



InTouch

FAREHAM NORTH WEST – 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.

Ward escapes developers' clutches in new Borough Plan

COMPARED with other areas in the Borough, North West Ward has escaped lightly under the new Fareham Draft Plan.

Only one site has been identified for development and that is at Wynton Way where 13 houses will be built.

The proposed new Borough Plan for Fareham 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.

Adoption of the plan does not give planning permission and each development application submitted will need individual scrutiny through the planning committee.

The full plan and all supporting documents are available online from the FBC website.

Councillor Fred Birkett says: "It is very important that as many comments as possible are received about the proposed Borough Plan, as what is in it will in some way affect every person within the Borough.

"Please take time to visit the FBC website and read what plans are being proposed and ensure you have your say."

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

A Christmas like no other

This Christmas will be different and we are unsure how the rest of 2020 will pan out.

As we enter into the festive period please remember to take that extra bit of notice of others.

Also do not be afraid to reach out to friends or family, or even your local councillor.

What next year will bring is difficult to predict, but it may bring new friendships, closer family ties and a new hope for all.

On behalf of ourselves, Councillor Fred Birkett and Councillor Peter Davies, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Check your grit bins

As winter approaches, it is vital that residents can access grit bins in the ward if there is adverse weather.

County Councillor Fred Birkett said: "If you know of any that are broken or need filling, let me know and I will inform the County Council."

Covid dims festive event

This year's Christmas lights ceremony in the town centre was dimmed by the Covid pandemic.

It went ahead, however, with the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley, performing the switch-on virtually from home.

But no crowds were able to gather to watch the event at 4.30pm on Sunday, November 22.

Instead of the usual one-day large-scale event, a festive market was planned from Friday to Sunday, December 4 to 6 but that, too, had to be cancelled

We'll do our utmost to help says Fred

AS THE second lockdown bites, Fareham Council faces a challenge to look after residents' health and wellbeing.

Councillor Fred Birkett said there had already been a significant reduction in people going about their business.

"Now, more than ever, councils have a vital role to play in ensuring that communities have the resilience to cope and that critical services continue to be provided.

"FBC is working hard to ensure residents are kept up-to-date and know where to go for key national messages and local information, so help can be found quickly when it is needed.

"The Government has announced all sorts of help packages to support individuals and businesses nationally, but it is the Council's website that sets out how this will be rolled out locally."

Information relating to Covid-19 is set out in a specific section of the Council's homepage; visit www.fareham.gov.uk.

He added: "As one of Fareham NW's local councillors I am here to help.

"We may not be able to meet in person but we are only a phone call away. It is important that we look out for each other at this difficult time, especially to our elderly or vulnerable neighbours."

£12m venue won't go 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.

'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.

And two North West Ward entries were also acclaimed. Wynton Way horticultural site and Red Barn allotments were judged

'outstanding' with improved scores from last year

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.

RESULTS

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

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 residents of Burnham Wood and Tanglewood.

Kids' Corner Public winner – Skylar Playle; Judges' winner – Rose Roberts.

PHOTOS: Wynton Way horticultural site (left) and Red Barn allotments (above).



Pledge for child meals support

FRED BIRKETT is offering to use some of his devolved £8,000 County Council budget to support charities who are providing meals for young people over the Christmas period.

After the Government's recent announcement that cover for young people's meal support will not continue into the half term or Christmas holiday period, County Councillor Birkett says:

"At this difficult time for many families, and for many different reasons, being able to provide a meal for their children is something no family should be worried about.

"I am very willing to support local charities who will be providing free meals over the Christmas holiday period to our younger people.

"Just send me an email or apply via the HCC councillors' grant page."

Scouting's top 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."

It 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.

Dedicated carers honoured with prestigious awards



TWO CARERS at The Fernes Care Home in Catisfield have won top awards for their dedication to patients.

Activities coordinator Rachel Anderson (pictured right) and deputy manager Emma Glanville were overwhelmed at being nominated by residents, their families and colleagues for South Region Barchester Care Awards.

Emma was voted Carer of the Year and Rachel won the Activities Coordinator of the Year Award.

Rachel, with 20 years' experience, said: "When the Covid-19 pandemic hit our country I felt that this social interaction was needed more than ever as our residents weren't able to see their families throughout this terrible time.

"We took the pandemic extremely seriously and took all the necessary precautions and are proud to say we are still Covid free.

"I enjoy doing person-centred activities and also activities that involve the whole home as I feel it's important to encourage social interaction."

Emma, who has been at The Fernes 4 years, said: "Residents have found it very difficult not seeing their families so we have all tried our best to make it a positive time, lots of phone calls and FaceTime calls have really helped keep the residents' spirits high, but we are also so proud to have kept the home Covid free.

"I have been so happy working here and love my role as a senior carer looking after all of the residents."

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
Fareham North West**



Peter Davies
142 Highlands Road
Fareham PO15 5PS
Tel: 01329 846239
email: pdavies@fareham.gov.uk



Fred Birkett
22 Lynden Close
Fareham PO14 3AL
Tel: 0750 5000 987
email: fred.birkett@fareham.gov.uk



Peter Latham
Posbrook Gardens
Triangle Lane
Titchfield PO14 4HD
Tel: 01329 843267
email: peter.latham@hants.gov.uk



Fred Birkett
22 Lynden Close
Fareham PO14 3AL
Tel: 0750 5000 987
email: f.birkett@fareham.gov.uk

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS
Fareham Town**

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 West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Fred Birkett on 07505 000 987.

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.



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.

CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN

Tel: 01329 233573

Email: suella@suellabraverman.co.uk

Facebook: [fb.com/SuellaBraverman](https://www.facebook.com/SuellaBraverman)

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

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.