



FAREHAM's Planning in Disarray

Fareham Council 'defeated' over Cranleigh Road Planning Application.

SCORES of greenfield sites throughout Fareham are threatened with unwanted development because of the Tory Council's incompetence.

This follows a Government inspector's decision to overrule the Council on a key planning application.

The inspector backed an appeal by Persimmon Homes (South Coast), and allowed them to build 120 houses on a greenfield site at **Cranleigh Road**, Portchester.

He argued that delays and muddle over the Welborne plan mean Fareham is years behind its targets for housing supply. The council is having to take legal advice about the decision and the legal costs involved.

What does this mean for Fareham?

Since his decision, developers have been queueing up to lodge similar applications, many in areas designated as strategic gaps in the Borough's Local Plan. They know full well that they are likely to be successful if they appeal in a similar way.

Why has this happened ?

It has happened because the Welborne plan is very late (at least 3 years). The Executive Leader will have you believe it is because Welborne developers have been dragging their feet.

We believe otherwise.

We believe it is because of the incompetence of the current council leadership which has:

- **Yielded to** the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH's) government driven, gross overestimate of the housing needs of **Fareham**.
- **Drawn up** an ill-prepared, immature Welborne plan.
- **Refused** to listen to Fareham Residents and many local groups and organisations who opposed Welborne.
- **Scrapped** the Welborne Standing Conference which called attention to the many shortcomings in the plan and stood up for local groups and residents.



This is the site on which Persimmon Homes want to build 120 homes.

Our Local Lib-Dem Vision

- We will work to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society.
- We commit to working with all parties to serve the residents of Fareham while promoting liberal and democratic policies and values in the borough.
- **On Housing:** We will promote the building of new homes, which actually serve local residents across all sectors of need, using Brownfield rather than Greenfield sites where possible.

Monthly Farmers' Market to Close

Readers will know from personal experience that sadly the number of traders at the monthly Farmers' Markets in the West Street pedestrian area, have



been declining over the last few years. Many members of the public have complained that there are so few traders and it is so poorly attended that it is not worth their while to visit the market. Despite inviting over 30 traders, only between 4 and 8 have been attending recently

The Council has therefore decided that after December 2017, Farmers Markets will be discontinued. Stallholders who still wish to trade in Fareham will be welcome to do so as part of the general Monday markets.

Your Local Lib Dem Councillors, Maryam and Katrina are disappointed that this decision has had to be made but consider it to be yet another case of "Use it, or Lose it".

Persistence Pays !

After persistent lobbying by **Maryam and Katrina**, along with other concerned residents in the Bath Lane area, the soggy, very muddy footpath along the shore at Deanes Park Road has been repaired.



In July, Hampshire Rangers, with a great deal of help from a number of local residents, dug drainage ditches and constructed a new compacted gravel pathway through the quagmire.



We are very grateful to Charlie and Nina Coxwell, seen here helping to move the huge amount of gravel, who spent two days of hard work helping to construct the new path.

Maryam & Katrina visited the completed path in August, to see that people can now enjoy a "dry" walk along this creekside path.

"Shady" Lane ?

A number of residents have contacted us, concerned about drug-dealing in the Town Centre. Others about litter, anti-social behaviour and the general untidiness of the town centre.



In particular, drug-dealing has been witnessed in and around the Westbury Road/ Path area. The overgrowing trees

and bushes along the path give cover for these nefarious activities.

People use these paths to walk to and from the town centre and, unfortunately, many also leave litter and other rubbish behind, making the area unsightly and very unwelcoming.

We encourage residents with properties backing on to these paths to help to improve the area by ensuring overgrowing trees are kept trimmed back.

We are taking this issue up with the council to see if more frequent cleaning might be possible.

Meanwhile, if you see drug dealing or antisocial behaviour, please report it by calling the **non-emergency number:**



101

Library Re-opened

Maryam & Katrina attended the re-opening of Fareham's public library on Osborn Road on 10th July.

The space has been extensively modernised and besides books, DVD's and CD's to borrow, the new Library boasts a range of technology offering learning opportunities, study booths, and a coffee shop.



The 'Makery' is an area offering IT, coding tools and equipment allowing visitors to design and create through robotics, software and VR.

The study pods allow for quiet studying and are supplied with USB charging points. There are two community spaces which can be booked for small meetings or events.

Good News at "Skippers"

The excellent "Skippers" fish & chip shop closed its doors for the last time a few years ago.

