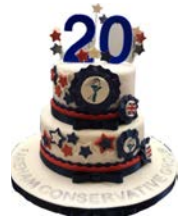




# InTouch



FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON – Summer 2019

## Planning mayhem as pollution fears put thousands of homes on hold

**FEARS** over dangerous levels of nitrates in the environment have halted building of thousands of homes across Fareham and South Hampshire

It's brought mayhem to the planning department already struggling to re-write the Draft Plan after Whitehall kept moving the goal posts.

And it's a slap in the face for the Government that had ordered Fareham to find greenfield space for thousands of extra homes.

The Council's planning boss labelled it 'plain nonsense'. Poet John Milton summed it up in *Paradise Lost*: "Confusion worse confounded."

Natural England, the Government's adviser on nature conservation, raised concerns that additional levels of new housing could lead to higher levels of nitrates due to increased amounts of wastewater.

Exhaust emissions from increased traffic passing close to The Solent or watercourses leading to it may also result in some nitrates increases.

Since April, Natural England required all house builders to quantify the nitrogen level from their development sites and to identify and mitigate any increase in the nitrates from that land.

In less than a year, yet more green fields have come under threat



For context it is worth noting local planning authorities around Poole Harbour have reported: Nitrogen entering Poole Harbour from the land comes from either a combination of widespread places known as 'diffuse sources', which are mainly losses from agriculture such as nitrogen fertilisers and livestock manure (85%), or from concentrated point sources such as sewage treatment works (15%).

after Whitehall demanded that Fareham finds space for up to 2,500 extra homes on top of the 2,300 houses the Council had already been forced to add to the new Draft Plan 2011-2036.

Executive Member for Planning and Development Councillor Keith Evans said: "For all current and new planning applications Fareham planning staff are requiring developers to undertake a nutrient assessment, using Natural England methodology.

"They must work with the Council to identify any valid mitigation – such as removing land from agricultural use which will offset any nitrates from new development."

Keith Evans added: "As a good example of this approach, the nutrient assessment of the Welborne development north of Fareham, which is being built on farming land, indicates nitrogen increase neutrality and will continue as planned."

"We will work with developers to find mitigation measures, but ultimately this issue must be dealt with at Government level. We are working with all South Hampshire councils through the Partnership for South Hampshire and other organisations to find a long-term solution.

"It is plainly nonsense to have one side of Government pushing for additional housing – with sanctions if not achieved – and another putting obstacles in place and not helping to find solutions."

## Veteran Stanley 'overwhelmed' by Daedalus D-Day memories

**NINETY** nine-year-old Stanley Richardson had no idea what a memorable day lay ahead when he arrived at Daedalus Airfield for the D-Day 75th anniversary.

He was greeted as guest of honour and applauded

by thousands of visitors as he was invited to join the Mayor for the unveiling of a plaque paying tribute to the bravery of the 175 pilots who flew 400 missions on June 6, 1944.

Stanley was based at HMS Daedalus as a petty officer in the Fleet Air Arm when it



was the busiest UK airfield during the Normandy invasion.

Still stunned by events unfolding around him, he said: "I'm so overwhelmed to be here. I had no idea what was happening today. It's all a big surprise."

It had been a closely guarded family secret organised by his son, Stuart, who'd driven him from his Littlehampton home.

Stanley's job during the invasion was to prepare and check the planes before they went into battle across the Channel.

He added: "I'm very proud to be here today to represent my colleagues. A lot of

them aren't here today, but I'm here for them."

Over 15,000 attended the two-day show during which there was a full programme of events.

Static aircraft proved a great attraction but bad weather shortened the flying display until late Saturday, when the Dakota arrived to the delight of the crowds.

It had improved next day and flypasts by a Spitfire, Dakota and gyrocopter went ahead, as did the Great War Display Team flying replica aircraft and the Royal Navy Raiders performing an exciting parachute display. The Red Arrows capped an unforgettable weekend.

PHOTO: Stanley Richardson chats to Fareham Mayor Pamela Bryant.



NEWS ROUND

**Play area upgrade**

Wicksteed have been awarded the contract for the play area improvement works to Bath Lane, which include replacing the junior multi-climbing unit, installing a new four-seater roundabout and new play panels and floor graphics.



Other improvements will include painting of existing equipment and a general tidy-up of the play area.

Work will begin after the holidays to avoid closures during the summer.

**Parking zone bid fails**

We ran our resident parking petition to look at expanding resident parking zones across Fareham Town after the County Council said people weren't supportive enough for it to work.

Sadly, after we received only 54 responses, it looks like they might be right.

**Appeal victories**

Fareham Council won its last 4 housing appeals against large developments in what I'm sure is most welcome news to residents, says Tom Davies.

**Burglary warnings**

Police warned residents at our recent CAT meeting to keep their cars and homes locked after a spate of break-ins.

