



InTouch

Whiteley – Autumn 2012

New school solution is near after parents pile on pressure

A NEW 210-place primary school could be provided for Whiteley in September 2013 – thanks to parent pressure.

Hampshire County Council officers responded positively to a strongly worded letter from Councillor Seán Woodward resulting from his meeting with 100 local parents.

They told him they were not prepared to wait at least until 2016 for developers of North Whiteley to provide it.

He said: "With their support, I have been able to get the issue back to the top of the agenda for the County Council and Diocese of Portsmouth.

"Nine possible sites for a temporary school have been identified and two of them are available, so there is now a very real possibility that a new 210-place primary school could open in Whiteley next September."

Two choices

Option A – Create a 210-place Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school in temporary accommodation pending a move to a permanent site within the North of Whiteley development.

Option B – Leave the existing primary school as it is and continue to provide additional primary age places

elsewhere in the Western Wards.

There are two possible sites

for the new school, provided the idea is strongly supported by Whiteley residents and that there are no insurmountable planning problems:

- Land off Rookery Avenue
- Land off Lady Betty's Drive

"We believe the best option for opening a school in September 2013 is to propose a Voluntary Aided School, a far simpler process with a more certain outcome. When development North of Whiteley goes ahead, the school would move into permanent accommodation.

Solution in sight

To achieve this it was critical that Whiteley residents gave it their full support.

After talks with top County Council officials during the summer, Councillor Woodward said he really believed that, working with the Diocese of Portsmouth, a solution was in sight.

"It is important for any site to provide sufficient land for a well-equipped school, outdoor space and car park."

All Whiteley residents have been informed about the new proposals and three meetings/drop-in sessions have



Temporary classrooms are now very smart.

been held. If there is sufficient support, the Diocese will publish a public notice, which will run from November 1 to December 14, outlining the intention to establish a new primary school.

If no objections are raised, a report will be presented to the Director of Children's Services in December 2012 with a recommendation to establish the school.

If objections are raised, a report setting out the issues and making a recommendation will go to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Roy Perry, at his decision day on January 23, 2013.

If he approves, the new school will be established with effect from September 2013.

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NEWS ROUND



Mowing problems

One of the wettest summers on record has affected our grass cutting schedules.

Normally, it takes the mowing team 10 days to work their way across the Borough.

A combination of warm and wet weather meant that the grass grew again by 6-10 inches in a very short time, so mowing had to be done again in as little as 3-5 days.

So they and cleansing staff, who worked overtime and across the Bank Holiday weekend to ensure everything was spick and span for the Jubilee celebrations, are to be congratulated.

Grants available

County Councillor Seán Woodward has £10,000 available for grants to local organisations in his Sarisbury Division (Sarisbury, Swanwick, Burrige, Park Gate, Whiteley and Priory Park) and would be delighted to receive applications from local residents.

The schemes supported need to be for items of equipment as opposed to running costs.

Whiteley Rotary Club was given a grant to present dictionaries to school leavers in local primary schools.

Sweet singing in new choir

Tra-la-la, tra-la-la... Do you sing in the shower? Then why not give your vocal chords a real work-out?

You don't have to be a Katherine Jenkins or a Rolando Villazón to join in at the newly formed Western Wards Community Choir.

It costs £18 a term to join the choir which aims to encourage adults over 18 in the Western Wards to come together and sing.

It meets Mondays at 7.30-9pm at Park Gate Primary School. Contact Rebecca Kingsland at Park Gate Primary School on 01489 575444 for more information.

Whiteley busgate: Councillors sift through mass of traffic data following three-week trial opening

FOR SEVERAL years there has been much debate about the timing of the permanent opening of the bus gate between Yew Tree Drive (YTD) and Botley Road to all traffic.

The Fareham Borough local plan policy is clear – opening to general traffic will not be permitted until Whiteley Way is completed through to the A3051 north of Curbridge.

The local plan is currently being reviewed and updated.

In July 2012, the gate was opened to all traffic for three weeks due to National Grid works.

At our request the County Council made use of the opportunity of this lengthy opening to survey the impacts of the gate being open.

Traffic counts in the area were also undertaken in May when the bus gate was closed.

We are providing the results without any recommendation about what, if anything, should change as a result but as a genuine desire to communicate the facts of a trial opening, to replace speculation about what an opening could mean in terms of traffic flows.

