



In Touch

with our community

SARISBURY – WINTER 2011

A situation that will only get worse, which is why your Conservative Council is acting NOW

- Fareham's current social housing waiting list is over 2,100 and rising daily
- The Borough needs 495 affordable homes per year to meet housing needs
- Even with the SDA it's unlikely this figure can be reached

- If 30% to 40% of housing in the SDA is affordable it will help
- In the last decade the national birthrate has increased by 19% and continues to rise
- Fareham's birthrate is higher than the national figure and significantly higher than Portsmouth's and Southampton's

Order or chaos - Tories forced to make stark choice to meet housing demands

TAKE A HARD look at these photographs.

Now picture the trees uprooted, hedges grubbed out and fields sprouting rows of houses and flats.

This is just one of the strategic countryside gaps guarded as green buffers between settlements across Fareham.

But they are **ALL** at high risk.

Developers are itching to get into those fields and others – Sarisbury and Swanwick among them – to harvest a fat crop of profits.

They have their eyes on an area off Holly Hill Lane, where 140 houses could be built.

Even worse, two adjoining greenfield areas off Swanwick Lane, Swanwick could fall to the concrete mixers and end up with a total of 660 houses.

The effect on the minor roads and A27 would be horrendous. But that's not all.

There would be no schools, no surgery, no community facilities, no local industry, no shops, no overall system – another Cherque Farm disaster waiting to happen.

Reluctant decision

It would be repeated across the Borough until every settlement loses its identity and merges into an incoherent conglomerate.

This is why the Conservative-led Council, faced with hard choices inflicted by the last Labour government, reluctantly had to



At high risk: Farmland (left) bordering Longfield Avenue stretches towards HMS Collingwood and (right) the other side of Mays Lane towards Rowans Way and Titchfield.

choose the lesser of two sacrificial evils and adopt the Core Strategy, which includes a Strategic Development Area (SDA) in the shape of an eco-town for around 6,500 homes north of Fareham.

'Not a brick' pledge

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, told critics:

"Let's be clear. We need the additional housing to cater for Fareham's needs for the next 20 years and beyond and the choice is between large scale urban extensions or the Strategic Development area."

Council Leader Seán Woodward pledged: "Not a brick will be laid until plans are in place to ensure all the required infrastructure is committed to and properly funded."

Biggest ever consultation

Contrary to recent ill-informed opposition publications, preparation of the Core Strategy includes the biggest series of ongoing consultations and opportunities to comment in the Borough's history.

Local groups, businesses and anyone asking to be kept informed have been regularly updated and consulted. This has included dozens of groups from outside the Borough, such as Wickham Parish Council.

Fareham Today, which is delivered to every household, has included articles about every six months since spring 2005.

Advertising on backs of buses has been used to ask people to give their views, and the plans publicised through Community Action Team meetings and exhibitions.

Are you affected? See Page 4

FACT

The SDA will be a wholly sustainable, rigidly controlled development with its own shops, schools, doctors' surgeries, an integrated road network and transport based on the Bus Rapid Transport system.

Affordable housing for young people and families will be paramount.

FACT

The Council can't adopt the Core Strategy before the Examination in Public by an inspector to be held in June, with the report - which is binding - in October or November.

If it's found to be unsound, Fareham would be exposed to developers winning appeals to build in the strategic gaps.

FACT

We succeeded in reducing the number of houses from at least 10,000. But without robust evidence, this can be a disaster.

Test Valley cut their figure by 700, lost an appeal and will now have 350 houses in a strategic gap exactly where they didn't want them, with the likelihood they will lose more appeals.

FACT

The SDA isn't the only part of Fareham's Core Strategy.

It includes planning policies for Coldeast, the former Daedalus airfield and the town centre.

Consultation will continue with emphasis on the Area Action Plan and Master Plan for the SDA, including exhibitions of plans for major developments.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time

WARD NEWS BRIEFS



Speedwatch

County Councillor Seán Woodward has awarded over £3,500 to Burridge and Swanwick Residents' Association for equipment and uniforms to carry out Speedwatch campaigns.

It will enable residents to encourage motorists to drive with respect through the village.

The Speedwatch campaign is to be run in conjunction with police and volunteers who will note registration numbers of speeding traffic which will then be passed to the police for follow-up as necessary.

The equipment will be available to any residents' groups in Sarisbury Division which includes Burridge, Park Gate, Sarisbury, Swanwick, and Whiteley.

Fix bayonets!

A Freedom March of HMS Collingwood, led by The Royal Marines Band, Portsmouth will take place on Saturday May 7 at 11am in West Street, Fareham.

The base was given Freedom of the Borough in 1974, entitling them to march through the streets of Fareham with 'bayonets fixed and colours flying' every four years.

'A plague on all your little boxes' say angry Sarisbury residents



'Little boxes made of ticky tacky, Little boxes all the same'

REMEMBER Pete Seeger's 1960s parody on modern lifestyle?

You could apply it to Sarisbury where a plague of little boxes has upset locals.

Green cabinets, one the size of a large shed, have appeared in the village over recent weeks.

Residents have complained to Councillor David Swanbrow, who said: "Apart from being unsightly, their installation can also cause problems during construction.

