



WHITELEY Matters

Summer 2006

IN BRIEF

Whiteley on-line

If you would like to exchange views with other Whiteley residents have a look and register at the new Whiteley Forum at <http://whiteleyforum.net>

Pitch battle

Fareham planners decided it was too costly to force developer Persimmon Homes to realign 3 roofs in Kipling Close and Keats Close.

Persimmon had agreed a roof pitch of 35 degrees, but all were angled incorrectly, despite much discussion at the early planning stages.

The Development Control Committee agreed there was no substantive reason to refuse a retrospective application and accepted the error made during construction.

Drain strain

Residents in Keats Close and Kipling Close had better luck with the issue of flooding in their gardens due to bad drainage from adjoining land.

Persimmon had built a French drain to alleviate the problem, but it didn't work.

After two residents made a deputation to the committee, Councillor David Swanbrow insisted the developer's request to keep the current land drain system should be refused.

Persimmon must now build a proper drain to solve the problem permanently.

Vandals cost taxpayers £700 to replace horse seat

THE HORSE seat, recently the subject of a consultation regarding its relocation, has been vandalised and left in a condition that was a risk to health and safety.

The seat has now been replaced at a cost of £700 to the council taxpayers.

It is sited on the Strawberry Track closer to Sweethills roundabout.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Sadly the bench is of standard construction rather than the unique horse shape which has been lost thanks to the rare low-lifes that roam Whiteley."

Money-squandering councillors sink Whiteley school chances

Their decision costs residents £5.5m in education grants

CHANCES of Whiteley getting an additional primary school and a church in time for September 2007 have been torpedoed by Winchester City Council.

Members refused the request by Hampshire County Council and the Diocese of Portsmouth to transfer a small area of land at the Meadowside Recreation Ground (replacing it with a similar sized piece off Leafy Lane plus an extra acre for the new school).

One reason why the Leafy Lane site was deemed unsuitable for the school is that there are no playing fields to go with it because the land is allocated as a residential site from which a part would have been removed to compensate for land at Meadowside.

The decision means children who have been refused access to the Primary School over the last two years will have to attend school outside Whiteley.

It came after a campaign of misinformation by the Whiteley (Winchester) Parish Council who expended a great deal of time, energy and council tax on its campaign to convince residents that an easily deliverable alternative site existed.

It does not.

And the PC's activities have cost the residents of Whiteley dear - £4 million of government investment in a new school, £1.5 million of County Council investment in education in Whiteley,



Wasted: Opportunity to build the new school at Meadowside Recreation Ground (above) has been lost.

a junior football pitch and refurbished sports pitches, extra recreation land at Leafy Lane and a new church.

Councillor Seán Woodward commented: "I am very saddened by this decision which seems such a wasted opportunity.

"The priority now is to ensure that the County Council commitment of £1.5 million to provide education for Whiteley children is spent wisely.

"This could well be to increase the Sarisbury Infant and Junior Schools to four forms of entry so that they accommodate an additional 210 pupils between them. Work would also be required to guarantee access to those schools for Whiteley children on the same basis as other children from the Sarisbury Ward."

'Campaign of misinformation by parish council' – councillor

CCTV cash bid success for new shopping centre



WHITELEY Community Association has been given funding by Fareham Community Safety Partnership for a state-of-the-art closed circuit television system in Gull Coppice.

It will cover the Community Centre, new shopping area and the 'circular square' which will then have its sculptures added.

This follows the opening of the remainder of the shops which now include a hairdresser's, fish and chip shop, Chinese takeaway, convenience store and post office.



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Compromise over masts

MOBILE PHONE giant O2 submitted an application and Hutchison 3G intends following suit to erect masts opposite each other in front of the new medical centre in Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley.

The 45 ft and 55 ft high masts were needed to improve the 3G service in Whiteley.

After receiving 40 objections, the company accepted there were alternative sites available and withdrew the application.

Councillor Seán Woodward persuaded company representatives to provide options for alternative sites, after which he met residents to gain support for a site out of the view of nearby dwellings.

The problem of mast applications is that operators enjoy the same statutory rights as all other public utilities and can place their plant in or on the public highway. They must obtain planning consent, but the council can only consider matters of aesthetics and siting, NOT health or property valuation concerns.

He said: "In this instance negotiation is the best option and I am pleased, with residents' help and support, to have suggested compromise sites away from housing which the operators are now investigating. A fresh consultation will be undertaken with residents following which the relevant planning authority will make a decision."

Whiteley facilities move apace



IMPROVED community facilities continue to be provided in Whiteley.

New doctors' and dental surgeries and pharmacy are now rising beside temporary buildings on Yew Tree Drive (above) following the grant of planning consent and sale of the land by Fareham Council.

Also under construction is the commercially run pre-school for over 100 children (below), which will complete the Gull Coppice local centre development.



All smiles to welcome new skateboard park



IT'S A DREAM come true. Whiteley's youngsters have their skatepark after years of frustration.

They had asked Councillor Seán Woodward several years earlier if the community could have a skatepark.

He sent them to collect as many names as possible of their friends who also wanted one and presented the list to Fareham Borough Council.

The Council agreed to fund five skateparks across the Borough, including Whiteley.

No suitable area could be found on the Fareham side of Whiteley, so discussions were held with Winchester City Council who agreed a site at the Meadowside Recreation Ground, provided Fareham paid the £46,000 cost. In July 2004, a meeting was held with youngsters to design the skatepark.

It should then have been plain sailing to get the contractor to install the skatepark.

However, in September 2004 Whiteley (Winchester) Parish Council vetoed the project after supporting it the previous year, but in March 2005 the PC U-turned again and agreed to support the project, having cost a year in its delivery.

Then, Hampshire County Council identified the site as a possible location for Whiteley's new primary school and the project was again put on hold.

Finally, Winchester City Council agreed and then refused to transfer the land to the County Council for the new school subject to conditions, including the County Council paying for relocating the skatepark if necessary. The park was then built and hopefully, by the time you read this, will be open for use.

Councillor Woodward said: "It has been a long road. I hope it will be respected by its users and will prove an asset to the community."

Equality on either side of divide

RESIDENTS often ask about the numbers of houses and people in Whiteley and the breakdown between the Fareham and Winchester sides.

After some research we can report that from the end of March there were 2,520 houses evenly divided between the Fareham and Winchester sides. There are currently under construction or with planning consent or site allocations a further 494, of which 354 are in Fareham and 140 in Winchester.

This will give a total number of 3,014 houses (1,614 in Fareham and 1,400 in Winchester).

Numbers of residents are also currently equal with just over 2,200 electors on each side, suggesting a total Whiteley population of around 8,000.

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