



WHITELEY Matters

Autumn 2006

Council grant will cover half refurbishment costs

WHITELEY Community Association has welcomed a £12,500 grant from Fareham Borough Council.

The centre, opened in November 2001, has been heavily used, so refurbishment is needed, including redecorating several rooms, resealing the

main hall floor, replacing blinds and enhancing the garden. It is also planned to install air conditioning in one room.

Total cost is £25,000. The Community Association is seeking matching funding of £12,500 from the SITA Trust.

Police hunt for village vandals

A spate of vandalism at Gull Coppice during October left most of the ground floor windows of the LB Healthcare Physiotherapy Centre smashed, a broken window at SPAR and the BT phone box on Yew Tree Drive trashed.

Police said a small 'life' hammer used for smashing car windows in an emergency was found in the car park and probably caused the damage.

A week later all the heris safety fencing around the new pre-school building under construction was pushed over, leaving the site dangerously exposed. Several litter bins were also ripped out of the ground.

Police are studying CCTV footage to try to identify the culprits. We have also suggested an extra CCTV camera should be provided to improve coverage at Gull Coppice.

Ideas to spend cash bonanza

Several ideas are being investigated to spend the £575,000 Fareham Council received for sale of the Whiteley Surgery land.

One is a high quality children's playground.

Another is to involve children in design and making of tree sculptures along the lines of those on the approach to Tesco at Bursledon.

Dead turkey oaks could be used in Whiteley for a similar project.

Taxpayers fork out £50,000 to explore school site alternative

EVALUATION of an alternative site for Whiteley's new primary school is to cost taxpayers £50,000.

It's the price of a two-month feasibility study and geotechnical survey to be carried out on a site north of Whiteley known as the 'Bunney' land to see if it is suitable for a one-form entry Church of England primary school.

Winchester City Council decided in July not to release land at the County Council preferred Meadowside site to the education authority for the new 210-place voluntary aided school. A reason given in the minutes was the existence of another site.

County Council Leader Ken Thornber agreed to requests for the survey from Fareham MP Mark Hoban and County Councillor Seán Woodward. But the area selected for the survey is in countryside not allocated for development and the County Council says it is too remote to serve Whiteley's population effectively. The earliest the land could be allocated for development is 2008 in the South-East Plan currently under debate.

Roads and other infrastructure would have to be provided at extra cost above the £4m government grant to the Portsmouth Church of England Diocese and £1.5m from Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Woodward, who persuaded the County Council last year to provide the school, said: "Councillor Thornber has made a wise decision which demonstrates the County Council's commit-



Meadowside recreation ground: Rejected by Winchester City Council and Whiteley Parish Council for the new Church of England primary school.

ment to providing a second primary school to serve Whiteley's children so they do not need to travel large distances to schools outside the area.

"It is important the other site is properly assessed and, if shown to be unsuitable, that Winchester City Council reconsiders Meadowside."

A campaign group, Whiteley Action for Children's Education, (www.whiteleyace.org.uk) is collecting letters from residents requesting the City Council to review its decision.

If Meadowside was rejected again it was unlikely Whiteley would get a new permanent primary school until the settlement expanded northwards after 2010.

However, if the study proved the school could be built on the 'Bunney' land within budget and timescale, Councillor Woodward would fully support it and encourage the County Council to do the same.

He added: "My priority is to achieve a new primary school in Whiteley which can open, at least in temporary accommodation, by September 2007."

'Bums on seats' takes on a new meaning for kids



Finishing touches have been put to Whiteley Square at Gull Coppice by the installation of sculpture benches known as 'leaf seat and acorn cup seat' and 'seed and leaf seat'.

They are already attracting crowds of children wanting to try them for size.

A high quality day and night CCTV system has been installed to protect the seats and other features.

Litter problems

DESPITE many litter bins on main roads in Whiteley, litter is becoming an increasing problem, particularly in school times on routes to school.

If you have any suggestions for new bins on highway land (not greenways as the emptying vehicle has to reach them), please let us know.



