



InTouch

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – Winter 2020

Park Gate escapes with minor development in new draft plan

MIXED reactions followed publication of the new Fareham Draft Plan which will govern housing and commercial development across the Borough until 2037.

For Park Gate, there is some welcome news that sites like Addison Road will not be included, while in other areas like Beacon Bottom development may be permitted on allocated sites.

Councillor Ian Bastable said Park Gate and Priory Park had taken more than their fair share in recent years, including the Strawberry Fields – among others – and many residents had contacted him to express their concern about continued development in the ward.

He said: “Councillors have taken the view that development needs to be distributed to the sites that can best accommodate new housing.

“This has meant that the large area in Warsash (824 houses) is likely to be developed in the not too distant future and this will put more strain on the local services.

“For some the news is disappointing, but I feel that on balance this is good news and a well formulated plan that will deliver the much-needed new homes for future residents of Fareham.



John and Pam Barker are pleased that Addison Road area has mostly been spared development in the Draft Plan.



Councillor Simon Martin surveys the Beacon Bottom site where 29 houses are planned.

“All too often I meet residents who could benefit from better and lower priced housing.”

The Draft Plan received full Council agreement and was published for public consultation.

It covers from 2021 to 2037 and identifies development locations that will deliver a total of 8,389 houses and about 153,000 sq.m of employment space, and includes 4,858 houses at Welborne.

The plan and consultation comments will be submitted to the independent Planning Inspectorate, which will carry out a thorough review.

If it is found to be sound, it will be formally adopted by the Council; if not, the planners will have to take on board what should be done to make it pass muster.

But adoption of the plan does not give planning permission and each development application submitted will need individual scrutiny through the planning committee.

Full details can be found on the Borough Council's website.

Pandemic emergency budget rules out council tax rise

AN EMERGENCY mid-year budget to manage a predicted £1.1m shortfall caused by the Covid-19 pandemic was agreed by the Borough Council

Fortunately, years of careful attention to finances by the Conservative-run Council means the shortfall can be met from reserves without hiking up council tax.

But the hole in the budget will have to be plugged by charges for services such as coastal car parks and green waste

collection.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: “We have been prudent with our reserves for a number of years, so have a strong financial standing, but this will still have a very significant impact on what we can and cannot do for the rest of the year and for many years to come.”

Before the pandemic, the Council's medium-term financial strategy predicted a funding gap of £1.5m over four years.

Plans were in place to overcome the shortfall, but indications are that the pandemic will widen the gap considerably, putting Council services at significant risk.

A 16% council tax rise of £23 would cover the £1.1m funding gap, but has been dismissed as an option.

“Most residents are surprised the Council delivers all services for just £3 per week for the average home, almost the lowest in the country;” he added.



Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





Money for good causes

There is £8,000 available for good causes from County Councillor Seán Woodward's annual HCC budget.

He's been able to support dozens of community and sports groups and Community Speedwatch over the years.

He obtained what became the big yellow bus for young people's charity Y-Services which is often seen around the Borough giving support to youngsters.



If you live in Sarisbury, Burr ridge, Swanwick, Lower Swanwick, Park Gate, Priory Park or Whiteley, you can apply. Contact details are below.

Election pledges

Simon Martin will be the Conservative candidate in next May's postponed Borough Council elections.

He currently represents Park Gate Ward and is executive member for Streetscene.

He was committed to improving residents' wellbeing and representing their concerns, also the environment, supporting the community and fighting for funding for local projects.



VJ Day commemorated

The 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 on August 15 - VJ Day - was marked by hoisting the commemorative flag.

The ceremony on the control tower at Solent Airport was performed by the Mayor, Councillor Pamela Bryant and Council Leader Seán Woodward.



Like us on Facebook @ InTouchwith-ParkGateandPrioryPark

Green Flag award for Holly Hill park

TWO FAREHAM parks have been named as the best in the country after receiving prestigious Green Flag Awards.

Holly Hill Woodland Park received the recognition for the 13th successive year and the Sensory Garden in Fareham town was also recognised for the 11th year running.

They are among more than 2,000 sites across the country to collect the award for 2020.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, recognises well-managed parks and green spaces.

Executive Member for Streetscene Councillor Simon Martin said: "This award celebrates the dedication and hard



work that goes into maintaining the sites to such a high standard for residents and visitors to enjoy all year round. Congratulations to all involved."

and well done to all involved." Julie Osborne (pictured), of Rose Bank Close, said: "This my dream place to live being able to walk here."

Step off the gas or we'll book you

DRIVERS should think twice before putting the foot down in Park Gate Ward.

Community Speed Watch is back and offenders' registration numbers will be noted. Securing £3,500 from Councillor Seán Woodward's County Council grant scheme enabled the group to buy the equipment that monitors and records the speed of traffic, lat-



er adding details to a database.

