



# InTouch

FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON – Winter 2020

## All-change at Fareham Station with plans to double rail services

**PLATFORMS at Fareham rail station could be adapted to take longer trains.**

It is suggested in a 114-page document produced by Network Rail and Solent Transport as part of a plan to double the number of train journeys in the area.

Network Rail aims to boost passenger numbers by running 4 trains an hour between Portsmouth and Southampton and 2 an hour between Portsmouth and Eastleigh.

It would involve making changes to Fareham Station by restoring what is known in railway language as a bi-directional through platform for the current bay Platform 2.

This would enable fast trains to overtake stopping trains, making timetables more flexible.

Currently, Platform 1 is the up-platform for services to South-



Photo: Tim King

ampton, London Waterloo and Cardiff; Platform 3 is the down-platform for services to Portsmouth, Brighton and London Victoria.

Platform 2, which ends with a set of buffers (pictured), is rarely used unless late-running services are terminated there, but it was formerly the main up-platform and Network Rail's plans would re-open it as a through line.

Network Rail's document states: "The wider Solent corridor beyond the cities is a key growth area for employment, and

housing and development in these out-of-city areas will be key to influencing future demand and journey patterns."

Welborne has land reserved for a rail station to ensure no planning decisions could prevent it. A 2017 Network Rail report confirmed a station was feasible when funding became available.

## Residents' joy as wild geese save habitat from development

**BRENT geese helped to save an important habitat from destruction by development.**

Land south of Romsey Avenue, Portchester was recognised as an important wildlife area.

It led to residents celebrating victory after a tenacious two-year battle to get plans for 225 homes thrown out by Fareham planning committee.

There was more good news a week later when it was announced Romsey Avenue was excluded from the new Fareham Draft Local Plan and so was land earmarked for 600 homes west of Downend Road.

The committee had received 494 objections and accepted that the open space is an important primary support area for Brent geese and wading birds – one of only 4 areas in the Borough.

However, the equally controversial proposal for 350 homes on 20.4 hectares (50.4 acres) at Winnham Farm, Downend, remains in the Draft Local Plan, despite Miller Homes' latest application being rejected by the planning committee in November on highway grounds.

The proposed new Borough Plan received full Council agreement and was published for public consultation.

It covers from 2021 to 2037 and identifies locations that will deliver a total of 8,389 houses and about 153,000 sq m of employment space, and includes 4,858 houses at Welborne.

The plan and consultation comments will be submitted to the independent Planning Inspectorate, for review.

If it is found to be sound, it will be formally adopted by the Council; if not, the planners will have to take on board what should be done to make it pass muster.

## Council tax rise dismissed in emergency pandemic budget

**AN EMERGENCY mid-year budget to manage a predicted £1.1m shortfall caused by the Covid-19 pandemic was agreed by the Borough Council**

Fortunately, years of careful attention to finances by the Conservative-run Council means the shortfall can be met from reserves without hiking up council tax.

But the hole in the budget will have to be plugged by charges for services such as coastal car parks and green waste

collection.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "We have been prudent with our reserves for a number of years, so have a strong financial standing, but this will still have a very significant impact on what we can and cannot do for the rest of the year and for many years to come."

Before the pandemic, the Council's medium-term financial strategy predicted a funding gap of £1.5m over four years.

Plans were in place to overcome the shortfall, but indications are that the pandemic will widen the gap considerably, putting Council services at significant risk.

A 16% council tax rise of £23 would cover the £1.1m funding gap, but has been dismissed as an option.

"Most residents are surprised the Council delivers all services for just £3 per week for the average home, almost the lowest in the country," he added.



## NEWS ROUND

### Community spirit

Stephen Ingram, InTouch team leader and Fareham East candidate in the May postponed elections, has been working hard in the community.

His work has earned praise for helping residents with problems.

**Mark Balsdon:** "Stephen, many thanks for the update and very much appreciate your efforts and feedback."

**Kerry Thorpe:** "Thank you very much for taking your time to check and answer my question. Much appreciated."

**Pamela Timothy:** "Stephen, thank you for addressing the problems at 10 Earls Road and the backways to the property."

### Carbon target in sight

The Council is moving towards its carbon neutral target.

It gathers data annually from all its services such as how much fuel its vehicles use and the amounts of heating and electricity used in buildings.

From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 the figure was 3661.44 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

InTouch team leader Stephen Ingram said: "I am passionate about saving our environment for future generations.

"It is this passion that prompted me to start a renewables industry company. This is an issue that every resident can get involved in."

### Grants available for good causes

County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett remind everyone in Fareham Town Division that they receive annual budgets of £8,000 each to be allocated to local projects.

Legitimate groups, but not individuals, can apply to them for a grant by completing an on-line application form available on the HCC website.