"One resident found her driveway blocked by BT who were installing a new box.

"What's more, the contractors had not put up the mandatory notice giving contact details."

BT will be fined for this transgression. The box they erected is also out of place against the railings of the Sarisbury Green Conservation Area.

Another thoughtless installation was the placing of a large metal shed on what was previously a pleasant green grassy triangle of land at the junction of



Boxed in: 1 Unsightly in a conservation area. 2 Blocking a resident's access. 3 Ugly sight at the Allotment Road-Bridge Road junction.



Allotment Road and Bridge Road.

This ugly shed houses a large gas supply valve. It has now been joined by another BT box.

Usually the first that residents and councillors know about these boxes is when someone turns up to install them.

There was no previous warning and, as they belong to utilities and are on land owned by the highway authority, they don't need planning permission.

The companies can be fined for causing a serious obstruction during construction and for not displaying a notice with emergency contact details, but otherwise there is little control over their activities.

Grant to Rotary Club buys dictionaries for leavers



PUPILS leaving two local schools were presented with dictionaries

The money came via Whiteley Rotary Club which received a £750 grant from the annual £10,000 allocation to County Councillor Seán Woodward for good causes in his division.

He, son James,

Whiteley Rotary Club president Allan Chamberlain and head teacher Andrew Stockton are pictured presenting some of the books to pupils leaving Sarisbury Church of England Controlled Junior School.

Pupils leaving Whiteley Primary School received the remainder.

•See also story in P3.

'No cold calling zones' to deter doorstep cowboys

FED UP with people knocking your door trying to sell you something?

Do you know someone who has been ripped off by doorstep cowboys?

If you get enough of your neighbours

to agree, you could set up a No Cold Calling Zone.

It doesn't guarantee you won't get any cold calls, but will act as a deterrent.

Email: nccz@hants.gov.uk for details.

Localism Bill will not be a cure for all planning issues

THE Localism Bill currently going through Parliament is not the panacea many believe will enable them to reject or accept local developments as they wish.

Councillor Leslie Keeble, executive member for performance and improvement, stresses the Bill is in draft legislation only.

It will probably be substantially amended with some clauses rejected or significantly changed before it receives the Royal Assent late in 2011.

When it comes into force early in 2012, it will abolish Regional Strategies.

Local people will be able to initiate the making of two things:

1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will be additional to a current local development plan.

2 A Neighbourhood Development Order which will permit local development of a specific type in the neighbourhood, either generally or on a specific site, and which amounts to a grant of planning permission.

It will not, however, allow residents to reduce development, only to propose extra development in their area.

In each case the support of at least 50% of local people is required.

This is a general description of the impact of the proposals set out in the Bill.

However, these will be subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State which will place controls on how these powers can be used.



Seán dishes out over £10k for worthy local causes

ST PAUL'S under-fives, a new parent and toddler group in St Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green, has been awarded £432 towards the costs of tables, chairs and interlocking safety mats.

It was one of several awards totalling over £10,000 made to local causes in his County Sarisbury Division by County Councillor Seán Woodward.

Other groups receiving awards were:

Whiteley Youth Club equipment £1,000.

Sarisbury Infant School outdoor play area £2,000.

Friends of Holly Hill Park volunteer training £1,000.

Burrige Village Hall extra kitchen facilities for meeting room £460.

Burrige & Park Gate Women's Institute Kurling kit £300.

Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club mower £1,000.

Genesis Special Needs Youth Club chairs £267.75.

Royal wedding

The Council is updating its website so that information is available for anyone who wishes to organise a street party to celebrate the Royal wedding on April 29.

Draft plans for former Coldeast hospital site on the way at last



New lease of life: Stately Coldeast mansion features in development plans.

THE FUTURE of the old Coldeast Hospital site is now much nearer to being settled, with a wealth of community benefits in the pipeline.

Working with the Homes and Communities Agency, Miller Homes and the Primary Care Trust, Fareham Council hopes to have an approved draft development brief ready this summer.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, said It would only be a draft because it could not be formally adopted until Fareham's Core Strategy has been approved.

But there are unlikely to be any significant changes made as a result of the Core Strategy examination.

"It has always been the Borough Council's aim to gain control of as much of the site as possible for use as public open space, and to preserve the mansion which is locally listed.

"As was pointed out during a consultation a few years ago, this has always meant giving up part of the site for development."

The current proposal is for a further 150 to 170 dwellings to be built on the site, plus up to 60 units of much

needed sheltered accommodation.

Also, an area previously reserved for use by the Primary Care Trust will see up to 30 houses built.

As this is part of the current urban area it would be impossible to prevent under current planning rules.

Under the plan, the mansion will be preserved and restored and used in a way that will be generally beneficial to the area.

Exact details have not been decided but the open parkland to the south of it will be retained.

Community benefits include:

- Use of the many acres of remaining woodland as public space
- New cemetery, sports pitches and a new sports pavilion/community hall
- Allotments and a site for the long awaited Western Wards swimming pool.

There is also space for the recently opened Community Hospital to be extended.

A first draft of the development brief should be available in April with a consultation and exhibitions outlining the proposals in May or June.

