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InTouch



FAREHAM SOUTH – Spring 2019



‘Here’s another fine mess they’ve gotten us into’

IT READS like a Laurel and Hardy farce, but for Fareham planners the mess they have been gotten into by the Government is no laughing matter.

In less than a year, yet more green fields have come under threat as Whitehall demands the Borough Council finds space for up to 2,500 extra homes.

And these come on top of the 2,300 houses we have already been forced to add to the new Draft Plan 2011-2036.

“What an awful Government-inspired mess this has been,” said Executive Member for Planning and Development Councillor Keith Evans.

To meet the original target of 2,300, the Council proposed having as much brownfield development as possible, plus large new greenfield sites in Warsash, Portchester, Titchfield Common and South Fareham, which sparked furious protests from residents.

The dust hadn’t settled before Whitehall moved the goal posts again with a new formula to calculate housing need, a stronger obligation to take up unmet housing need from nearby councils and severe penalties for non-planning approval or non-delivery.

The mess became a mire and led to the Council having to sus-

pend the Draft Plan and take it back to the drawing board.

Keith Evans led fierce Council opposition to the changes, but intensive lobbying of Housing Minister Kit Malthouse and senior civil servants by the Council Leader and Fareham and Gosport MPs fell on deaf ears.

He stated: “Government ignored our objections and is proceeding with the new mechanisms – although it conceded on one point and will introduce the measuring against new numbers effectively from 2020 rather than being backdated.

“We are working through the numbers, but it looks certain to be in the range of 1,800 to 2,500 more houses above the original additional 2,300 – an enormous increase and one which will have to be met in the main from further new greenfield sites.”

Fortunately, the suspended Draft Plan remains valid while the Council confirms the extra numbers and evaluates all the remaining green space in Fareham.

Residents are being consulted on site options which will be merged into the current Draft Plan before a new plan is issued for public comment in the autumn/winter 2019.

Keith Evans added: “Fortunately, we have a good knowledgeable team of planning officers who are helping to minimise delays and the additional costs.”

Celebrating 20 years of outstanding Conservative administration

FAREHAM Council is the envy of every local authority in Hampshire and way beyond.

Conservatives have brought consistency, stability and prosperity since taking over running the Borough 20 years ago from the failed Lib Dem/Labour pact that left the Council facing bankruptcy.

The anniversary on May 4 was celebrated with a party at Portchester Parish Hall, attended by nearly 100 councillors, one former and two sitting MPs, party workers and supporters.

It also marked the date that Seán Woodward was elected as its dynamic Council Leader.

He said Fareham had steadfastly voted **Conservative** because the Council was seen to be delivering for local people.

“We have consistently set the lowest taxes and best services of



most district councils, high quality parks, leisure facilities, a good refuse collection service and, as far as we can, clean streets.

“We support local commerce and industry with fantastic business facilities, including our industrial estates and business parks at Solent Airport@Daedalus.

“We invest in commercial property to raise millions of pounds to deliver excellent services and work with others to bring huge road infrastructure investment in our Borough.

“We treat taxpayers’ money as it should be treated – to be spent only as necessary and always prudently.

“It takes a great deal of planning and delivery. We have an excellent team of officers who deliver for our residents day after day. I am so grateful to them for their work.”

Almost England’s lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES



Leisure Centre 'outstanding'
Fareham Leisure Centre, which is managed by Everyone Active on behalf of FBC, has been recognised for its outstanding services following a thorough assessment by Sport England's leading national quality scheme, Quest.

It is the first leisure centre nationally to gain four consecutive outstanding judgements. We are proud to have such a well-run centre within North Ward and congratulate all the staff for this fantastic achievement.

Fred and Peter have grants cash
County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett each receive an annual budget of £8,000 to allocate to local projects and organisations in Fareham Town Division.

Legitimate groups, but not individuals, can apply for a grant by completing an online application form. The scheme opens again in June and runs until the end of February 2020. Contact them on the telephone number below.

Weed spraying under way
The County Council was scheduled to start weed spraying in Fareham from the beginning of May. Contractors will work west to east through the Borough to complete the job by the end of the month.

This is much earlier than the last few years and should be more effective.

Help for homeless
The Government has announced a Flexible Homelessness Support Grant, and local charity Two Saints will benefit by £40,000, allowing them to extend outreach worker hours and enable more homeless people to get help.

