



# In Touch

with our community

WHITELEY – 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 to harvest a fat crop of profits.

The 287 acres of farmland (pictured) provide the breathing space between Fareham town and Stubbington.

The owner has expressed an interest in developing it, but the Council could not stop him or others without the protection of a core strategy.

The result would be 3,480 houses and a maze of estate roads with the extra traffic causing chaos on Longfield Avenue, Rowans Way, Mays Lane and Peak Lane.

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**



**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](http://www.whiteleyforum.net)

**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.

**Cold calling**

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](mailto:nccz@hants.gov.uk) for details.

**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.

**Seán persuades First Bus to revise the timetables**

**REVISED bus timetables have resulted from consultations between Ward Councillor Seán Woodward and First Bus.**

Readers will remember that in the Last InTouch/Whiteley Matters, we asked what improvements residents would like to see to bus services.

Following the response, Councillor Woodward held a meeting before Christmas with the the company's marketing director, Matt Kitchin, to discuss the problems for bus users within Whiteley and further afield.

Several issues were raised and, following discussions, improvements resulted with a revised timetable from January 23.

Problems highlighted included the frequency of service, which is now

improved by running earlier and later.

A particular problem was for students attending South Downs College who could often miss a connecting bus in Fareham due to a tight timetable and that bus on occasion being full.

The changes we have successfully requested include an extra trip starting at the Solent Hotel at 07.30 and then running via Sweethills Crescent, the Yew Tree Drive bus gate, Swanwick Railway Station as far as Park Gate,

It then becomes No 80 to Fareham which in turn becomes the No 52 to South Downs College.

The old 07.45 from Sweethills Crescent to Fareham now operates five minutes earlier so that it is scheduled to arrive at Fareham Bus Station at 08.11.



**£3,500 for Speedwatch campaign**

**COUNTY Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured) 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 drivers to drive with respect through the village.

The campaign will be run in conjunction with police and volunteers who will note registration numbers of speeding traffic and pass them to the police to follow-up.

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

**Major town centre stores move closer to completion**

**DEBENHAMS have begun fitting out their new store in Fareham Shopping Centre.**

Work to complete the adjoining multi-storey car park has also started and both should be finished by the end of this summer.

The new Tesco store in Quay Street is scheduled to be finished by the end of this year or early in 2012, but will not be allowed to trade until the major improvements being carried out at their expense are completed to the Quay Street roundabout.

**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.



£1,000 grant helps youth club to reopen

**WHITELEY Youth Club was due to re-launch on March 4.**

It is based at Whiteley Community Centre Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm for youngsters aged 10-15.

Police Community Support Officers Linda Coyle and Tammi Cairley have been the prime movers in setting up the new club.

They received £1,000 from County Councillor Seán Woodward's grant budget to buy all new equipment.

The club will offer the chance to meet other local youngsters of the same age and enjoy learning new skills and activities.

Whiteley Community Association has allowed free use of the space.

Friday nights will be run by volunteers who have all had CRB checks and been properly trained.

More volunteers are needed and if you would like to get involved, contact Tammi or Linda at [linda.coyle@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:linda.coyle@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Councillor Woodward said: "One of the common complaints from youngsters is that they have nothing to do.

"Thanks to the work being put in by Linda and Tammi and their helpers that is simply not the case in Whiteley."

**Ineligible for transport, so Whiteley parents told: 'Walk your kids 8 miles to school'**

**FARCICAL rules over eligibility for transport mean some Whiteley parents may have to walk 8 miles a day to ensure their children get safely to school and back.**

Amazingly, the County Council's Regulatory Committee claimed it was safe for kids aged over 8 to walk unaccompanied to St John the Baptist C of E Controlled School at Titchfield Common.

It was the last straw for County Councillor Seán Woodward and the school governors.

They persuaded the committee to join them at 7.45am on the walk from the Sweethills Crescent area to St John's to demonstrate why the 2.1-mile route was unsafe for such young children to walk alone.

He highlighted the narrow pavements on Botley Road, dangers of crossing Botley Road and the A27 and the unpredictable traffic at the Hunts Pond Road/Church Road series of mini roundabouts.

The result? The committee ruled it was safe if parents walked their



kids to school and back!

Councillor Woodward said: "This means parents are expected to walk over 8 miles a day in all weathers to get their children to school, despite having been refused entry to Whiteley Primary School.

"This is even if their younger brothers or sisters are taken on the free minibuses. This situation is due to legislation requiring free transport to be provided only when a child of over 8 lives more than 3 miles from the school. For under-8s it is 2 miles.

"Now that the Council has ruled

it safe to accompany children, the accompanying parent will not arrive back home until 10am and will be setting off again at 2pm. It is impossible for them to hold down a full-time job.

"I am supporting the parents, for whom it would be impractical for employment or domestic reasons to spend 4 hours a day walking to and from school, to make a further appeal to Children's Services for free school travel."

When he learned the minibuses for the under-8s were taking the long route via the M27 junction to school, he requested transponders to be issued so they could use the Yew Tree Drive/Botley Road bus gate to significantly reduce the round trip.

•St John's currently has 25 Whiteley children unable to gain a place at Whiteley Primary School and this number will increase until a new primary school is provided in the Winchester City Council North of Whiteley development.

**Extra grit bins filled ready this time for a Whiteley white-out**



**THIS was the Christmas card scene in Sweethills Crescent during the December deep freeze.**

But Whiteley was better prepared to deal with the snow this time.

During similar weather in January 2010, we had

many requests for extra grit bins in Whiteley and Burridge.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Extra grit bins have been provided in Burridge Road, several roads off Sweethills Crescent and at Whiteley Surgery following a request from the practice manager."

He asked for the entire length of Rookery Avenue and the first 100 yards of Yew Tree Drive to be added to the County Council's top priority gritting run after the policy for these runs was changed to include schools with more than 500 pupils.

The bus gate from Yew Tree Drive to Botley Road is opened in the event of snow or significant incidents on the M27 at junction 9.

To check the access via CCTV cameras go to [www.romanse.org.uk/Whiteleycctv](http://www.romanse.org.uk/Whiteleycctv)

**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.

**WARD COUNCILLOR Sarisbury & Whiteley**



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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](http://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.

**•Contact Mark via his office:**  
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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](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)
- Click 'Most popular pages'
- Click 'Local Development Framework'
- Click 'Site Allocations'



**At risk:** If insufficient land was available for housing needs, even the Council's own land-holdings could come under pressure such as Bushy Land off Sweethills Crescent, Whiteley.

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.