



# InTouch

FAREHAM 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.

## Grumbles and greetings for Fishers Hill closure measure

**CLOSURE of Fishers Hill to through traffic has brought mixed reactions from residents.**

Some are delighted, saying it should not be used as 'a rat run'.

But an equal number are frustrated, one telling Fareham West Councillor Tina Ellis:

"It is now worse than before, being an accident waiting to happen, cyclists proceed without so much caution on any side of the road",

"I've seen little change in the use by pedestrians and cyclists so what does it achieve?"

Others complain about cars U-turning in the road and

longer travel times when they have to use the A27.

Tina Ellis said: "With the narrowing on the A27 due to major Titchfield gyratory changes in conjunction with the Stubbington bypass, there have been considerable queues exiting Highlands Road on to the A27, causing vehicles to be sat for several changes of the lights."

Many residents suggested alternative measures such as pinch points in the road to limit passing to one vehicle at a time which would slow traffic along the short route.

Tina added: "I am sympathetic to both points of view, but suggest comments be made through saferplaces@hants.gov.uk and to County Councillor Geoff Hockley."

## 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 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.



*Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*





NEWS ROUND

**Election selection**

Councillor Tina Ellis was selected to stand as Conservative candidate in next May's postponed Borough Council elections.

She said: "If I am fortunate to be re-elected I hope the residents of Fareham West will continue to support me as I wish to continue to represent them in the coming years."

Conservative candidates for the County Council elections are County Councillor Pal Hayre (Fareham Crofton Division); Poppy Taylor-Porter (Fareham Titchfield Division).

**Danger of backing out**

Drivers should back into their drives, not out of them.

Councillor Tina Ellis says she has heard hair-raising close calls of cars backing straight out, brushing past pedestrians and causing vehicles to brake or swerve sharply.

Many driveways are narrow and obscured by hedges, making it even more hazardous to back out.

She says it is also sensible for cyclists and pedestrians to wear light, visible clothing so they can be easily seen in the dark.

**Don't be taken in**

Fraudsters have been using the Council's plans to charge for garden waste collections to target vulnerable residents.

Councillor Tina Ellis says the scammers have been phoning residents asking them to pay up front now.

She warned: "You should note the new scheme does not come into effect until 2022 and residents will be required to subscribe to the service themselves if they wish to do so. The Council will not be contacting residents directly.

"You can be made aware of local scams through many social media platforms, Hampshire Alert and Fareham Borough Council.

"Note phone numbers given to you and report to Action Fraud – www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime."

**Longer interval before it goes Live**

**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 impact of the pan-



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.

demic. The Council decided to delay opening to review the financial implications. Executive member for leisure and community Councillor Sue

**Dave's café may host councillors' surgery**

**CONVIVIAL** Cozee Café owner Dave Ashcroft runs a book swap for charity.

He supported the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning by hosting the cake sale of the ladies (pictured) to raise £300.

Dave has supported those who need meals with home deliveries during this difficult year when they could not come down to the café to eat.

He continues to take phone/online takeaway orders and acknowledges the difficulties businesses like his face, but praised help



given by the Borough Council staff for safe opening.

Councillor Tina Ellis said he raised concerns about the wellbeing of Fareham West residents and wider community.

"My plan after discussion with him was to have regular times I would be available to see residents in the café in Anjou Crescent where we hope other elected members will be able to join us in future."

PHOTO: Dave chats with his customers.

**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."

**Partners repay lockdown help with good deeds**



**A BUSINESS** helped to get through lockdown with financial support from the Borough Council is thriving.

Plum & Ashby relocated to Fareham and co-founder Freya Nicholson said: "We were really impressed with the ease and speed at which our grant was approved. The whole process was incredibly simple and Fareham Borough Council were great to deal with."

Freya and partner Vicky White are seeking to employ staff as their scented natural home and body products business grows and are confident their 'can do' attitude will pay off.

She said many of her customers

were finding collaborative ways of supporting and enhancing each other's offerings by combining their deliveries and services in their locality.

High on their list is giving back to the community and to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week in October they produced a limited edition Wave of Light candle, all profits going to charity.

One of their candles was given to the Duchess of Cambridge to light during a visit to Tommy's Centre for miscarriage research

Freya said: "I should like to add my thanks to Suella Braverman MP for raising awareness of the 1 in 4 pregnancies that end in loss and the phe-

nominal contribution raising over £32,000 for Tommy's Charity.

"Many of us will have suffered or be aware of those who need this invaluable support."

More information can be found at [www.tommys.org/our-organisation/help-and-support](http://www.tommys.org/our-organisation/help-and-support).

Suella Braverman said: "It is inspiring to see local companies stepping up to support causes that touch so many of our lives.

"As MP for Fareham, I'd like to pass my personal thanks to Freya and her team."

PHOTO: Freya Nicholson (right) and Vicky White review some of their products.

**The time to remember and reflect**

**FAREHAM'S** Remembrance Day parade was cancelled, but the Poppy Appeal went ahead.

Councillor Tina Ellis said Mike Homer, the local Poppy Appeal co-ordinator, was able to launch it from the West Street bandstand, then it was forced to relocate due to bad weather.

"Thanks should go to those sewing poppy facemasks and donating the

funds directly to the Poppy Appeal and the many business owners who took it upon themselves to ensure they had collection tins and poppies available on their premises," she said.

A wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial was performed by the Mayor, Councillor Pamela Bryant, Council Leader Seán Woodward and HMS Collingwood's Commanding Officer, Captain Catherine Jordan RN.

**'Ban Bonfire Night bangs' say councillors**

**SALES** of bangers and exploding fireworks to the public should be banned, say Fareham councillors in a signed letter to the Government.

They want 'silent pyrotechnics' to be promoted to protect domestic and wild animals and people with sound sensitivity.

Fareham West Councillor Tina Ellis, who knew of pets that had to be sedated, said: "We may be over bonfire night as we go to press, but increasingly people have fireworks for all sorts

of celebrations.

"Consideration of the consequences, and maybe some alternatives, could be sought as we approach Christmas and particularly the New Year.

"My colleagues and I are hopeful we will see progress on this issue and are pleased that some retailers are considering their position.

"We are grateful to see Sainsbury's became the first major British retailer to ban the products from all their stores this year."

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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 Fareham West Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Tina on 01329 843936.

**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.

## 4 InTouch with Westminster



### 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

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.

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

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