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Opening doors for young apprentices

GEOFF FAZACKARLEY has been trying to help our school leavers by working with different companies to offer apprenticeships

"I've been spending many hours day and night trying to open doors for our Fareham South young," he said.

He's pictured with Dave Smith who is the first one he's placed after working with several Fareham and national companies. Geoff has been asked by 4 others to help.

Dave said: "Geoff's been really helpful and worked so very hard to get me the placement with James Lever's Manufacturing."



Geoff stands by Brexit vote

I AM immensely proud of our MP, Suella Braverman, who has unwaveringly stood by the electorate majority during the Brexit turmoil.

I want you to know I have done the same without fear or favour. Whether you voted Remain or Leave, it was the the democratic process carried out that chose us to leave.

Had it been the other way, indeed I would have fought for that decision, for without due process we would have anarchy.

Locally, whichever way you vote and whatever your visions are, I will be there fighting for every single one of you,

I've always done my very best to get your queries and your requests sorted,

There is a passion in me to continue to fight for our local community, our jobs, our children and I will be doing that to the end.

Fred tries to unravel the Brexit jigsaw

WHETHER you voted to leave or remain, the topic of Brexit remains a very important issue to the people of Fareham NW.

Although this is certainly not an issue local councillors can affect, the number of people requesting an explanation as where we currently stand prompted Councillor Fred Birkett to compile a quick guide of the options available to the Government.

The UK was originally due to leave on March 29, 2019, this was then extended to April, 12, but has now been further extended to October 31.

This leaves the UK with less than six months to decide what it wants to do.

The Government is continuing talks with Labour

to try to find a compromise. If they can agree, MPs will be given a chance to vote on the deal; if not, a range of other options will be put to them instead.

No deal

This is still the default outcome if MPs can't agree anything else and there are no further extensions.

Leave the EU on the PM's deal

Despite the repeated rejection of Theresa May's deal, it has not been permanently ruled out.

Major renegotiation

The Government could choose to negotiate a completely new Brexit deal - perhaps in accordance with votes of MPs.

Another referendum

A further possibility is to hold another referendum.

Call a general election

Theresa May could decide the best way out of the deadlock would be to hold an early general election.

Another no-confidence vote

The Government survived a vote of no confidence on January 16. Labour could table another no confidence motion at any time.

If the Government were to lose a no confidence vote, this could lead to a General Election.

No Brexit

The European Court of Justice has ruled that it would be legal for the UK to unilaterally revoke Article 50 to cancel Brexit (without the need for agreement from the other 27 EU countries).

With the Government still committed to Brexit, it's very likely that a major event such as a further referendum or change of government would have to happen before such a move.

'Big Belly' digests loads of litter

TWO new smart bins have been installed in the Borough as part of a trial to help reduce the amount of litter.

The bins, nicknamed the 'Big Belly', replaced another brand of solar bins at Holly Hill play area and Passage Lane car park in Warsash.

They can hold up to 808 litres and compact the litter several times a day, so more can be disposed of and fewer collections are needed.

'Big Belly' is currently used by more than 80 councils and is operated by a handle or by using

a foot pedal. A sensor emails the council office when it's full, so the bin can be emptied.

The trial lasts until August 2019 and results will be monitored.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "We are hoping these smart bins will make a real difference and reduce the amount of litter in the Borough."



Cyber crime warning

CYBER attacks against business have increased with 6 out of 10 companies reporting at least one incident last year.

Average loss is £283,000, up nearly two thirds on the previous year; 61% of big businesses reported an increase and 47% of small businesses reported attacks up.

Geoff Fazackarley said: "I'm concerned about elderly residents targeted by unscrupulous gangs who are very clever getting their bank details from email links etc."

"I urge residents not to disclose any information. If they are unsure, go to their branch or ring the bank yourself."

Campaign urges women to attend smear test screening appointments



THE FIRST Government campaign to encourage women to attend their cervical smear tests has been launched.

It comes after as it was revealed the number of women skipping screenings is at a 20-year high.

Cervical screenings, better known as smear tests, are free on the NHS for all women aged between 25 and 64.

They can detect the early signs of cervical cancer before abnormal cells become cancerous.

Urging Fareham women to meet their appointments, Councillor Geoff Fazackarley said: "One in four women are not attending their tests, despite one in nine saying they would take a test that could help prevent cancer."

Public Health England has launched a national campaign to try to counter this trend.

PHOTO (r to l): Broadlaw Walk Community Centre manager Mark, InTouch team leader Tina Fazackarley and Lee Clark are starting a support group.