The plans should be finalised later in the summer and adopted before the end of the year provided the Fareham Core Strategy is approved.

New-look pavilions ready for next season

PHASE 1 of a £340,000 refurbishment of sports pavilions at Osborne Road, Warsash, Allotment Road and Sarisbury Green has been completed.

The smart new-look pavilion at Osborne Road is open and has been leased to Warsash Wasps Football Club.

Phase 2 is underway and the contract has been let for the two Sarisbury pavilions to Lifetime Construction Ltd, the same company that undertook the refurbishment of Hammond Wing at Crofton Community Centre.

Work should start on both pavilions in February and should be finished by the end of April in time for the cricket season.

Join the e-panel

IF YOU are over 18, live in the Borough and wish to improve services, you can help to do so.

Become a member of Fareham's e-panel.

The Council uses the e-panel to gauge opinion about important local issues.

You can register via: www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation

SARISBURY & WHITELEY CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your ward councillors.

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MARK HOBAN
Your man in
Westminster



Whilst the first few months of the Coalition Government were focused on tackling the deficit and laying the foundations for economic recovery, Parliament has been debating measures which form another part of our reform programme – devolution of power from Westminster to local communities.

I have long felt it is local people who should decide what happens in their communities, not people sitting in Whitehall or Westminster. I want to see local people taking control.

Why should decisions about how schools are run be made in Whitehall rather than by head teachers and governors? We're changing that.

Shouldn't decisions about the type of healthcare we get be made by doctors at the sharp end? Our Health and Social Care Bill makes that a reality.

Our Localism Bill gives new rights to local communities, including the right to buy community assets.

The crime maps now available on www.police.uk will enable you and I to hold directly elected local police commissioners to account.

We have reduced the number of ring fenced grants that Whitehall gives to local councils so they have greater freedom over how they spend your money.

We are also pushing new laws through to ensure you have the final say in a referendum if there are any new powers to be transferred from Westminster to Brussels.

Over the last 13 years, we saw power being taken away from local communities in the belief that Whitehall knows best. It is time to turn that tide and this Government is doing it.

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It could be looming the other side of your garden wall

SHORT-SIGHTED critics of plans for a new eco-town north of Fareham are refusing to accept the disastrous alternatives.

Without the SDA, thousands of houses could be built without social or transport infrastructure and most green gaps will disappear.

You wouldn't know where Fareham town ended and Stubbington or Titchfield began. And that's just two examples.

If you live near one of these green gaps, you should pray that Fareham's Core Strategy passes public examination so that we, not the developers, keep control of what goes where.

If you think this is political spin, you can check the facts for yourself.

- Log on to www.fareham.gov.uk
- Click 'Most popular pages'
- Click 'Local Development Framework'
- Click 'Site Allocations'



At risk: This is one of two countyside gap areas off Swanwick Lane, Swanwick where a total of 660 dwellings could be built.

At the bottom under 'Exhibition Material' are 10 maps showing 48 vulnerable sites edged in green. Thousands of dwellings could be built in your back yard.

FACT 42% of the new eco-town area will stay as green open space

Not a penny more! Nobody does it better than the Conservatives

IT'S ANOTHER good news year for Fareham council taxpayers - we have frozen the rate and you won't pay a penny more.

And that is all down to shrewd budgeting by your **Conservative** Council.

Even better news, is that all other authorities (County, Police and Fire) have followed our lead and also frozen their taxes.

Remember the James Bond theme *Nobody Does It Better?*

Nobody in Fareham will see an increase in their bills until at least April 2012.

Only a **Conservative**-run council can be trusted not to fritter your money.

For years, we have kept Fareham's taxes as the lowest in Hampshire and one of the lowest in the country.

Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We are in a recession and everyone is doing their very best to save money.

"Fareham Council is no exception. Not only are we keeping our costs down, we have also absorbed a reduction of 26% in the grant we receive from the government.

"We already set almost the lowest council tax in the country, despite receiving one of the lowest levels of government grant. This year, without taking action, we would have needed to implement a 37% increase in council tax."

Anticipating the massive grant reductions, the Council took swift action such as reducing staff by 18% and amalgamating some services with Southampton and Gosport.

Yet we managed to set aside savings for new schemes

Creation of a New Skills Fund
£200,000 is set aside to establish 'apprenticeship' placements which offer work-based training programmes leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

These will be probably come from partnerships with local colleges or other training providers. Funding is also being sought from the National Apprenticeship Service which could offer up to 100% for training costs.

The scheme will be designed around Council services such as grounds maintenance, business administration, ICT, communications and customer services. It is hoped to start in the summer and run it for a few years.

Councillor Woodward, who proposed the scheme, said: "The importance of apprentice-

ships and training cannot be overstated."

Area-based home insulation
This involves attracting significant external funding to retro-fit home insulation and provide energy saving and solar related advice.

A commitment of £33,000 by the Council will attract approximately £2.4m of insulation works to homes in the Borough.

For every £1 of investment by the Council, there will be nearly £73 of matched funding. It is estimated that over 2,800 homes will benefit, reducing the total cost of energy consumption by £300,000 per annum.