Vehicle checks are undertaken by the police and letters sent to the registered

keepers advising them of their speed. Repeat offenders receive a police visit.

Botley Road, Barnes Lane, Brook Lane, Sweethills Crescent, Swanwick Lane, Yew Tree Drive and Barnbrook Road were approved for action.

Leisure centre upgrade despite second lockdown

HOLLY HILL will get a slice of a multi-million pound revamp for Fareham's two leisure centres.

That's the good news...The bad news is that both had to close for a month during the second lockdown.

Most of the spend will go to the Fareham centre for a major extension, but Holly Hill will get the large pool store converted into a sauna and steam room and the foyer will be improved.

Work was due to begin at Fareham centre this month and will take 12-14 months, with the Holly Hill improvements being done towards the end of that period.

It comes after Everyone Active presented a winning submission for a 10-

year contract to run both venues.

Executive members were impressed by the company's plans to invest in new facilities to help deliver more revenue.

Meanwhile, Park Gate Councillors Simon Martin and Ian Bastable visited Holly Hill in October to see how the popular centre, opened 4 years ago, was coping after the first lockdown closure.

Simon Martin said: "The second closure led to much frustration by users citing



the benefits of the local facility with mental health and wellbeing being a major factor.

"Charles Chipperfield, who provides coffee services in the car park (pictured), was also concerned on the knock-on effect of the closure on his business."

The first lockdown forced him to close, so he was hoping that this time round he would be permitted to

continue to operate his takeaway service and at least serve people using the park

and dog walkers.

Booking sessions at Holly Hill will have to wait until after the centre re-opens.

He said Everyone Active had been working hard to ensure the centre was operating safely and effectively during the Covid pandemic.

Simon Martin added: "However, we believe that sport and health should be available to everyone, even in a pandemic, so please let your councillors know how you are feeling with your leisure experience."

"As for Charles's coffee business, if you are out walking in the area please go and support him, his lattes are delicious and you can be assured of a nice welcome."

Lottery boost for community hub

GOOD NEWS for Priory Park Community Centre which has struggled to make ends meet during the Covid lockdown.

Since reopening, bookings have not approached previous levels, but the National Lottery came to the rescue with funding of almost £8,000.

It boosts Fareham Council's £10,000 grant that helped tide the centre over, but dance classes are operating at reduced levels to maintain social distancing and funding is still challenging.

Councillor Simon Martin, who sits on the Community Association Management Committee, said: "We all need to support our local centre which provides such a valuable resource to the community. The grants will help it survive."

"There are lots of excellent activities that residents can book into so just checkout their web site and find out more."

New school under way at last

IT'S BEEN a long struggle, but at last Whiteley's £12m new school is under construction.

Cornerstone Church of England (aided) Primary School will open for 630 pupils in September 2021.

On a blustery August afternoon, the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev Christopher Foster, conducted a short service of dedication at the foundations of the new school and chapel.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "This has been a long fight to get the school agreed for a suitable site and funding. It has also been a 30-year wait for Whiteley Church to finally get a perma-

nent home.

"I hope that the children of Whiteley enjoy a really enriching education in the new buildings and that the parishioners of Whiteley Church find inspiration in their new surroundings."

PHOTO (l to r): Seán Woodward, Bishop Christopher Foster, Meon Valley MP Flick Drummond and Councillor Roz Chadd, Hampshire's Executive Member for Education.



**COUNTY COUNCILLOR
Fareham Sarisbury**



Seán Woodward
8 Persian Drive
Whiteley PO15 7BJ
Tel: 01489 881030
email: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
Park Gate & Priory Park**



Ian Bastable
5 Blake Close
Whiteley
Fareham PO15 7LT
Tel: 074 4455 2194
email: ibastable@fareham.gov.uk



Simon Martin
230 Botley Road
Burr ridge
Southampton SO31 1BL
Tel: 01489 325805
email: smartin@fareham.gov.uk

COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Contact Simon Woodhams 07971 288993 or simon@sjwuk.com

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

Dedicated carers honoured with prestigious awards



TWO CARERS at The Fernes Care Home in Catisfield have won top awards for their dedication to patients.

Activities coordinator Rachel Anderson (pictured right) and deputy manager Emma Glanville were overwhelmed at being nominated by residents, their families and colleagues for South Region Barchester Care Awards.

Emma was voted Carer of the Year and Rachel won the Activities Coordinator of the Year Award.

Rachel, with 20 years' experience, said: "When the Covid-19 pandemic hit our country I felt that this social interaction was needed more than ever as our residents weren't able to see their families throughout this terrible time."

"We took the pandemic extremely seriously and took all the necessary precautions and are proud to say we are still Covid free."

"I enjoy doing person-centred activities and also activities that involve the whole home as I feel it's important to encourage social interaction."

