



InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – 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-

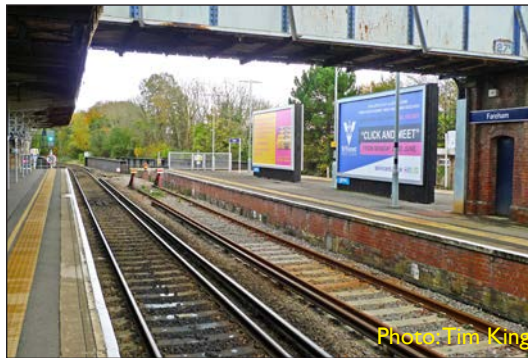


Photo: Tim King

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.

215 more homes to be fitted into Locks Heath in new Borough Plan

SEVEN sites have been identified in Locks Heath Ward for development in the new Borough Draft Plan.

It will mean another 215 homes being built, says Councillor Keith Evans.

The proposed plan received full Council agreement and was published for public consultation.

It covers from 2021 to 2037 and identifies development 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.

Locks Heath sites included are:

- Off Heath Road – 70 houses

- Off Hunts Pond Road – 16 houses
- Off Hunts Pond Road – 38 houses
- East of Church Road – 20 houses
- Lodge Road – 9 houses
- Locks Heath District Centre – 35 houses
- Locks Heath Filling Station – 30 houses.

The plan and consultation comments will be submitted to the independent Planning Inspectorate, which will carry out a thorough 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.

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



Overgrown path cleared

Crescent Road resident Eileen Streetley was delighted when a badly overgrown path was cleared after she complained.

Councillor Susan Bayford, pictured with Eileen, responded and Council workers did the job.



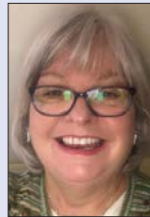
She said: "At this time of year, falling leaves can be problematic and the Council follows a regular schedule to clear them but will, if an area becomes unsafe due to an accumulation of leaves, respond on request."

Go to www.fareham.gov.uk for information about Council services.

Farewell to Mandy

After many years working for Age Concern Hampshire, Mandy Rowlands retired to move closer to her family.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "Mandy will be much missed at the Lockwood Care & Wellbeing Centre in Locks Heath."



Call for 'silent' fireworks

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."

Councillor Susan Bayford 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."

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

Blocking off the travellers

CONCRETE blocks have been erected in a bid to stop travellers invading areas in Locks Heath.

Residents raised concerns when groups arrived in the autumn, looking for green spaces to set up camp around Lockwood Centre.

Councillor Susan Bayford, pictured with resident Sue Wilson by one of the blocks,

said they had camped at least three times recently.

"Council officers assessed several potential traveller sites in Locks Heath, including at the centre, where they decided to install temporary concrete blocks to act as a deterrent," she said.

Go to www.fareham.gov.uk/clean_and_tidy/enforcement/travellers.aspx for information.



A shameful disgrace

LITTER louts cost council taxpayers millions to clear up disgraceful scenes like this.

Locks Heath Councillor Susan Bayford and husband Brian – a former councillor – discovered the filthy corner in St John's Park and cleaned it up. Susan blamed groups of thoughtless youngsters who congregate there.

She said the Council had tried CCTV cameras to catch culprits, but they were either stolen or vandalised.

"I can't understand why a few youngsters are not more environmentally aware," she said.



It's a 'bushover' thanks to Susan's rapid action

WARD Councillor Susan Bayford didn't beat about the bush when a wheelchair user asked for help.

Gary Wilmore complained his vision was blocked by a large shrub when exiting the Lockwood Centre.

He showed Susan his problem when they met at the car park behind the car wash.

She contacted centre manager Sarah Cotton who arranged for the bush to be cut back (pictured).

She said: "I'd like to thank Sarah for her assistance and for the many improvements that have taken place since she arrived at the centre nearly two years ago."