The swarm misbehaves

Geoff buzzed into action when a resident called him over a huge bee swarm in Longfield Avenue.

He contacted bee-keeping expert Robin Chandler and it took him some careful handling due to the size of the cluster.

The bees were eventually removed and transported to safety. Several swarms had been reported in the area.



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Parking zones demand

Frustrated residents are annoyed with the County Council's negative responses to repeated calls for residential parking zones.

They say it's the only way to solve town centre parking crisis and are backing a petition to the County Council.

Geoff Fazackarley said it was getting harder and harder to park outside their homes, with the elderly and disabled suffering most.

HCC has refused several times to consider the issue. To sign the petition go to tiny.cc/wzr65y.



Prepare for a 'No Deal' and just get us out

Like many residents in Fareham, I am disappointed and frustrated that the Government did not deliver Brexit on March 29 as promised.

As a Brexiteer, in Parliament I have consistently voted against extending Article 50, against holding European Elections and against a 2nd Referendum.

Instead, I voted in favour of No Deal so that we could just get out.

Sadly I was in a minority in Parliament. The solution is clear: the Government and Prime Minister need to prepare for 'No Deal' and take the UK out of the EU.

The relevant plans are in place and by providing certainty to the country and businesses, we will be able to move on from this damaging impasse.

I will keep working for this in Parliament and will do all I can to ensure that we deliver Brexit, ie leaving the Customs Union, the single market and taking back control over our borders and laws.

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

Campaigning for better social care

Many residents are worried about social care for their elderly and vulnerable relatives.

The Government is committed to improving social care. £1.8 billion is allocated for 2019-20 through the improved Better Care Fund, ie a 23% increase on last year.

For Hampshire, an extra £4.7m has been allocated for winter pressures, and in Fareham, I have visited excellent residential care homes like Gracewell, Hamble Heights and Abbeyfield where residents are brilliantly cared for.

Despite the good work, there are many people who find the Continuing Health Care system slow,



bureaucratic and unfair.

John White, from Fareham, (pictured) came to see me about caring for his sister-in-law who was suffering with Alzheimer's

disease.

Funding applications were rejected by West Hampshire CCG and the appeals process was delayed so that funding was only granted after 6 years – too late for his sister-in-law who had sadly passed away.

I am working with local residents, Ministers and Hampshire CC to improve the system. I also spoke about the issue in Parliamentary debate on April 24, which you can read here:

www.theyworkforyou.co.uk

If you would like support on this matter, please get in touch with me.

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High Sheriff's award to Fareham Y-Services

Y-SERVICES started the year with two high profile achievements.

After hearing about their work, Hampshire High Sheriff Mark Thistlethwayte visited the charity, meeting volunteers, workers and trustees.

As a result, Y-Services for Young People received a High Sheriff of Hampshire Award at a ceremony in the Great Hall in Winchester on March 20.

Y-Services' opened their scrapstore in Froshole Crescent, which they had taken over from the Borough Council.

The dilapidated former Victorian isola-

tion hospital had lain empty for 5 years and needed an immense amount of work to restore, which was achieved by the Y-Services team and local volunteers.

Among the facilities, it will provide:

- Community scrap store. Local companies donate surplus materials to be reused for art and crafts projects by nurseries, schools, youth clubs.
- Training facility for young people, including opportunities to enhance their CVs, learn new skills and develop confidence to be 'job ready'.
- Drop-in facility for young people requir-

ing support by a youth worker or other professional.

•Creative arts and crafts sessions for the community,

Opening times are Monday 1-3pm, Tuesday 4-6pm, Wednesday 1-3pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 9-10.30am.

PHOTO: Councillor Connie Hockley, who opened the store, with trustees chairman Andy Kennedy.



Lights out! Blackout returns to save the council money



OLDER residents will remember the wartime 'Blackout'.

It's main function was not to give the Luftwaffe easy targets and it also saved precious fuel.

Now it's back. Nothing to do with air raids, but street lights are switched off every night between 1am and 5am, saving the cash-strapped County Council £243,000 a year.

Hampshire had to make savings of £140m and County

Councillor Peter Latham said a public consultation in 2017 resulted in 85% of people backing the idea.

FLASHBACK: An ARP warden adjusts one of the the strictly enforced wartime blackout times.

Even the slightest chink of light through blackout curtains would spark the cry 'Put that bloody light out!'

Dame Vera Lynn's 'When the lights go on again' was the glimmer of hope for the war to end.

