



# InTouch



FAREHAM 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

**Mixed-use litter bins**

While Fareham West boasts a bounty of scenic dog walking routes, dog owners may notice a lack of dog bins along the way.

InTouch coordinator Stephen Child says this is because the Council is replacing them with regular, larger capacity litter bins.

He says: "All street litter, including dog waste, is now incinerated at an energy recovery facility.

"Dog walkers can now use these mixed-use litter bins which can be found across the Borough in shopping areas, car parks and general open spaces."

**Blackout crime fears**

The early hours 'blackout' is worrying residents who believe it risks a rise in crime.

As we reported in our spring edition, the County Council switches off street lights between 1am and 4am to conserve energy and save around £230,000 a year.

InTouch coordinator Stephen Child says residents have told him they fear for their safety.

He said: "If you feel you are in this category and believe you may be affected for any other reason, please contact your local ward councillors to express your concern."

**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.

**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 dona-

tions 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: Valery Child donates a bag full of old clothes for recycling.**



**Action call over 'rat run' speeders**

**SPEEDING drivers are worrying residents during school commuting hours.**

Longmynd Drive is one of the most dangerous areas.

InTouch coordinator Stephen Child met dog walkers Dave Haigh and Mike Hebden there.

They told him they were really concerned with the high number of children using the road.

"They likened the route to that of a 'rat run,'" said Stephen Child (pictured centre), who said he would



chase up the issue with West Ward councillors.

**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 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 Geoff Hockley said the school was undersized and required considerable investment to improve the building and address shortcomings in the accommodation to meet 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 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.

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."



**'Remove eyesore' call to owners**

**DESPITE protests at the state of the overgrown ground aligning Peak Lane nothing has been done by the owners to improve this eyesore.**

InTouch coordinator Stephen Child (pictured) says he will discuss the progress or lack of it with West Ward councillors with a view to discovering who the owners are.



**Hampshire moves towards carbon neutrality**

**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.

HCC has 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

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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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Leslie Keeble on 01329 845339 or Tina on 01329 843936 or Stephen Child on 01329 310962, email: stephen.child@ntlworld.com

**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)

“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

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## Will this set the pattern for future affordable homes?

**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 were snapped up.

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

The development on a brownfield site previously owned by the County Council may hopefully set a pattern for the future.

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

With the local plan due to be revised,



such sites are ideal and would help to prevent some building on green spaces.

Assistance with housing need is

available to households earning up to £80,000 pa, according to Government rules.

The Council is currently consulting on its rules for allocating social housing to the various categories of need.

Residents with views on categories and priorities should contact the Council's housing department or local councillors who will represent your views during the consultation.

It's an important exercise as the outcome will dictate who does and doesn't get access to the precious supply of council houses in the Borough.

## 'Hampshire Day' launch flies the flag for county's historic 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 and HCC chairman Charles Choudhary, who 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 by holding their own activities and celebrations.

Fareham Mayor Councillor Pamela Bryant, who attended the ceremony, hopes local groups will start planning events for future years as this gives a great opportunity for communities to get together.