



# InTouch



LOCKS HEATH – 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**



**Protecting wildlife**

Many verges across the county offer a vital refuge for rare species of plants and wildlife, so maintenance seeks to preserve these habitats as far as possible – without impacting on road safety. Rural grass verges are cut once a year, usually in summer.

County Councillor Keith Evans said: "Cutting is timed to minimise impacts on seeding and the flowering season. "Protected areas are cut in April or late summer depending on species that are present."

**Housing help available**

Assistance with housing need is available to households earning up to £80,000 pa, according to Government rules. The Borough 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.

**Outstanding**

Hampshire Children's Services have received an 'outstanding' Ofsted grading for overall effectiveness in all areas. Hampshire is only the second county in England to have received this level of overall assessment. County Councillor Keith Evans said: "Really welcome confirmation of the skills and dedication of the social workers and continuing commitment to high standards."

**Skittles on the menu**

Fancy Sunday lunch and a game of skittles? You can have both on September 15 when Locks Heath Conservatives hold the event at The Crofton pub, Hill Head. It starts at 12 noon and details can be obtained from Susan or Keith or from www.thecrofton.co.uk

**Classic car club rated in UK's top 10**

**LOCKS HEATH Classic Car Club members were excited to hear they had been short-listed by Practical Classics magazine as one of the UK's top 10 clubs.**

Members displayed over 170 cars as judging took place at Locks Heath Centre and were awarded 2nd place.

We asked James Walshe, deputy editor of the magazine, what determines how a club is judged.

"Friendliness of members and strong community spirit," he answered, and there was no shortage of either as crowds admired the cars.

The event raised money for the club's



chosen charity, 1st Sarisbury Scouts, who benefitted from Brookfield's prom by sharing the cash with the school.

The club meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at Locks Heath Shopping Centre.

**Green Flag award for Holly Hill**

**HOLLY HILL Woodland Park has won a prestigious Green Flag award as one of the best parks in the UK.**

It received recognition for the 12th year running.

The awards recognise parks and green spaces which boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

The awards also had international winners for the first time.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "We are so pleased to receive this award – it's great news for the people of Fareham.

"Having quality green space is so important for our residents and visitors and the award recognises the hard work that goes into maintaining our high standards. Thank you to all our fantastic staff who do such a good job in looking after our open spaces."



**Busy days at Day Care Centre**

**LOCKSWOOD Day Care Centre has seen some exciting changes over the past two months.**

Age Concern Hampshire, which provides a range of services for older people throughout the county, recently relocated their finance, HR support staff and village agent from Winchester to the excellent premises in Locks Heath.

The centre was built with the help and support of local people and has been a busy place this summer, with a huge focus on the gardens in preparation for Fareham in Bloom.

This year's theme was based on the Titchfield Carnival with a tractor and trailer and a car-

nival queen.

Visitors are always welcome at the centre which supports older people, particularly those with dementia.

The coffee mornings are a joy when mums take their babies and toddlers along to spend time with older people.

For further details, manager Mandy Rowlands can be contacted on 01489 578152.

Locks Heath Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans said: "We are delighted to have such a prestigious centre in our ward."

**PHOTO: Susan and Brian Bayford with centre manager Mandy Rowlands admiring the 'Fareham in Bloom' display.**

**Innovation centre flying high**

**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.

**Tree protection explained**

**PROTECTION of trees and wildlife are high on the Council's priority list.**

This was underlined after resident Julie Longdon contacted ward Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans over tree work concerns at Locks Heath Park, St John's Road.

So Keith and Susan took Julie to meet the Council's principal

tree officer, Paul Johnston, at the park to see work under way (pictured).

The Council maintains thousands of trees on more than 250 hectares (618 acres) of public open space and housing areas.

A programme of tree inspections manages the health and safety of the tree stock, which



prioritises remedial tree surgery in the Borough.

Paul explained the work being undertaken at the park and measures to protect wildlife.

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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 by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

**WE SERVE YOU ALL**

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

**January start date for multi-million hall revamp**

**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 Susan Bayford, pictured with Councillor Keith Evans, 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 for our taxpayers, too. 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 they're 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

**A card to use at your leisure**

**THE Council has introduced the 'Fareham Leisure Card', which offers discounts on a range of leisure activities from 44 outlets around Fareham.**

To join the scheme, pick up a leaflet and application form from Fareham Leisure Centre, Holly Hill Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Cards cost £8, £19 for a family membership, £5.80 for students or free to some residents on a low income and are renewable annually.

For more information and a list of participating organisations, or if your company would like to be part of the scheme and offer discounts, contact the Leisure Card officer on 01329 824894.





### 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.

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



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.

"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."

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

## 'allo, 'allo...Cooper and copper mystery solved as library reopens

**BOXING legend Henry Cooper, the British champion who hammered Muhammad Ali to the canvas, opened the original building in 1984.**

There will be books about it on the shelves of Lockwood Library, which has reopened after refurbishment.

It's one of the county's busiest libraries with up to 500 customers a day.

HCC Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage County Councillor Seán Woodward, assisted by children from Woodlands Early Learning in Sarisbury, cut the ribbon, with help from Beth and Leo (pictured).

At the original opening, 'Our 'Enery' is pictured with an equally



tall police sergeant, whom we could not identify. So we had to do some detective work.

Corporate Communications at County Police HQ got the answer via a Facebook posting from Hampshire Constabulary History Society ([www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk](http://www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk))

Older readers may recognise popular Sergeant Alan Ketchell, who was then stationed at Park Gate.

He served 30 years in the force and died in 2011, but we still don't know why he was with Henry Cooper who hardly needed police protection.



## Change of plans for Swanwick Marina development

**PREMIER Marina Swanwick carried out a public consultation on proposed changes to its planning consent to significantly reduce the size and quantity of new buildings.**

The new boatyard and dry-stack have been completed and the pontoon replacement is scheduled to finish in April 2020.

New proposals involve not building the originally-permitted large pavilion at the water's edge and replacing it with two significantly smaller buildings providing boat sales and marina facilities.

A planning application will be submitted in September. The residential planning consent remains but there are no current plans to build it.



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