Automatic Traffic Counters (ATCs) were put at the seven main locations deemed most likely to be affected by the bus gate opening:

- Yew Tree Drive bus gate
- Botley Road, north of the gate (south of Swanwick Lane)
- Botley Road, south of the gate Swanwick Lane
- Yew Tree Drive, near the school crossing patrol
- Leafy Lane, east of Whitley Way;
- Whiteley Way, north of M27 J9 (a permanent counter site).

The average 12-hour two-way flows over the 17-day period when the gate was open were 2,800 vehicles per day (vpd).

However, as an estimate of expected usage the average of the last two days observed flows of 3,500 vpd is used, with the rationale that awareness of the route increased steadily throughout the opening, although signs were positioned on many roads advising of the opening throughout the 17-day period.

Flows were 490 vehicles per hour (vph), excluding existing buses, in the am peak (8am – 9am), with 260 vph eastbound and 230 vph westbound.

In the pm peak hour (5pm – 6pm) the flows were lower at 450 vph, with 190 vph eastbound and 280 westbound.

Forecast use of the gate could be expected to increase further than the 3,500 vpd recorded due to factors highlighted above.

The main changes to daily two-way flows be-

tween May and July were:

- YTD Bus Gate: +3300
- Botley Road, North: +1600 (+18%)
- Botley Road, South: +1700 (+20%)
- Swanwick Lane: +300 (+7%)
- YTD East: +400 (+5%)
- Leafy Lane: no change
- Whiteley Way: -2500 (-11%)

Whiteley Way North of M27 J9 benefited with a reduction in flow by 2500 which is 11% of the daily flow. Leafy Lane was unchanged. Yew Tree Drive increased by 400 vpd at its eastern end, which equates to plus 5%.

Of the 3300 vpd additional travelling through the gate onto Botley Road, 48% travelled north and 52% south; of the 48% travelling north, 9% travelled on Swanwick Lane leaving 39% northwards towards Botley.

Both north and south went up by similar volumes of about 1600-1700 vpd equating to an 18-20% increase. Swanwick Lane increased by 300 vpd, some 7%.

There was an increase in flow along Yew Tree Drive suggesting the gate was being well used by local residents and most of the additional through traffic (travelling between Whiteley Way and Botley Road) was almost compensated for.

It is likely that there were savings in vehicle miles with more direct routes available to local residents.

The data will now be considered in detail by the local planning authority (Fareham Borough Council) and the local highway authority (Hampshire County Council). We believe it is also important that in any review of the local plan account needs to be taken of the possible effect of the opening of the new Whiteley shopping centre and of the development of some 3,000 houses north of Whiteley, albeit that development will in any event lead to the completion of Whiteley Way and the opening of Yew Tree Drive to all traffic.

REFUTING SILLY RUMOURS

Councillor Woodward states: "Contrary to rumour I do not live on the road with the bus gate on it - I live 4 streets away.

"Personally, when it is open for traffic reasons I find it most convenient to use as do many other residents.

"Arguably therefore I have more to gain on a personal convenience level if it was open to all, especially as half the residents I represent are the other side of it!"

Meanwhile, we would like to know the views of local residents from Burrige, Park Gate Swanwick and Whiteley on this new information.

If there was any suggestion of opening the Yew Tree Drive/Botley Road link permanently before the completion of Whiteley Way, should there be, for instance, traffic calming, a HGV ban and 20mph speed limit on Yew Tree Drive?

Should there be traffic calming on Swanwick Lane and the HGV ban rigorously enforced? What further measures should be taken on Botley Road (A3051) such as permanent flashing speed limit signs?

Should there be a longer trial opening to cover the period when the new shopping centre opens to be certain of the effects it has prior to any decision on a permanent opening?

Should there be better pedestrian crossing facilities on affected roads?

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I proposed the provision of the facility as part of a planning condition by Persimmon Homes so that it would all be provided at no cost to the public. This was because when the day came to open the link to all traffic I did not want the highway authority to be scratching around for the best part of £1m to do the job. Previously it was an unmade track with a kerb to bump down.