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Easing the squeeze and saving the door mirrors

ROAD widening will be carried out on Rookery Avenue between the Solent Hotel and Whiteley Way to ease the squeeze and cut the queue length.

This will involve removing some of the grass verge in front of the Solent Hotel to allow a widening of the road such that two lanes are created and marked between the hotel roundabout and the Whiteley Way roundabout.

Initially the left lane will be dedicated to turning left onto Whiteley Way and straight over onto Parkway with the right lane for turning right onto Whiteley Way towards the motorway.

However, engineers are looking at the safety issues involved in possibly marking the left lane for right turns as well, thereby easing the queuing considerably in the morning peak time.

County Councillor Seán Woodward, who asked the County Council to make the changes, said: "It really is a squash in the mornings when people attempt to use both lanes to exit Rookery Avenue onto Whiteley Way .

"I really hope that this improvement will lead to fewer people feeling squashed and fewer damaged door mirrors!"

Official opening of skatepark



WHITELEY'S new skatepark at Meadowside Recreation Ground (above) was due to be officially opened on October 28.

The project is a partnership between Fareham and Winchester Councils, with Fareham paying the £46,000 cost and Winchester providing the land and ongoing maintenance.

The Mayors of Fareham and Winchester, Councillors John Bryant and Sue Nemes, were attending. Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward commented:

"This new facility has had a very chequered history in the years since some of Whiteley's then young children arrived on my doorstep to present me with a petition asking for a skatepark in Whiteley.

"I am delighted that we have been able to provide this much needed facility in partnership with Winchester City Council. I hope that the young people will use it and look after it."

Developers may face action for planning consent breach



Road to nowhere: This is where the gate should have been built to allow buses and emergency vehicles through to Botley Road.

DEVELOPERS face legal action unless they comply with a planning conditions at the site where they are building 250 homes at Whiteley.

Persimmon were told by the Secretary of State when he gave consent for the homes off Dickens Drive that they must provide a roundabout and bus gate before the houses were occupied.

But the 50th house is about to be sold and Persimmon have not fulfilled the planning condition.

The road should open for buses and emergencies in accordance with the Fareham Borough Local Plan.

School buses and those running to businesses on Solent Business Park will also use the route, which will help ease congestion at junction 9 and Segensworth Roundabout.

The developers and Hampshire County Council are sharing the £500,000 cost.

Councillors Seán Woodward and David Swanbrow have demanded a meeting with Persimmon and the Highway Authority to get the project under way.

"I have urged officers to investigate the serving of a breach of condition notice on Persimmon which could involve significant sanctions being taken against them if they do not comply with the condition.

"This could lead to them being unable to sell any more houses until the roundabout is provided. It is nearly two years since the roundabout received planning consent which has been ample time to sort out the technical issues," said Councillor Woodward.

Better cycle and foot access to Whiteley shops

THERE IS a proposal to improve pedestrian and cycle access to the Whiteley Shopping Village from the working areas east of Whiteley Way.

A feasibility study for this scheme has been completed and it has been entered into the Capital Programme for delivery in the 2006/07 financial year. Work is now progressing with the detailed design.

It has been developed through early consultation with the Cyclists' Touring Club, the British Horse Society, the management of the Whiteley

Shopping Village and the Hampshire County Council Safety Engineering team.

The design comprises a Toucan type controlled crossing on Whiteley Way with new footway links on the west side of Whiteley Way from the crossing, around the periphery of the roundabout, across Marjoram Way and into the shopping village access road.

There is an equestrian crossing to work around and it was decided after consultation that the best route was around the back of the equestrian crossing.

There is currently a cycle route (in tandem with the bridle way until just before Whiteley Way) that crosses Whiteley Way on the splitter island of the roundabout.

It is intended to remove this cycle crossing, due to perceived safety issues of crossing so close to the roundabout.

The cycle route would be diverted along Whiteley way to use the new Toucan crossing.