

Developers' share will cover only fraction of total cost

A GREENFIELD site could be needed to build 10,000 homes north of Fareham.

But this strategic development area (SDA) will not be started before 2016 as the government is unlikely to adopt the South East Plan before 2007.

It means the 3,729 new homes over the next 20 years in existing Fareham communities will be less than 50% of what the borough has suffered over the past 10 years.

However, Councillor Woodward said: "If economic growth reaches its target of 3.5% per year by 2016, the SDA need could even be diminished."

Every 1,000 new homes produce £10m in developers' contributions. It sounds a lot, but a secondary school costs £25m and two primary schools £7.5m each, so half the contributions would be spent before a doctors' surgery or road is built or a sewer laid.

He added: "Clearly, without external funding new development is unsustainable."

"The only sanction a planning authority has is to refuse to allocate the land, but this could always be overturned on appeal to...you've guessed it – John Prescott!"

Fareham hands Prescott a £3 billion shopping list



Pulling no punches: Seán Woodward spells out Fareham's demands to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tory leader tells him: 'No more Whiteleys without the cash first'

FAREHAM will not accept any of the 80,000 new homes earmarked for South Hampshire unless the Labour Government coughs up £3bn towards the infrastructure.

This was the no-nonsense message Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott took back to Whitehall after listening to a presentation by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward in Fareham in December.

"What is clear is that we cannot have any more Whiteleys where insufficient developers' contributions are available to provide the required infrastructure and the next 20 years are spent trying to catch up with council taxpayers funding the shortfalls.

"Government must put its money where its mouth is or we cannot accept extra housebuild-

ing," he told Mr Prescott.

It was revealed that up to 10,000 houses are planned on an as yet unidentified site north of the M27 and the borough would also have to find room for 3,729 more in existing communities over the next 20 years.

Councillor Woodward, chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), said the £3bn shopping list included infrastructure to make up the current deficit of which anyone travelling to work in rush hour was well aware, as well as likely needs over the next 20 years.

He said: "The requirement is not only for new roads, but also includes public transport, schools, medical care, water supplies, waste treatment and affordable housing.

"I pointed out to Mr Prescott that

South East England produces a net £18bn for the Treasury every year, so we are not after new money – just to keep some of what we are already generating."

He said there was a real need to regenerate Portsmouth and Southampton and to improve the economies of those cities, but they could not continue as a dumping ground for new housing without enough government investment.

Commenting on the meeting, Councillor Woodward said: "It was very positive but, of course, the proof will be when the necessary infrastructure funding arrives and not before."

Afterwards, he met South Hampshire's MPs and called on them to support PUSH's demands in Westminster.

"They have the list of the area's requirements and requested further meetings on the issue before the government completes its 2007 spending review."



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Play area

Badgers Copse play area will not be taken over by the council until the developers meet all the conditions of the planning consent.

Then, first priority will be to provide more seating.

Councillor Brian Bayford has this under constant review in consultation with residents.

Car sales

An on-going problem across Fareham is the siting of cars for sale in prominent positions, usually at weekends by professional dealers.

The junction of Telford Way and Bridge Road is an area most affected and Councillor Bayford has asked the Police and Highways Authority to check regularly to ensure this is stopped.

Crossing

Councillor Bayford has requested a traffic survey to ensure the safety of people exiting the footpath from Badgers Copse (Little Fox Drive), at the junction of Bridge Road/Botley Road at Hunts Pond Road roundabout.

Priory Park glass

Councillor Bayford arranged for smashed glass to be cleared from the path linking Knottgrass Avenue and Yarrow Way, the path beside the recreation ground car park and from Upper Brook Drive opposite the Community Centre.

These areas will now be targeted for frequent checks and cleaning.

Residents are advised to contact Councillor Bayford (880740) if any other problems occur.

Ward tour bid to solve traffic safety problems

TWO ward councillors responded to feedback from the last *In Touch* by touring the wards to look at traffic safety issues.

Councillors David Swanbrow and Seán Woodward were accompanied by a resident and a Borough Council traffic engineer.

One example was the roundabout at the junction of Bridge Road and Brook Lane.

Some years ago, Councillor Swanbrow had some of the taller shrubs at the west side replaced with shorter ones to improve visibility.