**Plastics campaign success**

Fareham will be the first council in Hampshire to become totally free from single use plastics in its buildings. Our 'Give Plastic the Push' campaign has been so popular other councils want to use our ideas and graphics. Naturally, we said yes.

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**Cleaner air recorded in Fareham**



**THE AIR** quality monitoring station on Gosport Road has pleasingly shown falling levels of pollution.

Councillor Tom Davies (pictured) says this is due to newer cars becoming greener and emitting far less carbon and nitrogen oxide than vehicles 10 years old.

"Fareham has encouraged bus use which has helped to take some cars off the road.

"Improvement works going on around town have meant less slow or stationary traffic, the worst cause of the pollution in the area," he says.

**Wild verges attract wildlife and cut costs**

**A RECENT BBC** news story showed that some areas have started to explore 'wild verges' to cut costs.

It saves regular mowing and encourages wildlife such as bees by letting grass verges grow with the help of wildflower seeding.

Councillor Tom Davies said: "It's a sad fact the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows in less than 100 years."

Pam Hunter, head of research at the British Beekeepers' Association, also welcomed the shift towards more fulsome roadside greenery.

She said: "The amount of area covered by verges and also parks and gardens that the local authorities have is enormous.

"This constant hacking them back all the time really is a great shame because they could provide a tremendous amount of food for such a wide range of beneficial insects."

Tom Davies, a long time supporter of environmental issues, has asked the Borough Council to see if anything similar might be done in Fareham, especially in the more rural and semi rural areas.

**January closure so exciting hall upgrade can start**



**FERNEHAM HALL** will close in January 2020 after the annual panto season at the start of its multi-million revamp.

It attracted wide interest when the Council advertised for contractors.

Councillor Tom Davies, a member of the hall working group, said: "As this is such a large project, the procurement has been done in several phases to ensure we pick the right contractor at the right price.

"Not only do we want a fantastic facility, but we need to ensure value for money. There's a great deal of interest in this project and we want to make sure it's amazing."

Tender deadline was the end of July and a contractor will be appointed on September 26 at a special Council meeting.

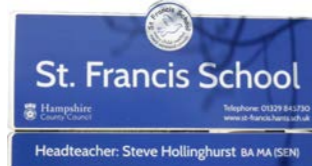
Architects with extensive experience in remodelling entertainment venues are working on the project, keeping in touch with potential contractors to ensure the timetable for completion and the budget can be met.

It's anticipated the plans and budget will be agreed by early autumn with planning permission sought shortly after. The changes include:

- Main auditorium to have 800 seats rather than the 400-500 originally proposed
- A flexible studio for a range of activities instead of a studio solely dedicated to dance
- The remodelled venue will also act as a community centre

PHOTO: InTouch team leader Stephen Ingram took a look.

**Multi-million revamp for a very special school**



**A SPECIAL** school with a special place in Fareham community is to receive a long-overdue multi-million revamp.

Hampshire County Council voted to spend £4.39m to upgrade St Francis School in Oldbury Way and work could begin this year with completion by 2020.

The building is 42 years old and is now inadequate to accommodate almost 100 pupils aged 2-19 with severe – and in some cases – multiple learning difficulties.

County Councillor Peter Latham said the school was undersized and required considerable investment to improve the building and address shortcomings in the accommodation to meet the increasingly complex needs of its pupils.

He said: "The proposals would also provide improved ac-

cessibility, additional ancillary teaching spaces and hygiene facilities.

"Councillors were mindful of the need for extra classrooms with accompanying hygiene rooms and toilets, as well as some specialist learning spaces to the central circulation space, including a new ramp to improve access."

St Francis has built up an impressive reputation over the years and its last Ofsted inspection in 2018 produced a glowing report.

"This school continues to be good," it stated, adding that St Francis was a friendly, happy school where pupils enjoyed warm relationships with staff and each other.

It said parents and carers were positive about the school, saying that their children want to attend.

They recognised their children were skilfully supported to grow into young adults who have interests, can make choices and take an active role in their own care.

**INSPIRATIONAL**

After a recent visit to the school, Fareham MP Suella Braverman commented:

"Good to pop into St Francis' Special School and catch up with inspirational Head, Steve Hollinghurst.

"Thank you to the team of dedicated staff and teachers for all you do to make this school- and Heathfield- excellent places of learning."



**Green Flag:** Tom Davies at the Sensory Garden.

**Gardeners gather golds galore**

**YET ANOTHER** gold award was added to the long list won by Fareham in the South and SE In Bloom competition.

The Borough was presented with 15 awards, also winning the Hampshire Life Award for the best entry (most marks) across the county and two outstanding awards at Britain in Bloom.

East Ward was the best of the bunch in the individual categories, winning 50% of all the gold medals won by the

Borough.

