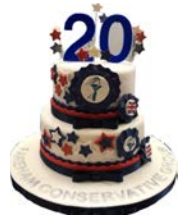




InTouch



PORTCHESTER – 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 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 after Whitehall demanded that Fareham finds space for up to 2,500



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%).

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



Gala beats the weather

Despite the bad weather, Portchester Gala, the annual community-run event that dates back over 100 years, was another success this year

The procession started from Wicor School and paraded along White Hart Lane into Castle Street, with a vintage and military vehicles display, stalls and a funfair

Attended by thousands, it was a good family event. Thanks to Portchester Community Association and everyone involved.

Mayor's charity events

Opera Comique – Presenting a selection of Gilbert & Sullivan on Sunday, September 29 at St Peter & St Paul Church, 2.30pm. Tickets priced £6 Include light refreshments.

Call My Bluff – A light-hearted quiz event. On Saturday, November 2 at Portchester Parish Hall, 7pm. Tickets priced £10 include ploughman's supper. For ticket sales contact Councillor Louise Clubley 01329 281427.

Housing help available

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

The Council is consulting on its rules for allocating social housing to 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.

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. Naturally, we said yes.

Why not "like" our facebook page - In Touch with Portchester West.

Inquiry date for Winnham Farm homes plan

A DATE has been fixed for the public inquiry into the developer's appeal against the controversial plan for 350 homes off Downend Road.

The Planning Inspectorate appointed Grahame Gould to conduct the inquiry at the Civic Offices, starting at 10am on September 24. It is scheduled to last 3 days.

Fareham planning committee rejected Miller Homes' plan for Winnham Farm green field site, which brought overwhelming objections from residents and councillors.

Their fears were taken into account when the planning committee rejected it for two reasons:

1 A big increase in pedestrians using the narrow road bridge over the railway.

Drawings submitted by Miller Homes provided an inadequate footpath to ensure pedestrians' and road users' safety.

Works to the bridge titled 'priority shuttle working' would result in unacceptable harm to safety and convenience of highway users.

2 The site is not sustainably located in terms of access to local services and facilities.

Exciting extension plans for bowling club outlined

PORTCHESTER Bowling Club has exciting plans to extend and improve its clubhouse in Westlands Grove.

The improvements are needed to accommodate a growing membership.

Councillor Sue Bell heard the plans outlined by chairman Ken Gibbs, captain Brenda Webb and vice-chairman Phil Harding, who

are pictured with Councillor Nick Walker

The club has an all-weather terrain, but members want to increase the size of the social area, for which they have already have planning consent.

The extension will cost around £140,000 and the club is seeking funding help from Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils.



Judges find village awash with colour



IT WAS judgement day for Portchester.

The village's entries into the annual South and SE In Bloom competition came under close scrutiny.

Judges John Lockwood and Kevin Tait started their tour of the Borough on July 11 at Northern Junior School where they saw beautiful garden displays.

Then they went to Portchester Memorial Gardens (pictured left), which have been a showpiece and won numerous awards over the years. They looked fabulous as usual.

Fareham in Bloom started in 1996 and is a well-known gardening competition which encourages local communities from garden owners, businesses and schools to provide colourful and innovative planting schemes.

It raises the profile of the Borough's parks and green spaces and is supported by hundreds of volunteers to make the whole event so successful.



Councillor Sue Bell said: "It is not just about flowers. The aim is to nurture sustainability, recycling and the environment, work with young folk and ensure community involvement.

"A big thank you this year for our Council staff and also to the huge team of volunteers."

PHOTO (above): Judges view the urban meadow at Linden Lea, which was awash with wild flowers

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.



InTouch team leader Lindsey Sach uses the Portchester textile bank.

New team leader wants to help

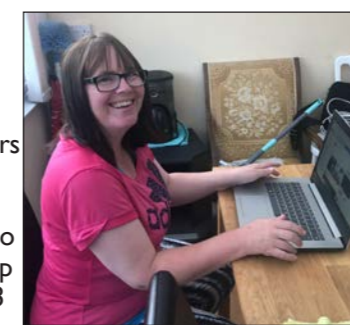
INTRODUCING our new team leader for Portchester InTouch:

"Hi! My name is Lindsey Sach and I am a 43-year-old care worker.

"I have lived in Portchester for many years and in that time I have realised there is room for improvement.

"If you have any queries or wish to talk to me about any issues I might be able to help with, please contact me on 0791 286 2753 or email lindsey.sach@yahoo.com.

"I look forward to working with you to make a difference in Portchester."



BOROUGH COUNCILLORS Portchester West



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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 Portchester Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Nick Walker or Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

Age Concern launches toenail cutting service



DO YOU find it difficult to cut your toenails?

Many elderly and infirm people do, so they will be able to get it done through a new service run by Age Concern Hampshire.

It will be available by appointment at Portchester Parish Hall and initial consultations include a personal foot care kit for a one-off £10 charge and treatment costs £15.

For inquiries and appointments, call 01489 572819.

Play area revamp start date



AFTER consultation with local residents and a tender process, Wicksteed has been awarded the contract for the play area improvements to Harbour View.

They will include replacing the junior multi-climbing unit, installing a new springy, replacing the twister and installing an inclusive swing and a mirror swing (this is a flat and cradle swing in one so adults and children can swing together).

Other work 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, with the aim of completion before the October half-term.

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

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

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.

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Fresh scheme for Portchester sheltered housing

SCREEN boards are about to come down on a Council-owned Portchester site.

Planners are redesigning a new scheme for sheltered housing on the corner of Station Road.

It's been 3 years since the planning committee gave permission for 17 aged persons' apartments in a 2 1/2-storey building which included affordable housing.

But it ran into problems as the site comprised two different land uses.

On the immediate corner is open land owned by the

Borough Council, but the north eastern corner, which comprised a flat-roofed two/three storey commercial building used for industrial use, was occupied by Merjen Engineering.



The Council bought the company's land, but because the required contributions were not finalised, the planning consent became void.

Councillor Sue Bell said: “An application is likely to come to the planning committee later this year.”

Meanwhile, buildings occupied by Merjen have been demolished and the site partially boarded.



Residents praise Lindsey's 'speedy' action

DEMANDS to enforce the speed limit near Castle Primary School in White Hart Lane, Portchester brought a rapid response.

Portchester InTouch team leader Lindsey Sach persuaded the Council to install

a flashing speed monitor.

It came after local resident Carol Cotton, who lives in nearby Windsor Road, contacted Lindsey and asked her to take up the issue before there was a serious accident.

Lindsey (pictured with the new sign) said: “As promised,

I managed to get a speed monitor placed opposite Bayley Avenue.”

A delighted Carol Cotton said: “I am glad the monitor went up; it's good to know someone is finally doing something for the community.”