The scheme runs until the end of February 2021 and they will consider any applications.

Contact Peter or Fred on the telephone numbers on this page for more details.

## Kindness is always on his menu

**FAREHAM** restaurant owner Antonio Pego has been praised for his kindness during the pandemic.

InTouch team leader Stephen Ingram said he provided free food and drink to the Ambulance Service.

Stephen, who visited the premises in West Street after it reopened, said Antonio had been serving up excellent food for 15 years.

Ambulanceman Scott Bruce said he always had a smile and welcomed

everybody.

Antonio, who comes from Spain, has hosted many charity events, including three this year for the Mayor's Charities.

He told Stephen he was 'flattered that Fareham people were returning to his restaurant to support him when he most needed it'.

Sadly, when the new lockdown came into force Antonio had to close again, but he was able to keep business ticking over by supplying takeaways.

## Top Scouting award for Peter Moody

**SCOUTING'S** highest honour – Silver Wolf - has been awarded to Fareham resident Peter Moody.

It marks his 40 years of dedication to the Scouting Movement and voluntary service across Hampshire.

Peter, who said he was honoured to receive the award, held several roles in Fareham East District and then as chairman of Hampshire County Scouts.

He said: "I am now pleased to be continuing my adult support for young people within Scouting as the UK Head of Governance at the Scout Association."

The award was presented by Major General Alastair Bruce OBE, Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Hampshire Scouting Ambassador, and Commander Martin Mackey RN, Hampshire Scouts County Commissioner, in September.



## 'Perfumeless' propagations presented in pixels



The Mayor, Pamela Bryant, presents their award to Burnham Wood residents.

**AVID** Fareham gardeners didn't wilt under the Covid-19 pestilence.

Green fingers became keyboard nimble fingers as they desk-topped their entries in the prestigious South & South East England in Bloom competition.

Then they followed up with more digital displays in the Fareham in Bloom contest. Judges never got a whiff of perfumes from the blossoms, but they marvelled at the megabytes of exhibits submitted in a virtual gardeners' world.

Two of the 4 independent entries in the South and South East competition – Portchester Crematorium and Portchester Memorial Garden – won gold awards.

Due to the pandemic, the Borough could not enter this competition in which it has won gold for 16 successive years.

For the first time in 25 years, Fareham in Bloom had to be judged on-line with judges' and public votes. There were 100 entries.

Thanks to St Margaret's Nurseries and Fareham Shopping Centre for donating the prizes.

Pictured (right) is 7-year-old Rose Roberts, from Osborn Road South, Fareham, who was the judges' winner for her Kids' Corner entry.



**Grow Your Own** Public winners – Joseph Henderson and Michael Bartlett; Judges' winner – Melanie Gray.

**Commercial** Public winner – Ranvilles Infant School; Judges' winner – Crofton Anne Dale School.

**Something small** Public winner – Caroline Lopez; Judges' winner – Hayley Tod. **Community Floral Display** Public winner – Brett Wylde; Judges' winner – Judy and Arthur Tedore and resi-

### RESULTS

**Best Garden** Public winner – Elizabeth Quinn; Judges' winner – Dave and Pauline Coates.

dents of Burnham Wood and Tanglewood. **Kids' Corner** Public winner – Skylar Playle; Judges' winner – Rose Roberts.

## £12m arts venue delayed going Live until 2023

**FAREWELL** Ferneham Hall ... **HELLO** Fareham Live.

But the curtain won't go up at the new £12m entertainments venue until 2023.

Its new name was selected by popular vote in which 49% of the 1,060 responses opted for the change.

It was scheduled to open in 2022, but opening had to be put back 6 months due to the uncertain impact of the pandemic.



The Council decided to delay opening to review the financial implications.

Executive member for leisure and community Councillor Sue Bell said the decision had to be made due to uncertainty in the arts and entertainments industry.

"It would be reckless for us to plough on without considering the impact of Covid-19," she said.

## Checking the grit bins are full

**AS WINTER** approaches, it is vital that residents can access grit bins in the ward if there is adverse weather.

With this in mind, team leader Stephen Ingram conducted a survey of the bins in the ward.

In most cases he found they were full, but a few needed topping up.

Stephen (pictured) informed the County Council and any in need of attention should be dealt with soon.



If you know of any that are broken or need filling, let Stephen know and he will inform the County Council.

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS Fareham Town



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### BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Fareham East



### 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 East Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please call Tom Davies on 0783 299 1436

**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.

## Stephen declares war on cold callers and rogue traders

A 3-step plan to send cold callers and rogue traders packing has been set up.

Many residents, particularly the elderly and infirm, are often scared to answer the knock of 'foot-in-the-door' salesmen or possible distraction burglars.