The building was demolished in anticipation of the start of building. The site has lain dishevelled and untidy ever since, an eyesore in the heart of Fareham Town.

Katrina has been probing on a monthly basis for an answer to when the proposed development would get underway but the developer has always had an excuse. Meanwhile the undergrowth became more and more dense and the rubbish piled up.

At LAST, there are signs of movement, a digger and dumper truck have appeared on site and the undergrowth has disappeared! Perhaps a start will be made soon to remove this unsightly blot on the Fareham landscape.

We are now told that work is unlikely to start before the New Year mainly because a water main must be diverted. This work is being programmed with the Highway Authority.

Watch this space ! Who knows, perhaps the old **County Court Building** will be next !!



Fareham Council Says....!?



A Council Press Release on 4 Sept 2017 stated, there **WILL** be a Health and Wellbeing 'Hub' for Welborne.

What does this really mean ?

It seems that Hampshire CCG Partnership CEO Maggie McIsaac and Chairman Dr David Chilvers met with Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward and CEO Peter Grimwood to "...begin planning health and wellbeing services...." for Welborne.

Words used in the Press Release indicate that:

- ...The CCG is committed to ensuring local people have a range of high quality, local health services...
- ...The way healthcare is being delivered is changing....
- ...a fantastic opportunity to work with FBC...
- ...to give future residents of Welborne the best possible health and wellbeing support.
- ...we have an agreed way ahead to work together over the life of the development.....

Maryam & Katrina say: "This means almost nothing !

- "There are no guarantees that GPs will be provided, especially in view of the government's signal failure to recruit or train enough doctors nationally.
- "Will the 'New Technology' simply mean that patients will not see a GP face to face?
- "How will this affect Fareham's older patients, many of whom may not feel at ease with new technology nor even necessarily have access to it?
- "Will funding be available, if so how, by whom and most importantly, when?
- "Will the proposed "hub" suffer, like Fareham Community 'Hospital', and be under-used and over-managed?
- "When did **Health Care** suddenly become '**Wellbeing Support**' and what does that really mean?
- "This press release is nothing more than a sop, to make us think everything is, just as in the theatre, *all smoke and mirrors but it will be all right on the night.*"

Westbury Manor is Open for Business



Westbury Manor Museum re-opened on Friday 21 July after a major refurbishment.

The project sought to make the manor into a "culture Stop" with the aim of encouraging people to visit both it and the town centre in general.

The ground floor houses the Reception desk, Shop, Resource room and a properly constituted, and licensed, café which stocks, amongst other items, wine from Titchfield.

The first floor is devoted to the history of Fareham, with an excellent Time Line covering the different periods of Fareham's history.

Opening hours are 10-5 Mon-Sat and 10-4 on Sundays. Entry is FREE. We think it is well worth a visit.

Friday Night Club - Lifestyles Catering.



Enjoy a 3 course lunch for just £5 at Wallington Village Hall at 12:15pm on the following dates:
Sept 27, Oct 18 & 25, Nov 15 & 29
Dec 20.

Contact Geoff Knipe - ☎07826 309186

✉ j.knipe123@btinternet.com

FNC is a Community Interest Group

Public Spaces Protection Orders

In our Spring FOCUS, we said we were pressing the council to budget for a further 9 hours of **outreach work in Fareham**. This effort failed when it was dismissed at a council meeting.

Whilst it is true that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) introduced in 2016, is resulting in fewer incidences of anti-social behaviour, including begging, in Fareham's town centre, the problem has simply transferred to Gosport where yet another PSPO is currently being devised.

Maryam says: "Where can these unfortunate people go next, Portsmouth, Southampton?"

Surely it is the remit of the local council to find accommodation for homeless people, not to simply hound them out of the borough to become somebody else's problem.



Don't Lose Your Vote! Are You REGISTERED?

You can register to vote online **at any time**, not just before elections. You can find out how to vote by proxy or post at:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

or by calling: ☎01329 824588

Only about 37% of those eligible to vote in Fareham actually voted at the last FBC election in May 2017.

Contact Your FOCUS Team Councillors



Councillor Maryam Brady

26 Gudge Heath Lane
Fareham, PO15 5AA

☎01329 236885



Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken to the Fareham Lib Dems



Councillor Katrina Trott

21 Furzehall Ave
Fareham, PO16 8UD

☎01329 310389

Or **Visit** us at our council surgery, in the newly refurbished Westbury Manor on the **first Saturday** of each month from 10:30 - 11:30.

Forthcoming dates: **7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec, 6 Jan 2018**

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