



InTouch

PORTCHESTER – 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.

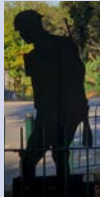
"I was pleased to enable extensive discussions between the Government and Fareham BC but am disappointed that we were ultimately unable to find a way for Fareham BC to proceed with its original Local Plan."

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.



Sponsored by the Borough Council, 8 near life-size Silent Soldier silhouettes have been unveiled at locations across the Borough, including Portchester War Memorial.

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

Portchester's Remembrance Day service will be held at the memorial on Saturday, November 10 at 10.30am.

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.

RAF centenary saluted

Fareham Borough Council was delighted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force with the Mayor, Council Leader and Flight Lieutenant Paul Woodhouse and SAC Brogan Hook from RAF (U) Swanwick, the RAF base that many people will not have heard of but which is based at the Swanwick Air Traffic Control Centre.

Flying at Solent Airport, formerly HMS Daedalus, actually pre-dated the formation of the RAF by one year.

Make more use of buses

Bus routes are to be reviewed as part of Fareham Council'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.

Why not "like" our facebook page - In Touch with Portchester West.

£3,000 boost for war memorial plaque

Volunteers, comprising members of St Mary's Church congregation and other local residents, have worked on a project to research the names of World War 2 and Falklands War servicemen from Portchester.



The church is now seeking to erect a memorial plaque to recognise the sacrifice that these men made for their country, and to provide surviving servicemen and relatives with a peaceful place to reflect.

An award of £3,092 was made to the church from the community funding pot towards the erection of a plaque.

A total of 194 individuals was identified who will be listed in two memorial books, funded by donations from local businesses.

Permission of existing relatives has been sought for the inclusion of these names.

Extra £5m for 'pothole busters' programme

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

Severe winter weather contributed much to the damage, so a 'pothole busters' programme was started immediately and the work will continue throughout this year and 2019.

The transport budget made savings this year and the County Council has also 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.

HCC Leader Roy Perry (pictured) said the County was investing £10m annually on planned maintenance on top of Government funding and recently an extra £2.9m was awarded by Government for flood resilience and pothole repair.



Flower power reaps gold awards for Portchester entries

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

The Borough carried off 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 first-time entry of Portchester Common (pictured right), which was classed as 'outstanding', the Sensory Gardens, Westbury Manor and the Civic Gardens.

There were also gold awards for Portchester Memorial Gardens

(pictured left) and Portchester Crematorium.

Portchester Councillor Sue Bell 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.

"I would like to congratulate everyone for being so diligent."

Since its start in 1996, Fareham in Bloom has grown into a successful gardening campaign involving communities across the Borough and attracting more than 400 entries each year.

It encourages groups and individuals - from private garden owners to large businesses - to provide bright and colourful planting schemes.

It has raised the profile of our parks and green spaces and developed community spirit and local pride.



Romsey Avenue plan 'threat to wildlife'

A planning application for land south of Romsey Avenue has been severely criticised for potential effect on wildlife - despite inclusion of a bird sanctuary.

Portchester Councillor Sue Bell said: "I have always said that this land is not suitable for development this important site for brent geese and wading birds should be protected.

"There is evidence that wildlife is moving into this land from the Cranleigh Road development. Access is poor and will cause a huge issues with

restricted access through the right angle turns."

Applicants want full planning consent for 58 homes and outline permission for another 167, with all matters reserved except for access..

The land was recently upgraded by Natural England to a Primary Support Area for brent geese and wading birds - one of only four in the Borough. It is also part of the Portsmouth Special Protection Area.

Access to the site is being proposed through Beaulieu Avenue into Romsey Avenue and then through the track leading to the field.

County's weed control U-turn

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 Sue Bell said discussions with HCC led to an agreement to provide a second weed treatment and undertake a review of the service.

She 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 with the County.

"If there are particular bad areas, contact us and we'll pass on the location."

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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 Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Nick Walker or Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

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.

The Council's enforcement team can issue a £80 on-the-spot fixed penalty notice if they see someone littering, with a threat of prosecution and a fine up to £2,500 if the original penalty

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.

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.

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."

Delays inevitable as smart motorway conversion work starts

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

The new layout will include high vis-

ibility 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.

Work should finish in spring 2021.