



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH – Winter 2020

Plan for 318 new homes but builders want more

FOUR sites have been identified for development in North Ward in Fareham's new Draft Plan.

A total of 318 dwellings is included in the plan which received full Council agreement and was published for public consultation.

The Draft Plan 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 sites in North Ward are:

- Fareham Station East – 120
- Fareham Station West – 94
- Crofton Conservatories, West Street – 49
- Funtley Road South – 55

However, developers aren't satisfied and recently submitted a planning application to add another 70 homes to the Funtley site.

But adoption of the plan does not give planning permission and

each development application submitted will need individual scrutiny through the planning committee.

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.

PHOTO: Councillor Pamela Bryant (left) discusses the plan for Crofton Conservatories' site with local resident Mrs M Nobes.



All-change at Fareham 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

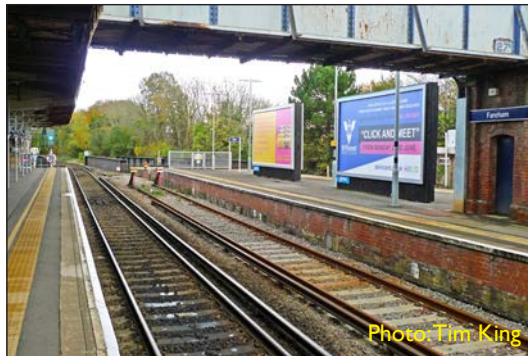


Photo: Tim King

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 Southampton, 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.

Pandemic emergency budget rules out council tax rise

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 must be filled 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.

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



NEWS ROUND

Longer interval

Farewell Ferneham Hall, hello Fareham Live!

But the curtain won't go up with its new name after its £12m revamp until 2023.

The Executive decided it was too risky in the current uncertain financial climate in the arts and entertainments industry.

So members opted for a 6-month pause to allow to revise the business plan if necessary.

New Housing

The Council continues to make progress with the construction of new council homes, and the old Hampshire Rose site in Highlands Road, comprising 18 units, should be finished shortly. It will be named Rose Court.

Funtley planning

A planning application to increase numbers of dwellings on the Funtley Road south site has been received by FBC.

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 below for more details.

Arundel Drive trees

After months of consultation with HCC we are delighted that young trees will tidy the verges in Arundel Drive. This will certainly be welcome by residents.

We're on Facebook. Go to Councillor Louise Clubley and Councillor Pamela Bryant

Small traders thriving

SMALL businesses are thriving in Fareham North, writes Councillor Louise Clubley.

A fishmonger has opened in West Street delivering fresh from the boat.

Sea-licious at the western end is owned by James Marshall and wife Zoe, who's pictured with Louise.

James is a commercial fisherman and sources much of the fish straight from the

Solent. Costcutters is a friendly family-run store in Miller Drive and popular with residents.

The store is impressively stocked, offering off-licence products as well as being a Hermes parcel agency.

Living in Fareham for the past 4 years, Sri Lankan owner Bala runs the shop with his Malaysian wife Geitha.



'Shop local' call

A CAMPAIGN was launched to get people to use the individual specialist shops at the western end of West Street.

Fareham Mayor and Mayoress Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley were joined by Council Leader Seán Woodward for the launch.

Crumble Jacks owners Jojo and Laurence Cheung, pictured, were delighted they had seen a



rise in customer satisfaction at the low prices being paid due to the Government's 'Eat out to Help out Scheme' which ran Mondays to Wednesdays during August.

'Perfumeless' propagations presented in pixels



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 since it began 25 years ago, Fareham in Bloom had to be judged on-line with judges'

and public votes.

Fareham North residents won the public vote in the Community Floral Display class with Brett Wylde's lovely colourful planter at the Potters Avenue junction.

The judges' winners for the Community Floral Display were the residents of Burnham Wood and Tanglewood, entered by Judy and Arthur Tedore.

The entrance to the close was stunning with some vibrant colours.

Fareham Mayor Councillor Pamela Bryant, pictured with Mayoress Councillor Louise Clubley presenting the Burnham Wood residents with gold awards, said: "Thank you to everyone who entered this first virtual competition.

"There were some fantastic photos, showing the hard work people have put into their outdoor spaces. "Congratulations to all who entered and well done to the winners."

A 'crafty' move into the Shopping Centre

A COMMUNITY craft unit has opened in Fareham Shopping Centre and is proving popular.

Crafty Makery Hub is the idea of Shane Davies and Lesley Ralls, who were welcomed to the centre by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley (pictured).

It offers residents of all ages a chance to enjoy learning new skills while enjoying company in a safe and pleasant environment.



Councillor Bryant said: "While the charity exists due to grants from a variety of organisations, and is staffed by volunteers, a small donation towards the running costs is appreciated from those spending time at the unit."

A book of remembrance has been opened for anyone wishing to write a poppy name tag for a fallen hero and add their name in the book.

Donations to the Royal British Legion will help as the annual Poppy Appeal has been scaled down this year.

VJ Day 75

THE 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 on August 15 – VJ Day – was marked by hoisting the commemorative flag.

The ceremony on the control tower at Solent Airport was performed by the Mayor, Councillor Pamela Bryant, and Council Leader Seán Woodward. (pictured)

The Mayor said it was especially poignant for towns like Fareham and she had a personal interest as her late father and father-in-law were both involved in VJ Day.



Top Scouts' honour for Peter's four decades of dedication

SCOUTING'S highest honour – Silver Wolf – has been awarded to Fareham North 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.

Covid dims festive event

THIS year's Christmas lights ceremony in the town centre was dimmed by the new lockdown arrangements through November and early December.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley, were sorry not to be involved with the usual town centre gathering for the start of Christmas in Fareham.

However, the mother and daughter team switched on the festive lights virtually from their home to keep the town young give residents some Christmas cheer.

Sadly, the planned festive market over the weekend December 4 to 6 had to be cancelled too.



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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.

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 Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Pamela Bryant on 01329 281427.



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 again for at least 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 Ac-

tive presented a winning submission 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.