



# InTouch

SARISBURY & WHITELEY – Winter 2020

## Joy as countryside homes are quashed by new Draft Plan

SARISBURY has escaped further major development in the new Fareham Draft Local Plan.

And two attempts by developers to inflict a total of 188 new homes on the area have been kicked out by the planning committee – to the delight of campaigning objectors.

Councillor Seán Woodward said the 150 homes proposed in the earlier Draft Plan for the Rookery Farm landfill site – with possible accesses onto Botley Road and Swanwick Lane – had been removed.

He said: “We are pleased to be able to report that in the latest draft Local Plan, the Council has removed the site along with sites for around 2,000 houses across the Borough.”

Nick Bird of Swanwick and Mary Leahy of Burr ridge said: “We are delighted that our Sarisbury Councillors have made the decision to remove this site from the draft Local Plan.

“We were very concerned about the extra traffic it would have created onto the already crowded Botley Road at Swanwick.”

Residents were also overjoyed that Fareham planners rejected an application for 38 houses in the countryside at Bur-



Nick Bird and Mary Leahy (centre) express their delight to Seán Woodward and InTouch team leader Joanne Bull over the Rookery Farm decision.

ridge.

There were 76 objections to building on the site on Botley Road.

The planning committee said the proposals were contrary to 11 different policies in the Local Plan.

Further reasons included its position in an unsustainable countryside location, adverse effect on the landscape and protected sites and lack of mitigation for disturbance of reptiles living there.

The proposed new Borough Plan for Fareham 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.

## 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.



**NEWS ROUND**



**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 managed to obtain 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, Burrige, Swanwick, Lower Swanwick, Park Gate, Priory Park or Whiteley, you can apply. Contact details are below.



**Longer interval**



Farewell Ferneham Hall...Hello Fareham Live. But he curtain won't rise with the new name after its £12m pound revamp until 2023. Councillors voted for a 6-month interval to review the situation in view of the financial effects of the Covid pandemic.

**Don't be taken in**

Fraudsters have been using Council plans to charge for garden waste collections to target vulnerable residents by asking them to pay up front now. InTouch team leader Joanne Bull warned: "The new scheme does not come into effect until 2022 when residents will be required to subscribe to the service if they wish. The Council won't contact residents directly. "Note phone numbers given to you and report to Action Fraud – www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime."

**Joanne joins school governors**

JOANNE BULL has joined the governors of Sarisbury C of E Junior School.

She said: "This exciting opportunity will allow me to support our younger generation and help shape their future."

"The school has an excellent board of governors and I feel privileged to be joining them in making contribu-



tions to grow and develop the school. "I'm keen to get started and look forward to getting involved in the school." Joanne, InTouch team leader, has lived in the area for over 30 years and has two children, one grown up, the other currently a Year 9 student at Brookfield.

**Another Green Flag award**

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.

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

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "This award celebrates the dedication and hard work that

goes into maintaining the sites to such a high standard, especially over challenging year. Congratulations and well done to all involved."

FLASHBACK: Former Councillor David Swanbrow, Seán Woodward and Councillor Connie Hockley, then Executive Member for Leisure, celebrate the first Green Flag win in 2007.



**Bishop's blessing for long-awaited Whiteley school**

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

Cornerstone Church of England (aided) Primary School will open its classrooms 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, who had long campaigned for extra school places in Whiteley, said: "I was pleased to be joined by Meon Valley MP Flick Drummond and Councillor Roz Chadd, HCC Executive Member for Education.



"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 permanent 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."

The County Council designed and is building the new school.

PHOTOS: (left) The Rev Philippa Mills, Tom Mills (Chairman of

Governors), Bishop Christopher Foster and Tim Clarke, headmaster. (right) Councillor Woodward, Bishop Foster, Flick Drummond MP and Councillor Roz Chadd.

**Sarisbury pauses to honour war dead**

COUNCILLOR Seán Woodward decided to hold an Armistice Day commemoration at Sarisbury War Memorial at 11am on 11th November.

He said "I am so grateful to Rev Philippa Mills from Whiteley Church for officiating at our first Armistice Day service which, considering the lockdown, went so well with many passers-by pausing to reflect for a few minutes.

"Andy Mellor from the Royal Marines' Association Concert Band gave a tremendous rendition of the Last Post and Reveille, rounded off with the National Anthem. We hope to repeat this ceremony annually."



**Skylar's 'virtual' entry is tops**

AVID Fareham gardeners didn't wilt under the Covid-19 pestilence.

Green fingers became keyboard nimble fingers as they desk-topped their entries in the prestigious South & South East England in Bloom competition.

They followed up with more entry went to 3-year-old Skylar Playle from Sarisbury Green, who's Bloom contest.



Judges never got a whiff of perfumes from the blossoms, but they marvelled at the megabytes of exhibits submitted in a virtual gardeners' world.

The Public Award for the best Kids' Corner entry went to 3-year-old Skylar Playle from Sarisbury Green, who's pictured here.

**Kids choose their play equipment**

CHILDREN were asked which pieces of new play equipment they would like to have in Burrige playground.

The play area is to be upgraded and parents were asked to go online by November 23 and get the younger generation to vote for their favourite pieces of new equipment.

Youngsters were asked to choose from a small toddler climbing unit, toddler playhouse, see-saw or springies.

Families were also able to comment about how else they would like to see the play area improved.

It is part of the Council's five-year improvement plan for play areas across the Borough and work is expected to begin in autumn 2021.

InTouch Team Leader Joanne Bull (pictured) said: "Play is such an important part of every child's life, which is why the Council encouraged everyone to get involved and say what equipment they'd like in the play area to improve it for everyone to enjoy."



**Speedwatch is back**



DRIVERS should think again before putting the foot down in Sarisbury Ward.

Community Speedwatch is back and offenders' registration numbers will be noted.

InTouch team leader Joanne Bull, who attended a course to familiarise with the equipment, said:

"Securing £3,500 from Councillor Seán Woodward's Hampshire County Council grant scheme enabled the group to buy the equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic and record the details, later adding them 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.

The following roads have been approved for action: Botley Road, Barnes Lane, Brook Lane, Sweet-hills Crescent, Swanwick Lane, Yew Tree Drive and Barnbrook Road.

Joanne added: "It's about sending a message out there to educate with subtle reminders to watch their speed. If you would like to get involved please get in touch."

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**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, why not join Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Call Joanne Bull on 07956 081 239 or email joanne.sarisbury@outlook.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.





### 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.

# 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 collabora-

tion 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

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 sup-

port 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.

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## Centres win major revamps, then forced to close



**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 started 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.

Councillor Seán Woodward 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 hoped 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.

## Green waste collection charges to meet Covid cash shortfall

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

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:

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

**2** 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 at a cost of £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.