



# InTouch

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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-

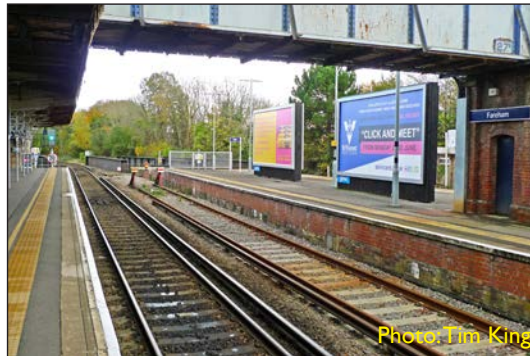


Photo: Tim King

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.

## Titchfield area will get over 400 more houses under new Borough Plan

**FOUR sites have been identified for development in Titchfield and Titchfield Common in Fareham's new Draft Plan.**

A total of 411 houses is included in the plan which received full Council agreement and was published for public consultation. The sites are:

### **Titchfield Common**

Southampton Road – 348 houses

Hunts Pond Road (1) – 38 houses

Hunts Pond Road (2) – 16 houses

### **Titchfield**

Titchfield Park Road – 9 houses

The plan covers the 16 years from 2021 to 2037 and identifies development locations that will deliver a total of 8,389

houses and c. 153,000 sq.m of employment space over this period – this includes 4,858 houses from Welborne.

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.

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

The full plan and all supporting documents are available online

## 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.



**NEWS ROUND**



**Fond farewell to Titchfield vicar**

We wish the Rev Susan Allman and her husband, Eric, a very happy well deserved retirement.

Susan was Vicar of St. Peter's Church in Titchfield for the last 10 years where she was extremely well respected and loved.

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "During my Mayoral year Susan was my chaplain and so we got to know her very well. Our loss is her family's gain."



**No link with Covid spike**

Scientists have found no link between the Government's 'Eat Out' scheme and the spike in virus cases.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said residents had been worried and she raised their concerns with Fareham MP Suella Braverman.

Sarah said: "The South West had the highest percentage of users of this scheme, but currently has one of the lowest case numbers of Covid-19 in the country."

"Advice came from scientific advisers and no link between the scheme and Covid-19 has been made."

**Longer interval**

Farewell Ferneham Hall...Hello Fareham Live.

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

Councillors decided on a 6-month pause so they could review the situation and the financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the arts and entertainments industry.



**County election candidate**

Poppy Taylor-Porter has been selected as the Conservative candidate for Fareham Titchfield in next May's HCC elections.

**Calls for poor building standards probe**

FALLING building standards in conversions from offices to residential housing are raising concerns.

Poor workmanship, lack of building control monitoring and legacy costs that come back on the owners of conversions in brownfield sites and new builds across the Borough have been noted.

Fareham MP Suella Braverman reassured Ward Councillor Sarah Pankhurst that these issues of poor building quality are evident throughout the building industry and are up for



would help in future cases."

FLASHBACK: Sarah recently helped Kevin Towler and his partner whose new home in Louis Road had poor insulation and numerous cracks in the ceilings.

discussion. It will be included in the Government's reviews on policy and legislation surrounding new developments to tackle the decrease in building standards. Room size and noise insulation standards will also be considered.

**'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 in 25 years, Fareham in Bloom had to be judged on-line with judges' and public votes.

Councillor Connie Hockley said she had reservations, but it worked brilliantly and there were 100 entries.

"Congratulations to everyone who entered. Many thanks to St Margaret's Nurseries and Fareham Shopping Centre for donating the prizes."

**RESULTS**

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

**Grow Your Own** Public winners – Jo-

seph 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.

PHOTO: Burnham Wood winners receive their award from the Mayor, Pamela Bryant.

**M27 grooves damaging tyres**

DRIVERS have complained their tyres are being damaged by badly grooved surfaces to the inside lanes of the M27.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst said the damage had worsened between Junctions 4 and 12 since the smart motorway upgrade work started.

She said the surfacing needed repair and she had spoken to Fareham MP Suella Braverman.



"Suella has written to the Minister for Transport about this and is currently in discussions. A temporary fix is to be considered until a permanent resolve is made," she said.

**Travellers dump asbestos in green area**

DANGEROUS asbestos was dumped with other rubbish by travellers who plagued the Western Wards in late summer and autumn.

The Council had to fence off the green space in Hunts Pond Road and pay specialists to remove the toxic waste.

The aggressive invaders also set up camp beside a children's play area at Priory Park, terrorising residents and dog walkers.

More trespassers occupied open space near



Lockswood Centre, where the Council erected concrete blocks after evicting them.

Councillor Sarah Pankhurst (pictured) worked with the Public Protection and Community Safety Team to remove the travellers.

She is discussing with Borough Council officers how to safeguard open spaces and communities.

If you see anything suspicious contact Sarah (details below) or the police if it's urgent.

**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."

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### 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.