Emma, who has been at The Fernes 4 years, said: "Residents have found it very difficult not seeing their families so we have all tried our best to make it a positive time, lots of phone calls and FaceTime calls have really helped keep the residents' spirits high, but we are also so proud to have kept the home Covid free."

"I have been so happy working here and love my role as a senior carer looking after all of the residents."



Billions more promised for 'second wave' support

Recent weeks have been challenging for all of us here in Fareham.

At the beginning of November the Prime Minister took the difficult decision to impose tougher restrictions throughout England to protect NHS capacity this winter and save lives.

As a member of his Cabinet, I know that this decision was not an easy one and very much a last resort given the scientific data and predictions of a 'second wave' possibly proving worse than the first one.

The Government has been clear that we will do whatever it takes to support you as the situation evolves.

That is why we extended the furlough scheme throughout November so that employees will receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

Business premises in Fareham forced to close have been able to receive grants worth up to £3000 per month and £1.1bn has been provided to local councils to enable them to support businesses locally.

CONTACT SUELLA

14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN
Tel: 01329 233573

Email: suella@suellabraverman.co.uk

Facebook: [fb.com/SuellaBraverman](https://www.facebook.com/SuellaBraverman)

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



I WAS honoured to welcome the Education Secretary to Fareham College to officially unveil both the new T-Level teaching facilities at the Bishopsfield Road campus and the College's new Civil Engineering Training Centre in Lee-on-the-Solent.

T-Levels are a new two-year qualification for 16 to 19-year-olds, designed in collaboration with employers and businesses to prepare students for work, further training or study.

A 45-day industry placement is at the heart of each course to help young people develop relevant experience in pursuit of their desired careers.

Matched by funding from the Department for Education, Fareham College invested £1m into the new facilities to



Suella is pictured with College Principal and CEO Andrew Kaye and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson visiting Fareham College.

support T-Level courses.

It includes a simulated nursery environment for the Education and Childcare T-Level, and a state-of-the-art IT suite fitted with high-end gaming computers and a 9-screen video wall to support the Digital Production, Design and Development course.

The newly revamped Civil Engineering Training Centre will also support the careers of the world's future construction and engineering experts.

While bolstered by national funding, the project reflects the accumulative efforts of a pioneering collaboration between employers – such as Blanchard Wells – and Fareham College, and will equip civil engineers with the skills necessary to fulfil an increasing demand for regional infrastructure and housing.

Green waste, coastal car parks charges to help plug hole in finances

YOU WILL have to pay for garden waste to be collected from 2022.

And if you do like to be beside the seaside you'll have to feed parking meters to do so.

The Council will impose charges to try to plug the hole in its finances caused by Covid-19 and loss of Government grants.

Until now, the Council has included green waste as part of its fortnightly bin emptying service.

It's used by 40% of households at an annual cost of £336,000, but two significant impacts have forced a rethink:

Enormous pressures on our finances with loss of Government grants and loss of income from coronavirus changes.

A recent Hampshire County Council decision to cease sharing material recycling income with borough councils from 2021, which could result in a loss of £400,000 income for Fareham.

The changes will be introduced in February 2022. Then, if you want your grass and hedge clippings collected, you will have to buy either a 140 or 240 litre wheelie bin, costing £16 or £17 in the first year.

On top of that, you'll have to pay an annual subscription charge of £50 or £60 for the Council to empty them.

Councillor Simon Martin said: "We are offering residents a quality service which is available by subscription.

"We will continue with a free Christmas tree service and we will be promoting home composting with a discounted home composter for green waste and food waste composters."

Coastal car parks at Hill Head, Portchester Castle Passage Lane and Shore Road, Warsash and Swanwick Shore may charge you to park.

It's proposed that drivers will have to pay £1 per hour up to a maximum of 6 hours between 10am and 6pm. A season ticket for £80 is proposed for regular users.

Interested parties have been notified and a 6-week public consultation begins in January.

Aggressive travellers terrorise residents and dump dangerous asbestos

TRAVELLERS terrorised residents after illegally camping near a children's play area at Priory Park.

When they took over another green space in Hunts Pond Road they left dangerous asbestos in a pile of waste.

The Council had to pay for specialists to remove the asbestos.

Several locals spoke to us, but were too frightened of retaliation to be photo-

graphed or give their names.

A Poppy Close resident said: "We have nothing against travellers and had they arrived and kept themselves to themselves it would not have been such a problem.

"But these people were highly anti-social, racing around the football pitch in cars and coming close to running children over. They were also rude and threatening to dog walkers and any passers-by."

Councillor Ian Bastable said the Borough Council took swift court action to evict the travellers and clean up their mess.

"The Council has begun implementing measures to prevent such a disrupting occurrence again," he said.

Several groups also set up camp three times around Lockwood Centre, where the Council has installed concrete blocks to keep them out.