"The planning policy is that the link is to be used only for buses and emergency vehicles (the emergency services all have as many transponders as they want and a telephone number for any problems; the nearby surgery also has a transponder). It is also accepted that in times of potential or actual traffic problems involving Whiteley roads it can be opened for a temporary period and it has been opened at my request when there have been weather problems and road closures on several occasions. If the link had not been put in all of the foregoing would be impractical if not impossible. Current plan policy is that it will open to all traffic once Whiteley Way is eventually completed through to the A3051 Botley Road north of Curbridge. Control of that timescale is entirely in Winchester City Council's hands along with the North of Whiteley developers. It is certainly a few years away as there is currently not even a tested local plan policy let alone a planning consent for the expansion of Whiteley.

"Changes to local plans are not made on the back of petitions and protests, whether for or against, and there are equally strong views in both camps, in Whiteley, Burrige, Park Gate and Swanwick. The current plan policy is not set in tablets of stone, however it has stood the test of local plan inquiries for a quarter of a century.

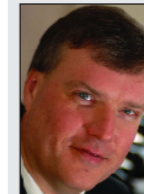
Any decision to vary that policy will primarily take account of highway safety matters, not personal convenience.

"Ultimately the decision on whether the link should be opened prematurely and permanently is one for Fareham Borough Council as the local planning authority and Hampshire County Council as the highway authority. That decision would be informed by actual data gathered with the current temporary opening and predictions around the likely effects of the opening of the new Whiteley Shopping Centre."

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 will respond personally within 48 hours.

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Would you like to **ATTEND** social or political events with like-minded people?
Would you be willing to **HELP** us by delivering **InTouch** newsletters in your road?
If your answer to any of these questions is **YES** then why not **JOIN** Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please telephone David Swanbrow on 01489 572723.

Fareham's housing demand stays high despite recession

THE SLOW-DOWN in housing development is temporary.

Demand for housing remains high and developers continue to confirm existing sites and to seek new sites for the future, says Councillor David Swanbrow.

Fareham is updating its Borough Local Plan with two distinct elements:

1 Plans for the new community in North Fareham

2 Rest of the Borough

North of Fareham will be a completely new development; the rest of Borough figures for 2012-26 indicate around 2,000 new dwellings, some of which are already started or have full planning consent.

David Swanbrow added: "Actual numbers delivered year by year will vary considerably depending on the economy."

Pool option in Locks Heath centre revamp

A REPORT from planning consultants that outlines the potential for significant regeneration of the Locks Heath Centre has been received by Fareham Council.

The Council commissioned the work and set three main priorities:

- New swimming pool and leisure facilities
- Improved food retail offer
- Improved viability of the overall centre

The report indicates options to provide a new large food store, a new swimming pool and leisure facility and the potential to co-locate existing community and youth support facilities.

Councillor Seán Woodward said improvement of the retail offering and viability of the centre was very important



to residents in the Western Wards.

He said: "Delivery of the new swimming pool and leisure facility will be wonderful and the potential to co-locate community facilities in a new purpose-built building would just be a great extra."

Consultation on the proposals will run from mid-October to mid-November.



YOUR voice in Westminster
by MARK HOBAN

MP for Fareham



Contact Mark on 01329 233573 or www.markhoban.com

Tough new job for Fareham MP in Government autumn reshuffle

In September's Government reshuffle, Mark was promoted to Minister for Employment at the Department for Work and Pensions.

Mark, who was previously at the Treasury, said: "Whilst unemployment has

been falling in recent months, we need to do more to get the long term unemployed back into work.

"My task is to push forward existing government schemes to help as many people as possible. It's a new challenge for me and one I relish."

Just two days after his promotion, Mark announced that the private sector had created an amazing one million new jobs since May 2010.

Local success story

NATS, with over 3,000 employees at Swanwick and



Whiteley, is one of Fareham's most successful businesses.

Mark, pictured with coordinator David Pulman during a recent visit, learned about their key role in keeping London's skies clear during the Olympics and their success in exporting their expertise to 28 countries, which led to NATS' CEO, Richard Deakin, taking part in a trade delegation to Brazil led by David Cameron.

He'd rather face Jeremy Paxman

Children at Ranvilles Junior School put Mark through his paces during a recent visit to the school.

Mark said: "I've had some tough interviews on Five Live and Newsnight, but children aren't afraid to ask you challenging questions.

"They would give Jeremy Paxman a run for his money!"

