



InTouch

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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



Christmas 'at home'

Titchfield & Titchfield Common Conservatives will hold an 'at home' from 12 to 3pm at 27, Heath Lawns, Catisfield on Sunday, December 9. Tickets are £5 and include mulled wine, mince pies and snacks, plus a free quality African wildlife print for family groups. Call Connie or Geoff on 01329 287365.

Amazed at activities range

Councillors met staff at Fareham's award-winning Leisure Centre's open day and were amazed by the variety of activities offered. They saw group exercise classes, a gym challenge, 30-minute personal training taster sessions, gymnastics displays and dance, plus soft play for the younger ones. Councillor Connie Hockley is pictured with Councillors Louise Clubley and Pam Bryant and centre manager Ryan Grant.



Connie said: "No wonder it's such a busy centre."

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 St Paul's Church, Sarisbury (pictured). They depict 'Tommy' returning home silently after the war and will remain until the end of next year.



Tanner's Gate roads adopted, but not all

Road adoption for the lower part of the Tanner's Gate development has at last been completed.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst (pictured) said: "Highwoods Developers and Hampshire Highways have completed the adoption process which means that Lynn Crescent, Bedford Drive and Louis Road are now publicly adopted highway. "However, the upper section, which was developed by Persimmon Homes, is not included in the adop-



tion and remains privately owned and Hampshire Highways confirm they have not been approached to request adoption. "I have been asked on several occasions whether the parking problems will be solved by yellow lining. "Unfortunately, Hampshire Highways are reactive and therefore will only consider such measures if part of a highway is seen to be prone to accidents."

Extra £5m to tackle potholes

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

County Councillor Geoff Hockley (pictured) said severe 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 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."



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. 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.

County's weed spraying 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. County Councillor Geoff Hockley 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.

Girls' litter poster goes Borough wide

'Let's lose this litter'. Residents will notice 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.



copy of their poster.

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 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

Flower power brings Titchfield villagers 'In Bloom' gold award



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. Titchfield Village in Bloom achieved a gold award as winner of the Large Village category. This is an amazing achievement in only their second year of entry. Congratulating all who took part, Councillor Connie Hockley praised residents of Trafalgar Court whose Level 5 entry was classed as 'outstanding'. "This was the first time they'd entered and is testament to what can be achieved through communities working together." Lockwood Bowling Club's Level 5 entry was also given an 'outstanding' award. 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. PHOTO: Titchfield gardeners Jane Bradley (centre) and Gloria Hunt receive the coveted gold award on behalf of the village from BBC broadcaster Joe Talbot.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS Titchfield

Connie Hockley
27 Heath Lawns
Catisfield
Fareham PO15 5QB
Tel: 01329 287365
email: chockley@fareham.gov.uk

Tiffany Harper
20 Hampton Grove
Catisfield
Fareham PO16 5NL
Tel: 01329 844074
email: tharper@fareham.gov.uk

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Titchfield Common

Sarah Pankhurst
Flat 6C, 118 Wickham Road
Fareham PO16 7FP
Mobile: 07701 393396
email: spankhurst@fareham.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS Fareham Titchfield

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

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



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 Dinenege.

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)



She won the 'Baking Blind' competition that we featured in a recent InTouch.

But for Catisfield resident Penny Melville-Brown the icing on her cake came on July 26 when she married Alan

Baxter-Piggford.

Penny is a brave, determined lady whose bright career in the Royal Navy was tragically ended in 2000 when she went blind.

More recently she was involved in a bad car accident in France which kept her in hospital for several months.

None of these setbacks has stopped her leading an active life.

Earlier, she formed a company to promote the abilities and

Tying the knot puts the icing on Penny's cake

activities of blind and disabled people, ran the Catisfield Village Association for several years and is now Life Patron of Catisfield Memorial Hall.

She was awarded an OBE several years ago and has since participated in the 'Holman Prize', an American international foundation for blind people and was one of three winners chosen from candidates from 27 countries.

Her prize took her round the world, demonstrating that blindness does not impair the ability to cook.

Penny and Alan, who recently joined the Village Association, had known each other for many years and rekindled their relationship.

We wish them every happiness.



Penny as a 3rd Officer WRNS.

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 of the hard shoulder work must be done during night time lane closures, which will en-

able 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 and more reliable journeys.

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 is scheduled to finish in spring 2021.