Particular mention to Westbury Manor Gardens which, as well as taking gold, was also the category winner and golds also went to the Civic Gardens and the Sensory Gardens, which were also awarded a Green Flag.

Councillor Tom Davies said: "A great thanks to all our gardeners who keep Fareham looking so well throughout the year, especially for their work during the summer months."

**Making a splash for charity**

**FOURTEEN** teams competed in the annual Fareham raft race in the creek.

It raises money mainly for local charities and is expected to exceed last year's £2,500 total.

Money this year will be split between the Rainbow Centre, which supports children and adults with cerebral palsy and adults with a stroke, MS and Parkinson's, and Headway Portsmouth & South East, which provides advice, information and practical support towards rehabilitation, recovery and independence.



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**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**  
Fareham East



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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 Fareham East Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please call Tom Davies on 0783 299 1436 or Stephen Ingram on 0778 0431 560 or email stephen@ecohousesolutions

**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.



### Support new PM and focus on exiting EU

There are many reasons to be optimistic.

With a new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, the country can unite and focus on leaving the EU by 31st October.

Our new PM has also prioritised investing in the Police so we have more bobbies on the beat – something we desperately need in Fareham to stop anti-social behaviour – and increasing funding for local schools.

Above all, we must never allow Jeremy Corbyn to enter Number 10. His brand of Socialism (modelled on Venezuela) would bankrupt the country and diminish the UK's place in the world.

In personal news, my son, George Jeffrey, was born on 10th July. My husband, Rael, and I are delighted.

Like many working mums, I am taking a period of maternity leave, but my office will be fully operational.

If you need assistance on any matter, get in touch and I will continue to work on your behalf: it's business as usual for Fareham residents.

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# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Fareham Community Hospital (FCH) Taskforce, which I set up and chair, has published a report welcoming the GP-led Same Day Access Service.



Hospital, which sits on the Taskforce, said:

"The Friends are pleased that our local MP has shown such an interest in Fareham Community Hospital and hope some of the

ideas in this report are taken on board by the Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group, the general practices, Hants County Council, health trusts and others providing services to the hospital.

It calls for its further rollout, better public transport links, greater collaboration with the voluntary sector and more signposting to mental health services and support services for the elderly.

The report sets out a vision of how we could better use FCH. You can find it here: [https://issuu.com/suellabravermanmp/docs/fch\\_future\\_vision](https://issuu.com/suellabravermanmp/docs/fch_future_vision)

"The Friends and their volunteers will continue to promote and support the hospital and the local community it serves through various activities such as running dementia support groups, holding regular talks on health related matters which help us to help ourselves, and supporting new initiatives."

It was published just as Portsmouth Hospitals Trust confirmed to me that it will deliver a renal/dialysis training hub at FCH to support patients with kidney problems, saving them the travel to QA Hospital.

PHOTO: Suella held her 3rd annual health summit at Fareham Community Church with 100 residents attending.

The Friends of Fareham Community

## Sold! Almost before the cement dried

**THIS BLOCK of ideal homes for first-time buyers and the elderly sold like hot cakes.**

The cement was hardly dry when Robert Gamlen Homes' 23 one and two-bed units opposite the Sensory Garden were snapped up.

And at £150,000 to £175,000 it was hardly surprising.

Councillor Tom Davies hopes the development on a brownfield site previously owned by the County Council will set a pattern for the future.

He said, "This is just the type of de-

velopment that we should be looking at in Fareham.

"Take a disused brownfield site and build something of reasonably high density on it to provide affordable homes for our young people and less affluent.

"I'm optimistic developments like this and Stevenson Court can become a blueprint for what town centre housing in the future might look like.

"These developments show low-cost housing can be aesthetic, too.

"We hope to see more of it, and spe-



cialised retirement flats, in the future with the redevelopment of the town centre on the horizon.

"It's crucial that we try to meet Fareham's housing needs as far as possible with quality low-cost housing such as this to avoid infilling, garden grabbing and destruction of green spaces."

## Measures move Hampshire towards carbon neutrality target

**CHANGING climate has been evident this summer.**

Consequences of doing nothing will be a disaster and Government has set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

County Councillor Peter Latham said HCC had already taken action in schools, street lighting, vehicles and council buildings.

In July it declared a climate emergency and committed to develop an action plan to provide effective measures to ensure Hampshire moves towards carbon neutrality, hopefully before 2050.

A few examples of what the County has done:

- Carbon consumption reduced by over 40%
- Energy saving costs of £30 million
- Over 60 photovoltaic arrays installed in Council-owned buildings
- Major LED lighting replacement programme expected to deliver annual £240,000 energy saving
- The Council aims to have 150 electric cars and 80 charging points to save £210,000 in annual fuel costs
- Schools are built to the highest standard with sustainability features ensuring energy loss is minimal

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