Our resident thought more should be removed, but the traffic engineer explained that when drivers can see across a large part of a roundabout they tend to drive round it faster making it less safe, so it was decided it was best left alone.

Another problem is speeding along Bridge Road from the River Hamble to Sarisbury Green.

Fast moving vehicles approaching from the bottom of the hill make it difficult for people turning right into the shops at Sarisbury Green.

One possible solution the councillors promised to look at is to narrow the

The trial of the lonesome pine



The Monterey pine at the Esso garage at Park Gate (Carter's Corner) is threatened by a fungus which may lead to its felling soon.

The tree is an important feature of the area and nobody wants to remove it without good reason.

However, the decay fungus, *sparassis crispa*, has been found on two sides of the tree whose condition is being assessed.

The Council's duty is to ensure the safe use of the highway, which may mean felling the tree.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I want the County Council to do all in its power to save the tree. Its twin was lost when the roundabout was built 15 years ago and it is important that we do not lose this icon of Park Gate."

road further down the hill which should slow the traffic to nearer its 30mph speed limit.

Allotment Road also poses traffic problems especially from parents parking badly when dropping off or collecting children.

Councillor Swanbrow said: "Yellow lines have recently been extended in Allotment Road, but we will also be looking at a case for a 'Slow' sign either side of the bend near the recreation ground car park."

He will talk to Sarisbury Junior School to try to persuade them to start a school travel plan to address some of the issues.

It has worked well at Sarisbury Infant School.



Allotment Road: Needs 'slow' signs at the bend.

Council will resurface Middle Road car park

COUNCILLOR Marian Ellerton is pleased to report that Middle Road car park at Park Gate is scheduled for resurfacing.

There has been a steady deterioration to the surface with frequent patching, potholes and general loss of sur-

face structure.

The proposed improvements in Fareham Borough Council's Surface Car Park Improvement Plan have been set out in five prioritised phases and Middle Road is to be included in Phase 1.

Prescott's contempt at council's building controls

DEPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott has again shown his contempt for Fareham Borough Council's efforts to control development.

The Council refused six applications to build flats within a mile of Middle Road, Park Gate with the full support of local Councillors Marian Ellerton and Brian Bayford.

But Mr Prescott's office overturned the council's decisions on appeal and developers took advantage by ignoring controls on street cleaning, traffic at unsociable hours and other problems affecting residents near the developments.

If at the initial stage, planning permission had been given by the council, stringent controls would have been imposed to reduce the effect on residents.

"We're in a no-win situation," said Councillor Bayford

A further consequence of the Whitehall decisions is that developers also show contempt for the need for planning permission for other works.

This has included the retention of hoarding in Station Road and the siting of a sales office and flagpole and other signage in Lower Duncan Road.

Councillor Bayford, a member of the Planning Development Control Committee, argues that such decisions, made in Whitehall, ignore local knowledge and local needs for infrastructure, schools, roads, doctors and dentists.

Defiant company is served with an enforcement order

ENFORCEMENT action is being taken against the operators at Rookery Farm for illegal use of the site in Botley Road, Swanwick.

Raymond Brown's 9-year temporary planning consent for a building materials recycling facility expired in December 2004.

Despite this, they continued to operate the site throughout 2005 while the County Council was deciding whether grant the company another extension.

The fresh application sought to intensify the site's use still further and residents were angered by the prospect of nine more years of noise and dust from crushing and sorting machines.

Following his election to Hampshire County Council, Councillor Seán



Crushed: Recycling must cease down at the farm.

Woodward convinced members of the County's Regulatory Committee to refuse the new application, meaning that landfill would continue and the site would be reinstated and replanted.

When Councillor Woodward learned the company was defying the planners' ruling he persuaded them to take enforcement action.

30mph zone confusion

Aggrieved residents have complained to Councillor David Swanbrow that they have been stopped for speeding, but there was no sign to indicate they were in a 30mph zone.

A favourite place for this is the Bridge Road stretch of the A27 between the River Hamble and Sarisbury Green.

He had two complaints from people who were stopped by the police last month.

"It feels like a 40mph road – but it is not. People complain that it should have 30mph repeater signs on it, but these are not allowed," he said.

The Highway Code (bottom of pages 25 and 26) explains that if you are driving along a road with lamp posts the speed limit is 30mph unless otherwise indicated.

