



WHITELEY Matters

Spring 2007

Whiteley to get £3.3m transport improvements

THE County Council is spending £3.3m on transport improvements to benefit Whiteley, including:

- Swanwick station: Better passenger information, cycle storage, access to the ticket office, CCTV, footbridge handrails – £50,000
- Whiteley Way: Toucan crossing south

- of Marjoram Way including local cycle and footway connections – £145,000
- Witherbed Lane: Link road and Segensworth Roundabout improvement to traffic management – £2.4m
- Yew Tree Drive: Bus link – £500,000
- Whiteley to Swanwick station: Better cycleways – £220,000

Work is underway on restricted Whiteley link to A3051

BUILDING of a £500,000 link road between Yew Tree Drive and the A3051 Botley Road at Whiteley is starting, having been delayed after the developer demanded more concessions.

Persimmon, who are building off Dickens Drive, were supposed to construct a roundabout and rising bollards to allow buses and emergency vehicles access to the link once they had sold the first 50 houses.

The condition was about to be breached and Persimmon then upped the stakes by applying to raise the trigger point to 150 houses, which Fareham later reduced to 130.

Fareham planners imposed a bonding arrangement to ensure completion of the link once started and a legal agreement was imposed to start it within a set timescale.

County and Borough Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Persimmon claimed at the time of their application to revise the timescale that the link will be functioning during July 2007, although others are not convinced, especially as the initial estimate of a build programme is 25 weeks. We will continue to press them for a definitive programme more in keeping with their original assurances.

"I will be looking to the bus companies for significantly improved services and welcome the opportunities this development will give employers on Solent Business Park to implement green travel plans and provide bus links to Swanwick Station thereby reducing the numbers of cars entering Whiteley.

"Use can be made of the link for school buses for those children educated outside Whiteley, again cutting congestion and journey times. The bus link will provide a time-saving incentive for those willing to use public transport as the round trip by car from one

side of the link to the other is nearly seven miles whereas the buses will do it in seconds."

A traffic regulation order will restrict access to buses, emergency vehicles and cyclists, although the police will be able to override the order in such cases as the M27 being blocked at J9. It will be the only link between Whiteley and Botley Road until completion of Whiteley Way between the M27 and the A3051 north of Curbridge.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, said the 'buses only' order was to protect Whiteley and Burridge residents and prevent the link being used as a rat run.

"The Fareham Borough Local Plan requires that only when Whiteley Way is completed to the A3051 north of Curbridge can Yew Tree Drive or Rookery Avenue be opened to all vehicles.

"I am pleased although a little surprised that no-one objected to the order as I was led to believe there were some residents of Whiteley who wished the road to be opened to all vehicles and would therefore object to the order being 'buses only'."



Buses only lane: It will soon be transformed into a restricted link to Botley Road. Inset: an example of rising bollards.



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

New path

Whiteley is to gain a new footpath link to Burridge for which it has waited many years.

The footpath from Sweethills Crescent is to be linked through to Caigers Green, Botley Road, Burridge in the next few weeks.

It will provide a safe route, particularly for residents in the newer part of Whiteley through to Burridge Community Centre, Post Office and sports fields

Sacks appeal

Do you have your three green garden waste sacks?

A Gardeners' Fair will be held in West Street precinct on Saturday, June 9, when recycling volunteers will have a stall and provide information.

Extra green sacks will be available for collection.

New maps will provide a benchmark for sculptures

FAREHAM Council, in partnership with Winchester City Council, was instrumental in commissioning a sculptor to produce a series of benches and other features in Whiteley during 2001.

Maps were produced showing the footpaths and greenways in Whiteley with the location of the bench and other sculptures.

The maps are being updated

and it is hoped that newer versions will shortly be available for display in the noticeboards.

The Council is shortly to commission a series of new benches for Whiteley to replace some that have been lost due to vandalism and to add new interest to the area.

Locations are still to be decided, but are likely to include some of the newer residential areas which

did not benefit from any of the earlier works.



Carved: A chaise longue in wood.



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£4m funding is lost as city councillors reject Whiteley school plan

A GENERATION of Whiteley children will be denied education within their community after Winchester City Council again refused to transfer a vital piece of land at Meadowside Recreation Ground.

