org.uk](http://www.farehamconservatives.org.uk) Email: [farehamconservatives@gmail.com](mailto:farehamconservatives@gmail.com)