InTouch team leader Stephen Ingram, pictured with a sticker, recommends these simple checks:

- If in doubt, keep them out. It sounds simple, but if you don't let someone in they will go away. Don't let them pressure you into opening your door.
- Be prepared. Be in control. Think about what to say to any doorstep cold callers in advance. Keep a list of key contact numbers near your phone so you can check out legitimate callers using reliable contact numbers. You have the right to ask all other unwanted callers to go away and not return.
- Call a neighbour or the police if you are suspicious of the cold caller. Contact a local relative or nominated neighbour who can help verify a cold caller. If you think someone is a rogue trader call 101.

He also advises fitting your door with a spyhole and a safety chain.

Stephen has arranged to obtain NO COLD CALLING stickers and will provide them free to any resident.

If you'd like to receive a sticker, email him at: [stephen@stepheningramconservative-party.co.uk](mailto:stephen@stepheningramconservative-party.co.uk) or visit his Facebook page: [facebook.com/StephenIngram55/](https://www.facebook.com/StephenIngram55/)





### Billions more promised for 'second wave' support

Recent weeks have been challenging for all of us here in Fareham.

At the beginning of November the Prime Minister took the difficult decision to impose tougher restrictions throughout England to protect NHS capacity this winter and save lives.

As a member of his Cabinet, I know that this decision was not an easy one and very much a last resort given the scientific data and predictions of a 'second wave' possibly proving worse than the first one.

The Government has been clear that we will do whatever it takes to support you as the situation evolves.

That is why we extended the furlough scheme throughout November so that employees will receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

Business premises in Fareham forced to close have been able to receive grants worth up to £3000 per month and £1.1bn has been provided to local councils to enable them to support businesses locally.

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# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



I WAS honoured to welcome the Education Secretary to Fareham College to officially unveil both the new T-Level teaching facilities at the Bishopsfield Road campus and the College's new Civil Engineering Training Centre in Lee-on-the-Solent.

T-Levels are a new two-year qualification for 16 to 19-year-olds, designed in collaboration with employers and businesses to prepare students for work, further training or study.

A 45-day industry placement is at the heart of each course to help young people develop relevant experience in pursuit of their desired careers.

Matched by funding from the Department for Education, Fareham College invested £1m into the new facilities to



Suella is pictured with College Principal and CEO Andrew Kaye and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson visiting Fareham College.

support T-Level courses.

It includes a simulated nursery environment for the Education and Childcare T-Level, and a state-of-the-art IT suite fitted with high-end gaming computers and a 9-screen video wall to support the Digital Production, Design and Development course.

The newly revamped Civil Engineering Training Centre will also support the careers of the world's future construction and engineering experts.

While bolstered by national funding, the project reflects the accumulative efforts of a pioneering collaboration between employers – such as Blanchard Wells – and Fareham College, and will equip civil engineers with the skills necessary to fulfil an increasing demand for regional infrastructure and housing.

## Centres win major revamps, then forced to close

TWO Borough leisure centres are to get multi million pound upgrades.

But both were hit by the second lockdown and forced to close for a month.

Work was due to begin this month on a 617 sq metre extension to Fareham Leisure Centre, followed later by improvements to Holly Hill Leisure Centre.

It comes after Everyone Active presented a winning sub-



mission for a 10-year contract to run both venues.

Executive members were impressed by the company's plans to invest in new facilities to help deliver more revenue.

The ground floor gym at



the Fareham centre will be extended, with new elevations to the roadside. Plus:

- Creation of internal splash pad to add to the swimming pool
- New reception counter and

refurbishment of the foyer

- New studio space and climbing area on lower ground floor
- Conversion of the squash courts to a soft play area
- Refurbishment of dry changing rooms and

café area

- Extra parking for 32 vehicles
- At Holly Hill, a large pool store will be converted into a sauna and steam room and the foyer will be improved.

## Green waste collection charges to meet Covid cash shortfall

YOU WILL have to pay for garden waste to be collected from 2022.

The Council will impose charges to try to plug the hole in its finances caused by Covid-19 and loss of Government grants.

Until now, the Council has included green waste as part of its fortnightly bin emptying service.

It's used by 40% of households at an annual cost of £336,000.

But two significant impacts have forced a rethink:

1 Enormous pressures on our finances with loss of Government grants and loss of income from coronavirus changes.

2 A recent Hampshire County Council decision to cease sharing material recycling income with borough councils from 2021, which could result in a loss

of £400,000 income for Fareham.

The changes will be introduced in February 2022. Then, if you want your grass and hedge clippings collected, you will have to buy either a 140 or 240 litre wheelie bin at a cost of £16 or £17 in the first year.

On top of that, you'll have to pay an annual subscription charge of £50 or £60 for the Council to empty them.