Leisure centre upgrade despite second lockdown



HOLLY HILL will get a slice of a multi-million pound revamp for Fareham's two leisure centres.

That's the good news...The bad news is that both had to close for a month during the second lockdown.

Most of the spend will go to the Fareham centre for a major extension, but Holly Hill will get the large pool store converted into a sauna and steam room and the foyer will be improved.

Work was due to begin at Fareham centre this month and will take 12-14 months, with the Holly Hill improvements being done towards the end of that period.

It comes after Everyone Active 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.

Councillor Susan Bayford said: "The second closure led to much frustration by users citing the benefits of the local facility with mental health and wellbeing being a major factor."

"Charles Chipperfield, who provides coffee services in the car park (pictured), was concerned about the knock-on effect of the closure on his business."

The first lockdown forced him to close, so he was hoping that this time round he would be permitted to continue to operate his takeaway service and at least serve people using the park

and dog walkers.

Various methods of booking sessions at Holly Hill will have to wait until after the centre re-opens.

Everyone Active has been working hard to ensure the centre is operating safely and effectively during the Covid pandemic.

Susan Bayford added: "However, we believe that sport and health should be available to everyone, even in a pandemic, so please let your councillors know how you are feeling with your leisure experience."

"As for Charles's coffee business, if you are out walking in the area please go and support him, his lattes are delicious and you can be assured of a nice welcome."

Crossing petition suspended

A PETITION calling for an official crossing in Centre Way at Locks Heath Centre has been suspended due to Covid-19.

Ward Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans started collecting signatures to send to the County Council before lockdown.

Keith said: "Unfortunately, it is impossible to continue while the two-metre distancing rule is in force."

"It is hoped to resume once current regulations are relaxed."

Susan said: "Many people raised concerns about the difficulties they experience when trying to cross Centre Way near the bus stop area."

"Those who cross this busy road are going to or coming from the bus stop, Genesis Centre, surgery and Lockwood Care & Wellbeing Centre."

Flashing speed limit sign is installed



PLEAS for a flashing speed warning sign for

Church Road, Locks Heath have been successful – to the delight of residents.

Installation of the Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) was completed on November 6.

Residents Gemma and Sam Hillman complained that more drivers were speeding dangerously and Gemma's cat had been hit by a car.

Susan, pictured watching with Gemma outside her home, said: "The speeds of some vehicles as they sweep up and down the dip in the road are frightening."

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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 by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

Still soldiering on



POPULAR Communicare café at Lockwood Community & Sports Association has remained closed since the spring lockdown.

It provides funding for the activities carried out by Communicare and we look forward to it reopening.

Lunch clubs and other activities cannot take place because of social distancing and current restrictions.

However, volunteers continue to take patients to medical appointments, hugely appreciated by the many people who benefit from this wonderful service.

The Association has adapted over the past months and continues to provide a range of activities, all of which are carefully risk assessed.

The library service has also adapted and is as well used as ever.

Ward Councillors Susan Bayford and Keith Evans thank Chairman of Trustees Ray Randall, fellow trustees and the excellent staff members for their dedication over the past months.

PHOTO: Communicare Chairman Ian Roberts, Susan and Katrina West, assistant office manager.

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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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.

Longer interval before curtain rises at £12m arts venue



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 uncer-

tain 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.

Green waste, coastal car parks charges to help plug hole in finances

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

And if you do like to be beside the seaside you'll have to feed parking meters to do so.

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, costing £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.

It's proposed that from next year, coastal car parks at Hill Head, Portchester Castle Passage Lane and Shore Road, Warsash and Swanwick Shore will charge you to park.

Drivers may have to pay £1 per hour up to a maximum of 6 hours between 10am and 6pm. An annual season ticket for £80 is proposed for regular users.

Interested parties have been notified and there will be a 6-week public consultation starting in January.

Website: www.farehamconservatives.org.uk Email: farehamconservatives@gmail.com