City councillors ruled out allowing construction of the 210-place primary school and church, despite protest letters from over 1,300 residents collected by Whiteley Action for Children's Education.

It means the £4m offered to Portsmouth Diocese towards building the church-aided school is lost as there is no other viable site in terms of timescale or cost and Whiteley children unable to get places at the present primary school must go elsewhere.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am disappointed with the decision but accept that this is now the end of the road for a new primary school for Whiteley, probably for at least five years.

"The next best hope will be if developers get permission to build another 3,000 homes on land North of Whiteley which will require primary schools and a secondary school to serve the area.

"The school is not likely to be built before a large number of houses to fund it during which time the shortage of school places is likely to become even more acute.

"By the time a new school is built sadly a whole primary school generation will have missed out on the chance to be educated within their community."

Meanwhile, Hampshire County Council is doing what it can to help Whiteley children by using a £1.4m spending approval, most likely on schools to which most children excluded from Whiteley attend.

Councillor Woodward asked the education authority to look at options including shared catchment areas between those schools and Whiteley.

Another issue is the future of Whiteley Church whose congregation will have to decide what to do without the possibility of a Church Centre in the new Church school.

The thriving group meets in Whiteley Community Centre but has long dreamed of and fund-raised for a home of their own. The Church still controls a site near the Whiteley Village factory outlet (pictured below).



Road, parking improvements are implemented at Gull Coppice

ADVANTAGE was taken of the Easter holidays to bring in Graham Moyle Contractors to complete the road surfacing, build-outs, signing etc at Gull Coppice.

The road is officially a one-way system with a 20mph speed limit because there are well over 700 children in the area on most days as well as patients visiting the NHS dentists and physiotherapy centre, community centre users, shoppers etc.

The community centre and school car park have now been marked with IN nearest the school and OUT nearest the community centre to improve circulation.

Owners of all of the private land used for car parking at Gull Coppice have been approached to request that they allow Fareham Borough Council to adopt and enforce parking restrictions which will limit the length of stay and, importantly, issue £60 penalties to inconsiderate motorists who use disabled parking bays when they do not

have a blue badge. Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I receive many complaints from blue badge holders, including those with children, who are fed up with the inconvenience of having their bays taken up by able bodied motorists and the abuse they get if they point out their problem to the culprits.

"Fareham Borough Council has now taken over parking enforcement from the police who only had two traffic wardens for the whole Borough.

The Council employs 15 parking attendants so the chances of being prosecuted are far higher for the minority who break the rules."

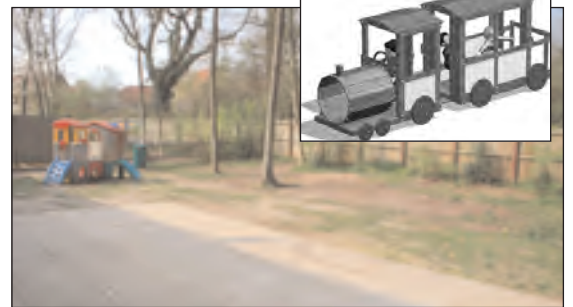


Everything in the garden will be even lovelier thanks to pre-school's ideas

THE successful bid to Fareham Borough Council by Whiteley Community Association for funding for improvements, including a makeover of the rear garden, was reported earlier.

Just as the contract for the garden landscaping was about to be let, Whiteley Pre-School approached Councillor Seán Woodward to ask whether it would be possible to re-think the garden improvements to include some good quality items of permanent play equipment for use by the pre-schools and all hirers of the building.

Meetings with representatives of the pre-schools and the Community Association identified £10,000 worth of suitable equipment, including a locomotive, safety surfacing and



Garden paradise: A train like the one inset will be among the exciting features kiddies will enjoy.

hard surfacing marked out for games.

So it's back to the drawing board with a new funding application which aims to get the garden ready for the autumn term.

Councillor Woodward said: "I applaud Whiteley Pre-School for coming forward with these ideas which will benefit not just themselves but the wider community."

The scheme will now have to be revamped

quickly if funding is agreed as it could take two months to order the equipment.

The Community Association has benefited from grants from Fareham Council and SITA Trust for £25,000 worth of improvements which will be carried out later this year.