



Conservatives

Do you support Conservative principles? Would you like to VOTE to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates? 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 the Sarisbury and Whiteley Branch of Fareham Conservative Association?

Please telephone David Swanbrow on 01489 572723

Council gives green light for strategic development plan

FAREHAM now has a new Local Plan (Core Strategy), which identifies the Borough's development needs up to 2026.

Nobody voted against when the plan was formally adopted by the Borough Council.

It will stop developers getting their hands on hundreds of acres between settlements in other parts of the Borough.

The plan took 4 years to develop, including extensive evaluation of needs and, for the last two years, widespread consultation with residents and interested parties.

It concluded with a public examination by a government inspector who found the strategy to be "sound".

The strategy includes the development of a new eco town north of Fareham with up to 7,500 new homes, proposals for the Daedelus and Coldeast sites and for employment and affordable homes.

It recognises the importance of a strategy for infrastructure and transport, the need for dispersal of retail locations, provision of public open space and to maintain strategic green buffers between areas of development.

Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, says adoption of the Core Strategy is a key point for Fareham as it helps the Council and residents to determine where future development will and will not happen.

Over the next two years more detailed Area Action Plans, Strategic Development Plans and Site Allocation Plans will be developed.

These will have widespread consultation, including the nearby communities of Knowle and Wickham, and will culminate with an examination in public in the spring of 2013.

In Touch

with our community

WHITELEY – SUMMER 2011

Fareham's plea to PM: 'Make unauthorised travellers' camps a crime'



Disgusting: Police deal with the invaders at Titchfield recreation ground and (above) what they left the Council to clear up.

THEY terrify residents, damage property, cost councils thousands of pounds to evict them and clear up the filth they leave behind.

And then they just move down the road and do it all over again.

But Fareham Borough Council, which has been plagued for years by travellers sticking two fingers up at the law, has had enough.

After more invasions of council land this summer, Council Leader Seán Woodward wrote to Prime Minister David Cameron calling for trespass to be made a criminal offence.

Councillor Woodward says the law as it stands is completely ineffective.

"The public find such invasions threatening and intimidating and feel unable to go about their normal business on public land, including children's playgrounds.

Cemetery desecrated

"We even had one recent incident where a cemetery was invaded with vans parked on graves to the huge distress of bereaved relatives.

"The Council is fully aware that a criminal offence is committed if an unauthorised encampment fails to leave when the Police use section 61 or 62 and local authorities use section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

"However, the criminal offence occurs only when this action is instigated and those occupying the land fail to comply with directions under the legislation, and not at the time when the land is invaded."

Using County Court procedures under Section 55 of the County Court Rules by taking 'squatters' proceedings to evict travellers has proved more effective.

The Council has been successful in evicting travellers from its land because all necessary procedures have been followed and welfare checks undertaken prior to any action being instigated.

The success is down to close co-operation between the Council's enforcement officers and solicitors and the County Council's gypsy liaison officer.

Criminal offence

The Council has previously written to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State, recommending that unauthorised encampments should be treated as a criminal offence, instead of a civil matter.

The Council resolved at its June meeting to write to the Prime Minister, with copies to Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Fareham MP Mark Hoban, after a further invasion of Council land by travellers.

Fareham is working with neighbouring councils to try to identify a suitable piece of land for a transit site that would enable the police to use their additional powers to move unauthorised encampments on.

However, temporary transit sites would not be able to accommodate some of the numbers involved.

Councillor Woodward questioned David Cameron and Eric Pickles directly on the matter at the recent Local Government Association conference.

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

WARD NEWS BRIEFS



Whiteley on-line

If you would like to get "on-line" with members of the community in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere to discuss issues about living in Whiteley, Hampshire or any other topics of interest then there is only one place to go.

Log on to Whiteley Community Forum at www.whiteleyforum.net

Grants available

County Councillor Seán Woodward has had £8,000 made available to him for grants to voluntary organisations in his Sarisbury Division, which includes Whiteley.

