



WHITELEY Matters

Spring 2008

£4,000 grant completes community centre work

County Councillor Seán Woodward has made a £4,000 grant to Whiteley Community Association.

This will enable the application of coloured transfers to the rear playground used by the pre-schools and the installation of paving at the front of

the building.

It completes a £40,000 improvement scheme at the centre which has been redecorated and the rear garden which was unusable in the winter is now available year-round for hirers which mainly comprise children's groups.



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

Crossing promised

We had received complaints from some residents about the lack of a paved crossing point in Yew Tree Drive near the doctors' surgery.

This was quickly remedied with a pavement extension and dropped kerbs.

Bumpy, bump

Final plans for a traffic calming scheme for Sweethills Crescent show a series of 6 speed cushions on the western arm of the road.

Residents were consulted two years ago and, subject to public comments received in the latest round of consultation, it should be ready later this year.

It is intended to slow vehicles on the road past Sweethills Park as this is the heavy goods route to the development off Dickens Drive now under construction.

Shopping centre that 'utterly failed Whiteley people' to be bulldozed

Owners pay price for ignoring council leader's warning



A STRUGGLING shopping centre is to be bulldozed to make way for a new £100m development.

Whiteley Village shopping centre was unveiled amid great fanfare, and at a cost of £60m just nine years ago, but now the owners are planning to bulldoze it.

It sparked sharp reaction from Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward: "They should have listened to me before they laid a brick."

Landowner the Whiteley Co-Ownership submitted a report to Winchester City Council to flag up potential problems for its plans at an early stage, ahead of submitting a full planning application, despite promising it months ago.

The report, compiled by planning consultants Terence O'Rourke, explains how Whiteley Village 'has not succeeded commercially', so it will be demolished to make way for a town centre for Whiteley.

The existing 24,500 square metre outlet centre will be scrapped and replaced by a new 27,000 square metre district centre including shops, restaurants, a crèche, community rooms, meeting rooms, an 80 bed hotel, offices and 250 houses.

The report looks at the potential envi-

ronmental impact and, despite running to 27 pages, gives little detail.

Councillor Woodward, who represents Whiteley, said: "It was never going to work. It has utterly failed the people of Whiteley by not providing locally needed shops with basic amenities such as convenience store, post office, off-licence, takeaways, hairdressers, etc. We had to provide all of that by developing a local centre at Gull Coppice.

"If they go for the right mix of shops, this will be much better, but I question the need for the hotel, offices and yet more housing.

"Perhaps they should use that element to provide a new primary school for Whiteley which was another missed opportunity.

"It failed commercially by providing facilities few people from outside Whiteley chose to visit either.

"We look forward to the new start, provided it gives Whiteley what it needs – a district shopping centre more akin to what has been enjoyed by the residents of Locks Heath."

Disabled parking bay crackdown

WATCH OUT! A crackdown on selfish drivers who park in disabled spaces will be taking place in Whiteley.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, has agreed a traffic regulation order which will give the power to Fareham parking enforcement officers to police the disabled bays in Gull Coppice.

The bays will now be appropriately painted, signed and enforced by the Council with fines being issued to vehicles parking in them not displaying a blue disabled badge.

The bays affected are in the shopping parade, Whiteley Community Centre and LBhealthcare/Kiddi Caru car parks.

Councillor Swanbrow said: "This is a

This will cost you a hefty fine



first for Fareham Borough Council to enforce parking on private property and it is something I want to see rolled out to other car parks on private land where disabled bays are constantly infringed by thoughtless and irresponsible motorists.

"Clearly these people have no regard for those with disabilities who find walking even a few paces difficult and need to be dropped as near to facilities as possible."

Surveys aim at Whiteley access issues

FAREHAM Council is co-operating with the County Council to survey residents over issues affecting access to Whiteley.

The survey will be distributed to all residents likely to be affected by any plans to change current arrangements.

Swanwick, Burrigge and Park Gate residents will also be consulted as anything affecting traffic on Botley Road would also affect them.

Winchester City Council will conduct a similar survey on its side of Whiteley.



