



# InTouch



FAREHAM NORTH WEST – 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

**Success story**  
Daedalus Innovation Centre for early-stage businesses is already three quarters full within 12 months of the official unveiling of a multi-million pound extension.

Currently home to 39 organisations, the Fareham complex has 55 offices, 20 workshops and an impressive meeting and conference centre.

The centre is ahead of schedule on occupancy levels with inward investment by occupiers helping support high value jobs locally and through supply chains.

There are more than 250 people employed at the centre.

**Pollution falling**

The air quality monitoring station on Gosport Road has pleasingly shown falling levels of pollution.

This is due to newer cars becoming greener and emitting far less carbon and nitrogen oxide than vehicles 10 years old.

In addition, 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.

**Making a splash for charity**

Fourteen teams competed in the annual Fareham raft race in the creek, which 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.

**Flying the flag for county's heritage**

**THE COUNTY'S** rich history was celebrated with the launch of 'Hampshire Day' on July 15 - the feast of St Swithun, patron saint of Winchester Cathedral.

It was also the opportunity for the ceremonial raising of the new county flag.

'Hampshire Day' is the idea of the Lord Lieutenant, Nigel Atkinson, pictured with cathedral dean Catherine Ogle



by holding their own activities and celebrations.

and HCC chairman Charles Choudhary.

He wants communities across the county to celebrate everything that makes Hampshire great... its heritage, world-famous historic sites, diversity of towns and villages and beautiful landscapes.

He hopes that in future people will share their pride

**At last! 'Eyesore' site work to start**

**BUILDING** work will shortly start on 18 affordable homes at the Highlands Road Hampshire Rose site.

They will be owned/managed by Fareham Housing, providing social rent properties. Clearance work will begin soon. Contractors delivered letters to neighbours providing further information.

Councillor Fred Birkett said: "The Hampshire Rose site was one of the reasons why I became a Borough councillor.

"Every time I drove past, I wondered when something would be done to this site! "As Executive Member for Housing I am delighted that work is now going to start, providing much needed social housing."



**Ferneham Hall to close for major upgrade project**



**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 Fred Birkett 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 plans for the project and 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 space for a range of activities instead of a studio solely dedicated to dance
- Making the secondary performance space more flexible to encourage a range of uses
- The remodelled venue will also act as a community centre

**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 Fred Birkett 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 accessibility, additional ancillary teaching spaces and hygiene facilities.

"Councillors were mindful of the need for extra class-

rooms 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.

Pupils told inspectors they liked to be at school because 'learning is fun', stressing that they 'work hard all day long'.

**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."



**It's summer fun time and it's free**

**BEAT the boredom this summer and take part in some great free activities!**

Access All Areas is for young people aged 11-16 who live in Fareham. Fun events take place across the Borough throughout the summer holidays.

You can take part in as many activities as you like, but you must get your parent/guardian to register

you online or accompany to your first event to complete the form.

You will be issued with a wristband to prove you have registered and allow you free travel to and from events on First Bus.

A timetable of activities can be found at [www.fareham.gov.uk/leisure/out\\_and\\_about\\_in\\_fareham/accessallareas.aspx](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/leisure/out_and_about_in_fareham/accessallareas.aspx) or call the Leisure Team on 01329 236100.

**Sally Army's new 'war cry' to save old clothes**



**COME and join us and recycle your old clothes is the new 'war cry' in Fareham.**

Textile recycling banks have changed to reflect the Council's new partnership with the Salvation Army.

The new banks can be used for all clothing, household textiles, shoes, bags, belts, handbags and accessories, but **not** quilts and pillows.

Shoes must be tied together in pairs, and everything should be tied in plastic bags before being put in the textile banks.

Your donations help fund local services and the SA to help those in need and 99% of donations are reused or recycled.

Changes will also be made soon to the Borough's glass recycling banks to allow glass and jars of all colours to be collected together.

PHOTO: Resident Daniel Clements about to donate old clothes to a worthy cause.

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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 Fareham North West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

**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.

# 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)

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.

The Friends of Fareham Community

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

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## Is bus service value for taxpayers' subsidies?

### BUS STOPS in North West Ward are a disgrace, say residents.

They complained to Councillor Fred Birkett whose investigations proved none too positive.

And he questions whether First Bus is providing value for the taxpayers' money it receives as a subsidy.

He said: "Residents highlight that many bus stops do not display a timetable and some do not even let you know the bus number that stops there.

"The most notable offender is the bus stop at Highlands Shops, where he's pic-

tured. Although it offers a bus shelter it has no signage or timetable.

"With the closure of the bus shop in Fareham town centre, getting hold of a paper version of the timetable has been made more difficult for users.

"If you need to obtain a timetable, you will have to visit Fareham library, or you can go online at the First Bus website.

"If you do not have access to the website, you can ring the First Bus customer service desk and request a copy through the post.

"I have contacted First Bus regarding the

state of their bus stops in the ward and also the

Executive Member for transport at HCC to ask how value is measured when public money is given to First Bus to support service provision."

First Bus helpline number is 0345 646 0707



## They provide social benefits from supermarkets' waste



### HAMPSHIRE Food Revolution has a message of 'no space for waste'.

Their mission is to reduce perfectly good supermarket food ending up in landfill.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays the team offers access to a wide range of everyday food – including meat, dairy, bakery, vegetables and fruit. – at Fareham North West Community Centre

They will ask for a small donation to keep the service going and visitors are encouraged to stay for a free tea/coffee with a piece of cake and enjoy the

company of others.

During the summer school holidays on Tuesdays and Thursdays the doors open from 12.30 to 2.30. There will be free children's lunches and activities.

Councillor Fred Birkett says: "The amount of work the HFR team provides to our local community is to be admired, especially the efforts of both Jess and Sammi (pictured).

"Having spent time with them during one of their recent events, I appreciate the benefit this initiative provides."