So far, he has made a grant of £1,000, which leaves £7,000 so if your organisation would benefit from a grant for equipment (not running costs or salaries), then please get in touch.

Annual dinner

Fareham Conservative Association's annual dinner will be at Solent Hotel, Whiteley on September 30.

The speaker will be Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Transport.

Tickets from Tina Ellis, Fareham Conservative Association, 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN; Tel 01329 822646; email conservatives@fareham.mai.l.co.uk

Land use change would wreck future job prospects

A BID by the developers of Solent Business Park to change the designation of employment land to housing must be resisted, says Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward.

Goodman, who bought Arlington – the original developers – some years ago, are trying to change the use of the employment land on Rookery Avenue to housing for 180 houses.

Phase 2 of Solent Business Park originally received planning consent in the 1990s, but Goodman failed to market the heavily wooded site, which has remained vacant.

It is scheduled to contain 250,000 square feet of employment floorspace for about 1,500 jobs; however, Goodman would sooner sell the land for housing.

Councillor Woodward stated: "The plan to change the designation of the land from employment to housing is contrary to the Fareham local plan which was adopted by Fareham Borough Council on August 4, 2011. "That plan clearly demonstrates where

housing, employment, etc will be built within the Borough.

"Fareham's element of Whiteley housing is nearing completion and no requirement was seen to allocate further land for housing development."

Solent 2 is an important employment site which will help create new jobs in the Borough over the next decade.

He added: "We have a new local plan. This site remains allocated for employment.

"What would be particularly unfortunate is that if the land were used for 180 houses, then an equivalent 180 houses which can currently send pupils to Whiteley Primary School would immediately fall outside the geography for successful applications. "One could literally pick home-by-home the people in streets off Sweethills Crescent who would automatically lose out if this development went ahead.

"I hope the change of use to residential, if it is applied for, will be resisted by the local planning authority."

Warning over plan to double size of Whiteley

A PLAN to double the size of Whiteley brought a stark warning from neighbouring Fareham.

"It is critical that the development is sustainable and provides the facilities that are required not only by the additional development, but also by the existing Whiteley which was never large enough to generate the required infrastructure."

The warning came from Fareham Borough Council's representative on the North Whiteley Forum, Councillor David Swanbrow.

A consortium of developers representing landowners north of Whiteley recently held a consultation at the Solent Hotel when they put forward their plans for doubling the size of Whiteley by extending it through Curbridge towards Botley.

Their plan is for the Winchester side of Whiteley. Fareham has no allocation of extra housing land in Whiteley.

The plans, which are backed by Winchester City Council, include 3,000 houses, plus completion of

Whiteley Way to the A3051 Botley Road to join at Curbridge near Fairthorne Manor.

There would also be primary schools and a secondary school.

In terms of the Fareham local plan, completion of Whiteley Way would open up Yew Tree Drive and Rookery Avenue to Botley Road at Swanwick.

Councillor Swanbrow said it was understandable that Winchester was trying to push development as far away from the city as possible.

"While the proposals provide many opportunities to improve Whiteley in terms of transport links and education, it is also important to have regard to the natural aspects of the land proposed for development.

"It is critical that as much of it as possible is made available as publicly accessible open space.

"Also, that Whiteley Way is provided at a very early stage with additional primary school places, firm plans for a secondary school and provision of a permanent church."

Yellow lines and lower speed limit proposals



THE SPEED limit in Rookery Avenue may be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

This is because it is now the main vehicular school drop-off and pick-up point.

Double yellow lines are proposed for the south side to prevent the madness of parking on both sides of the road in the morning, blocking two-way traffic.

Yellow lines will also be painted on the north side at the junction with Yew Tree Drive to prevent indiscriminate parkers ignoring the Highway Code and parking too close to the western arm of the junction.

The traffic regulation orders will be produced in partnership with Winchester City Council as the road straddles the district boundaries.

Cricket pavilion is refurbished

THE NEWLY refurbished cricket pavilion at Allotment Road recreation ground, Sarisbury was opened by Council Leader Seán Woodward.