Dam good news for Holly Hill

In the autumn edition of *In Touch*, Councillor David Swanbrow said he was seeking open space contributions from developers to repair the dams which form the lakes in Holly Hill Woodland Park.

He says the work, which will cost £25,000, is to go ahead, with the bulk of the money coming from developers' contributions and the remainder coming from Fareham Borough Council's capital programme budget.

SARISBURY & PARK GATE 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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

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Your man in Westminster



**By Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

DAVID Cameron's election as Leader of the Conservative Party is a turning point.

He has been very clear that if we are to be a party that reflects the aspirations of the whole country, then we need to talk about the long term challenges facing Britain today and have answers to them. These include economic competitiveness, globalisation and poverty, and improvements to our public services.

They affect each of us differently. Our economy must remain strong in the face of threats from India and China if we are to fund our schools and hospitals properly.

Young people need to know there will be jobs for them in the future, but we can only do this by preparing for the economic challenges of the 21st century.

We can only afford adequate pensions if we have a prosperous and thriving economy. It is in everyone's interests to ensure we improve the competitiveness of the economy to maintain and improve living standards and quality of public services.

It is a sign of the importance of these challenges and the reinvigoration of the Party under David that people such as Bob Geldof are willing to help us develop the policies to tackle these challenges.

David's agenda looks to build a modern, compassionate Conservative Party. I know from talking to people across the constituency that this has struck a chord. It is an exciting time to be a Conservative.

Elections of party leaders bring reshuffles and changes of responsibilities. Having been the Conservative school spokesman for two years, I have been promoted to the Treasury team. It is a role I have always been keen to do having worked in business and as one of the handful of MPs who is a Chartered Accountant. My appointment coincides with a series of visits to local employers, which will deepen my understanding of issues they face.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2006.

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'We like the good life in Fareham' say residents



Beautiful borough: A striking aerial view of the River Hamble with the Air Traffic Control complex in the foreground and (right) the lovely setting of Holly Hill Woodland Park.

FAREHAM is a safe, prosperous and attractive place to live and work, according to most residents.

A recent borough survey shows 91% of people are happy to live here and 88% are satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs things.

The only real gripe locals have is that after dark only 23% feel safe in the town and district shopping centres and 46% in their neighbourhoods, against 90% outside in daytime.

The consultation is a key part of decision-making as it informs the Council of residents' views on important issues such as building developments, public toilets, environmental health, safety regulation and enforcement, community safety and personal health.

The survey also shows 92% are happy with waste collections and 68% with litter clearance, while 88% are satisfied with the overall quality of the environment.

A higher number think general cleanliness and condition of public toilets has improved since 2004.

As a result of the Market Quay redevelopment,

86% are happy with the range of shopping and 75% with leisure and social activities in the town centre – both percentages showing a material increase.

Residents rank the statement 'the Council should strike a balance between increasing charges to service users and small increases in council tax' as their preferred choice, with 'council tax should be increased to provide better services' as the least preferred option.

Conservative Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, says:

"This survey gives residents the opportunity to share with us their views about life in the Borough and to ensure our services continue to meet the needs of the local community.

"I am pleased to note from the survey results that a high percentage of our residents are satisfied with the Council's overall services.

"We will continue to work hard to ensure we maintain an excellent service for residents."

The survey will be analysed by officers and any lessons learnt will be included in service plans for 2006/07.

Tories are aiming at very low council tax rise

Fareham Borough Council is considering a council tax rise for 2006/2007 of just 1.9%.

This is consistent with low rises in the Borough Council's share of the tax which has been set over the last 7 years of Conservative administration.

It means the level will remain the lowest in Hampshire and among the lowest in the country, despite Fareham receiving one of the smallest levels of government

grant of any authority.

There will, as always, be no reductions in the important services we provide to our residents.

It has also been possible to freeze pay and display parking charges in the town centre for a further year and to not charge on Sundays, evenings, Bank Holidays, for disabled residents or outside the town centre.

Now that pay-on-foot has been introduced in the multi storey car parks and in

Market Quay, shoppers need only to pay for the period they stay and do not need to rush back to their cars.

Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am very proud to be again recommending such a low council tax increase of just a few pennies per week while being able to maintain and enhance the important services we provide."

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