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Fareham MP opens Whiteley's state-of-the-art doctors' surgery



FAREHAM MP Mark Hoban, pictured with Dr Richard Roope and practice manager Diane Heffer at the official opening of the state-of-the-art Yew Tree Surgery in Whiteley.

The doctors spent many years operating out of portacabins and now provide their service from a purpose built surgery with attached pharmacy.

The land was sold to the doctors by Fareham Borough Council to enable them to achieve their dream of a permanent practice in Whiteley after other options fell through including the originally-designated site in Whiteley Village.

Developers could have provided new school site and avoided on-going reception places crisis

RECEPTION applications to Whiteley Primary School from Whiteley families have again hugely exceeded the number of places available.

Thirty four children were refused places out of the 124 applications for September.

All of these children were considered for their next preference, but only 5 were successful and 29 did not receive their choice of school and have been allocated to St John the Baptist Primary School at Titchfield Common with the option of remaining on the waiting list for their preferred school.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "This is a continuation of the failure to offer school places in Whiteley for Whiteley families who desire them.

"All of these children who have not received their first or second preference school would have been accommodated in the proposed Church school adjacent to Whiteley Village had it been achieved.

"Now we hear the whole Whiteley Village facility is to be bulldozed, so it is not surprising there was no co-operation in achieving a new school there.

"The first preference was always for a site involving the Church site and adjacent land. Now we know why the landowners would not co-operate as they had far bigger fish to fry."

Building faults delay Whiteley bus link road

BUS SERVICES along the new Yew Tree Drive link to Botley Road have been delayed until May because the developers have not completed the job properly.

A site inspection revealed the scheme was not constructed in accordance with the approved design drawings, so it could not be accepted from the developer, Persimmon.

The company was given a list of defects, including some significant items to be corrected before the scheme could be accepted.

Many items were identified in a pre-opening stage safety audit, which has also not been completed satisfactorily. Given the time required for the developer to organise remedial action, it is anticipated that the opening of the bus link will have to be deferred to May.

Hampshire Conservative County Councillor for Whiteley Seán Woodward commented:

"The additional delay is frustrating for us all but I'm sure people will appreciate that given the issue of liability it is important to ensure that the scheme is completed to Hampshire County Council's satisfaction and is safe to use before it is accepted from the developer.

"Officers will continue to pursue the developer to satisfactorily conclude this scheme as soon as possible."

The bus operator has been informed and the initial bus service alteration deferred. Local businesses are also being told."

Councillor Woodward refuted claims

by some residents that the cost of the bus link was not worth the money.

"Sooner or later, Yew Tree Drive will be opened to all traffic, which means the roundabout and road needed to be constructed to the appropriate standard to be able to carry all vehicles."

The estimated cost of the scheme if the County Council had to acquire the land, prepare the design and procure the works to build the road link and roundabout was at least £800,000 plus the ongoing maintenance.

However, the scheme cost the County Council only £250,000 and the developer funded the land acquisition, design fees and commuted sum for maintenance, plus all construction costs above £250,000. The only extra cost to have the link for buses only is £67,000 for rising bollards.

Councillor Woodward added: "This scheme represents exceptionally good value for the council taxpayer as an £800,000 scheme has only cost us £250,000.

"When the decision is made to open the link to all traffic it would have been ridiculous to have then been scratching around to find the money to acquire the land, design the scheme and build the road and roundabout.

"Those who claim we have spent £500,000 unnecessarily on a bus link could not be more wrong."

It is proposed to introduce waiting restrictions on Yew Tree Drive near the doctor's surgery to ensure that parked vehicles do not obstruct the access to the bus link.

'Those who claim we've over-spent couldn't be more wrong'

Affordable homes help ease waiting list



BOROUGH Council Leader Seán Woodward officially opened 36 affordable homes built within the Persimmon Homes development in Whiteley.

The homes were provided by Swaythling Housing Society in partner-

ship with the Council. The mixture of flats and houses is being rented by borough residents.

Councillor Woodward said: "These homes have enabled us to provide much needed accommodation for Fareham people who were on our housing waiting list.

"Thanks to this development we are well on course to achieving our target for providing 100 affordable homes for the Borough for 2007/08.

•He is pictured with Swaythling Housing Society Director Ralph Facey and Chris Jenkinson.