He was joined by the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Leisure Councillor Connie Hockley and club chairman Steve Roberts.

Park Gate police station survives authority's closures

HAMPSHIRE Police Authority has no plans to close Park Gate or Fareham police stations.

It is reviewing its estates strategy which is likely to lead to closure or relocation of several police sta-

tions in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. As well as looking to rationalise front counter facilities in communities, it is necessary to save £100m across the police service in Hampshire over the next

few years.

It is committed to retain front line policing with officers on the streets, so everything else must be carefully examined to find more economical ways of providing it.

Developers agree to re-route vehicles

RESIDENTS living off Sweethills Crescent are concerned about construction traffic using the arm of the road which is not traffic calmed.

Longer standing residents will recall that the traffic calming cushions on Sweethills Crescent were paid for at our request by Persimmon Homes when they built the second phase of development off Dickens Drive.

They also agreed to route their contractors' vehicles this way and not to bring heavy vehicles onto Yew Tree Drive at school times. Following our intervention, David Wilson Homes, who are building the third and final phase of the development, have agreed to do the same.

Police are also carrying out speed traps on Sweethills Crescent and the Council will be using speed detection equipment to ascertain whether the Roads Policing Unit needs to become involved.

'Wasted decade' reminder as failed centre is bulldozed

FAILED Whiteley Village has closed for the last time and the 20-week demolition programme is due for completion in November.

It will leave the dust to settle on a decade of wasted retail opportunity.

Councillor Seán Woodward commented: "Hopefully, the replacement will contain all the shops that Whiteley needs as a community of 3,000 homes, something the factory outlet centre never provided which is a significant reason for its failure.

"The owners of the factory outlet centre refused to heed warnings before they built the doomed centre.

"Over a decade has been wasted during which Whiteley could have had a range of shops akin to the Locks Heath Shopping Centre which caters successfully for a much larger population than Whiteley.

"Instead, there were 50 units containing mostly factory seconds which, while offering bargains, never provided the goods required by local residents for a weekly shop.

"There are those that would question why the extreme measure of demolition was necessary when simply replacing tenants as they left, which they did frequently, with more traditional shops may well have solved the problem.

"Instead, the owners are attempting

Developers ignored the warnings



to build a new shopping centre vastly larger than Whiteley requires, presumably to try through another route to bring large numbers of shoppers into Whiteley by trying to compete with Fareham, Portsmouth and Southampton."

Demolition works are designed to leave the building nearest residents intact to screen them from the works for as long as possible.

Tesco and its car park will remain open and there will be a pedestrian path through from the Meadowside through to Tesco.

The Meadowside Leisure Centre will remain open throughout the works while Frankie & Benny's will stay open for business until November.

After November 2011, construction of the new centre will start and there will be two years with no shops in Whiteley Village, except for Tesco.

Fortunately, Gull Coppice remains with Whiteley's only convenience store, Post Office, off licence etc.

Residents' views sought on hospital services

A RESIDENTS' survey will be carried out by the Council in the autumn and one of the questions will relate to possible extra services at the new Fareham Community Hospital in Sarisbury.

Residents are being asked to prioritise the services they would most like to see developed in the hospital, either in the existing building or in an extension for which land has been set aside by Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We are working closely with the Friends of Fareham Community Hospital to ensure that the consultation is as wide as possible."

Seán Woodward, who campaigned for many years to bring about the new hospital, added:

"There has been a desire in Fareham for a minor injury treatment centre such as that at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

"I am sure residents will come up with ideas for new services and we and the PCT look forward to hearing their views. We will then campaign to make them a reality."

Green Flag flies above Holly Hill Park for 4th successive year

HOLLY HILL Woodland Park at Sarisbury has retained its prestigious Green Flag Award for the fourth year running.

The accolade sets a national standard showing that the park is well managed and maintained

and provides an excellent community facility.

Councillor Seán Woodward said a big 'thank you' was owed to the Council's grounds maintenance staff and volunteers who help them.



