



# WHITELEY Matters

Summer 2008



## Phone box under threat from BT

**THE PAYPHONE** in Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley (pictured) faces the axe because BT says it is under-used and doesn't pay.

BT has invited residents to comment and to find out how, turn to the full story on Page 3 of the Sarisbury edition of *In Touch*.



### 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)

### Delay by inches

Network Rail has scotched plans for a shared cycle route between Whiteley and Swanwick Station because parapets on the railway bridges are just 8 inches too short.

NR refused to depart from its standard which states that parapets for a shared cycle way must be 1.4m (4ft 7in); those at the Swanwick bridges are 1.2m (3ft 11in) and it would cost £150,000 to raise them.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Given the high costs and the two-year rail possession timetable indicated by NR, I have taken the opportunity briefly to investigate an alternative design for the cycle route.

"This would entail a segregated rather than shared cycle route on Botley Road, keeping cyclists away from parapets to avoid the expense and delay of raising them."

# Whiteley bus link opens at last

**THE LONG-AWAITED Whiteley bus link, which was beset with delays due to builders Persimmon Homes taking an excessive time to construct it and correct defects, opened in June.**

Use is restricted to buses (school, public transport and local company) and emergency vehicles, but the link can be opened up in the event of any serious incident affecting other vehicular access to Whiteley.

The road is controlled by rising bollards and CCTV cameras and only authorised vehicles with a transponder will be able to use it. A cycleway and footpath have also been provided.

The £800,000 link cost Hampshire County Council only £250,000, with the land, fees and construction costs being borne by Persimmon Homes due to a legal agreement drawn up several years ago by Fareham Borough Council.

Hampshire County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "It is important that the link is capable of being used safely by all traffic as there would be severe criticism of the highway authority if, when the day comes to open the link to all traffic, the Council was scratching around for the money to convert a bus link to an all-vehicle link.

"It is important that First Bus and Hampshire County Council work closely to improve the current poor bus service to Whiteley as the round trip by car from one side of the link to the other is approaching seven miles."

The County Council and

Fareham Borough Council will be producing a Whiteley Access Plan which will be informed by a survey later this year.

That survey will include data from the ongoing SATURN study which will include origin and destination surveys on motorists driving in and around Whiteley so that likely traffic flows from various road opening options can be considered.

People responding to the survey will therefore be doing so from a position of knowledge about the likely impact of future highway decisions.

Councillor Woodward added: "It is only right that residents from Burridge, Park Gate and Swanwick should be consulted along with Whiteley residents as any decisions taken regarding access to Whiteley would affect them also."

The following businesses and schools have received licences and transponder units allowing them access:

- Zurich Insurance Company (10 Luckett's coaches).
- Airlynx Ltd operating for National Air Traffic Services (8 buses).
- Locks Heath Day Care Trust (2 buses).
- The Gregg School and St Winifred's School Trust (1 minibus).



**Opening day:** Seán Woodward boards the first bus to use the new Whiteley-Swanwick link road (above top).

The emergency services have access cards and training DVDs to enable them to use the bus link.

Councillor Woodward said the County Council would consider requests for licences from any public transport operator.

Possibilities include buses chartered by parents or schools to take children to schools outside Whiteley. Interest from other businesses on Solent Business Park is also being followed up.

## New recruits needed to help Rotary Club 'make a difference'

**THE ROTARY Club of Whiteley is looking for recruits to keep the club dynamic and successful and contribute to its activities.**

Formed in 2003, its 30 members are equally

divided between men and women, professional people living and /or working in and around Whiteley and Fareham who are keen to put something back into our community.

The ideals and concepts of Rotary International are such that we believe we can do far more for those in need of help locally and throughout the world – as part of the 'Rotary

community' – than we could do alone.

There are some membership requirements, but most important is the will and the ability to turn up, pitch in and make a difference.



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## Council acquires Whiteley woodland from developers for nature reserves

**SIX HECTARES of land are being acquired by Fareham Council for use as nature reserves.**

These two pieces of woodland in Whiteley that the Council currently manages have been leased from Pelham Homes.

The 15-year lease expires this summer, so with this in mind Pelham is undertaking a free transfer of the woodland areas in their ownership to the Council with each party bearing their own legal costs.

The cost of maintaining these sites will be about £2,500 per annum if the current 10-year management plan is implemented. These costs should reduce after 10 years.

The two areas to be acquired are 4.5 hectares (11.1 acres) beside the Strawberry Track and 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) between Mustang Avenue and Berber Close.

Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward said: "It is important if we are to maintain and preserve these nature reserves for posterity that they are vested in the ownership of Fareham Borough Council.

"They are a valuable resource for nature conservation and form an important gap between housing areas.

"Woodland forms an important and valued feature of this area of Whiteley and it is important to conserve some areas to which the public does not have general access.

## Cash ends garden 'mud wallow'



**COUNTY Councillor Seán Woodward presented a cheque to Whiteley Community Association for the completion of the Community Centre garden project.**

He said: "The garden is now transformed from a muddy, unusable mess to an area that can be used by all members of the community when they hire the centre."

He is pictured with treasurer Angela Irvine and chairman Alan Russ.



## There's no excuse – ignore these signs and you WILL get a ticket

**SELFISH motorists who had been getting away with parking in disabled bays got a shock when tickets were slapped on their windscreens.**

Patrols of the 9 disabled spaces at Gull Coppice have been taken on by Fareham Council enforcement officers.

The bays are clearly marked, so if you park there without a blue badge it will cost you a fine.

Residents can also blow the whistle on anybody who abuses the use of the bays, eg a fit driver using a disabled person's badge.

Call the Council on 01329-236100 following which the 12-strong enforcement team will



programme appropriate patrols into their daily schedules.

Councillor Seán Woodward said it had taken some time to progress this traffic regulation order due to the need to get the consent of all of the landowners involved.

Indiscriminate on-street parking at Gull Coppice, including at junctions and pavements, is a matter for the Police who have assured us that they will be targeting the area on

their regular Whiteley patrols.

Discussions are under way to reduce traffic congestion at Gull Coppice at school times.

One possibility is to create a new pedestrian access to Whiteley Primary School from Rookery Avenue, where parents will be able to walk their children into school, parking if necessary on Rookery Avenue or in the park-and-stroll facility made available by the Solent Hotel car park.

## End of the 'obscene profits' era for Whiteley builders as recession bites

**FRENETIC house building in Whiteley has been hit hard by the recession and is grinding to a halt.**

One of the main developers, Persimmon Homes, which earlier this month announced 2,000 job cuts nationwide, has almost ceased building there.

Councillor David Swanbrow said: "Their profits for the first six months of this year are down 30%.

"Work appears to have slowed down on their remaining Whiteley development. One wonders if work on this site will come to a halt or just continue at a very slow pace.

"Also, the Council may find it more difficult to get them to complete outstanding commitments such as tree planting.

"There is also a possibility that work on the remaining development in the Fareham part of Whiteley – land adjoining Whiteley Lane – will not be progressed this year."

Builders had "had it all their own way for years", reaping profits on an almost



**Still open:** Persimmon's Whiteley sales office, but where are all the punters?

obscene scale because they had been able to sell every house before it was completed.

This often caused problems for new owners because the builders were so wrapped up in building more new homes that they were reluctant to come back to fix problems on anything that they had just sold.

"New buyers may find that this continues but for a different reason. The builders just won't have the staff."

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