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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YOUR voice in Westminster

by MARK HOBAN

MP for Fareham



Contact Mark on 01 329 233573 or www.markhoban.com

Making a difference

IN JUNE, I opened the new kitchens at the Fareham Community Church in West Street.

The church led by Dan Whitehead (right) makes a vital contribution to the local community.



It runs vibrant groups for toddlers and teenagers. Through 'Christians against Poverty UK', it also provides help to families in debt. It is one of a number of faith groups that are making a great contribution to the Big Society.

Take one small step

LOCAL businessman Andy Ward (centre) reached the finals of Barclays 'Take One Small Step' competition.



I met Andy with Dan Brogan, Barclays' Area Manager, to find out more about his business idea and how Barclays can help.

Sent to the PM

STUDENTS from Portchester Community School invited me to their school to talk about their campaign to improve education for young people in developing countries.

They believe that by doing this we can help grow their economies and their young people to provide for their families.

After the visit, I gave the students a namecheck in the House of Commons and forwarded their work on this campaign to David Cameron.

Children's heart services campaign



A BIG review of children's heart services could lead to the closure of the specialist unit in Southampton - the Ocean Ward.

Many anxious parents have written asking me to support their campaign to save the ward.

I'm backing their campaign and have taken this up with the Department for Health, pointing out the ward's excellent record and calling for it to be saved.

I went to No 10 Downing Street with a group of campaigners to deliver a petition backing the campaign signed by over 230,000 local people.

Cheques saved

MANY local residents were concerned about the potential abolition of cheques by our banks.

As a Treasury Minister, I was able to intervene and tell the banks that the Government opposed this.

Thanks to this intervention and those by businesses and other users, the banks abandoned their plan.

Fareham's countdown to the Olympics

THE Council hosted a free event to mark the start of the countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

It provided an opportunity for people to walk to various points around Fareham and take part in a range of activities.

To capture the mood of the Games, the Council, in partnership with local groups, has developed a programme.

It includes a range of cultural and sporting events and competitions that everyone can enjoy. It shows Fareham's intention to celebrate next year's Olympics in style.

For full details, call the Leisure and Community Team on 01329 236100 or visit the website www.fareham.gov.uk/fareham2012.

Mayor gets on his bike for gruelling charity ride around Isle of Wight

By Trevor Cartwright

FORTY CYCLISTS joined me for this Charity bike ride on Saturday, July 9 by riding 70 miles around the Isle of Wight.

It looks as though it will raise over £6,000 for my chosen charities – Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Toe in the Water and Warsash Wasps Sports & Football Club.

I am extremely grateful to all the cyclists who took part, for the generosity of their

sponsors, to all the helpers and to organisations in Fareham and the Isle of Wight who gave their support.

We had a brilliant day with a wonderful atmosphere and raised a fantastic amount of money.

It was quite a gruelling ride around the Isle of Wight – you are either going up or going down – and there are no flat bits in between, but everyone got round without any problems.



They're off! The Mayor leads the charge of the Bike Brigade.

One of the highlights for me was coming down one of the very steep hills on the south side of the island where I hit 34 mph and set off one of the 30mph repeater signs!

As a keen cyclist, I have been training since last Christmas and covered 900 miles which paid dividends for the ride.

I was joined by the Council's Chief Executive, Peter Grimwood, several other senior FBC officers,

fellow Councillor Nick Gregory and Mary Burrige, my sister-in-law and mother of Helen who has Cystic Fibrosis and completed the ride on her 62nd birthday!

The fastest rider was Bjorn Sprake from Warsash, who completed the course in an amazing 3hrs 59mins.

Two riders from Warsash who took part - Mike Ford and Pete Brown – will undertake an even longer sponsored bike ride when they set off from Warsash

on August 28 and head for the Med to cycle 730 miles to Beziers on the French Mediterranean.

They have kindly offered to donate all sponsor money raised to the Mayor's Charities. My grateful thanks to Mike and Pete.

•If you would like to support the Mayor's Charities, please send a donation to The Mayor of Fareham's Charities 2011/12 at The Mayor's Office, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7AZ.