

Developers' share will cover only fraction of total cost

A GREENFIELD site could be needed to build 10,000 homes north of Fareham.

But this strategic development area (SDA) will not be started before 2016 as the government is unlikely to adopt the South East Plan before 2007.

It means the 3,729 new homes over the next 20 years in existing Fareham communities will be less than 50% of what the borough has suffered over the past 10 years.

However, Councillor Woodward said: "If economic growth reaches its target of 3.5% per year by 2016, the SDA need could even be diminished."

Every 1,000 new homes produce £10m in developers' contributions. It sounds a lot, but a secondary school costs £25m and two primary schools £7.5m each, so half the contributions would be spent before a doctors' surgery or road is built or a sewer laid.

He added: "Clearly, without external funding new development is unsustainable.

"The only sanction a planning authority has is to refuse to allocate the land, but this could always be overturned on appeal to...you've guessed it – John Prescott!"

Fareham hands Prescott a £3 billion shopping list



Pulling no punches: Seán Woodward spells out Fareham's demands to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tory leader tells him: 'No more Whiteleys without the cash first'

FAREHAM will not accept any of the 80,000 new homes earmarked for South Hampshire unless the Labour Government coughs up £3bn towards the infrastructure.

This was the no-nonsense message Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott took back to Whitehall after listening to a presentation by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward in Fareham in December.

"What is clear is that we cannot have any more Whiteleys where insufficient developers' contributions are available to provide the required infrastructure and the next 20 years are spent trying to catch up with council taxpayers funding the shortfalls.

"Government must put its money where its mouth is or we cannot accept extra housebuild-

ing," he told Mr Prescott.

It was revealed that up to 10,000 houses are planned on an as yet unidentified site north of the M27 and the borough would also have to find room for 3,729 more in existing communities over the next 20 years.

Councillor Woodward, chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), said the £3bn shopping list included infrastructure to make up the current deficit of which anyone travelling to work in rush hour was well aware, as well as likely needs over the next 20 years.

He said: "The requirement is not only for new roads, but also includes public transport, schools, medical care, water supplies, waste treatment and affordable housing.

"I pointed out to Mr Prescott that

South East England produces a net £18bn for the Treasury every year, so we are not after new money – just to keep some of what we are already generating."

He said there was a real need to regenerate Portsmouth and Southampton and to improve the economies of those cities, but they could not continue as a dumping ground for new housing without enough government investment.

Commenting on the meeting, Councillor Woodward said: "It was very positive but, of course, the proof will be when the necessary infrastructure funding arrives and not before."

Afterwards, he met South Hampshire's MPs and called on them to support PUSH's demands in Westminster.

"They have the list of the area's requirements and requested further meetings on the issue before the government completes its 2007 spending review."



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Lockwood market

A weekly market will be held in the Lockwood Centre car park on Thursdays, starting in February.

Councillor Mrs Ruth Godrich said there had been meetings over several months with Fareham Town Centre Manager and a market manager to find a suitable site for the market in the Western Wards.

"With the consent of the Centre Manager and the owners, it has been agreed that this weekly market can take place and we all feel that it will be a great success and benefit residents and traders."

Warsash branch

By the time this *In Touch* is issued, we will have held our AGM with the election of officers and committee.

Further social events have already been planned for 2006 which include a joint Warsash and Locks Heath skittles evening at The Croft, Stubbington on March 11 and a summer BBQ at Ferry House, Warsash on the June 10.

For information on these events, please contact the secretary, Mrs Ruth Cartwright, on 01489 578519.

Elections

Preparations are being made for the next Fareham Borough Council elections to be held in May. If you would like to become a member of the Association or help in any way, please contact Councillor Trevor Cartwright on 01489 578519.

Warsash village facelift awaits springtime final touch

FINAL stages of the improvements to Shore Road, Warsash by Hampshire County Council have nearly been completed.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said contractors had worked very closely with residents and there had been a positive spirit of co-operation.

The contractor was due to complete the improvements in early January, and with the exception of the final surfacing, this work will mostly take place off the road – thus minimising further inconvenience.

"Normally with this sort of scheme, the final surfacing would take place at the end of the work; unfortunately, because it is dependent upon the ground being both dry and warm,



Enhanced: New stonework has lifted the character of Shore Road.

it will not be possible to carry out this final element until the start of spring.

"I realise that this delay will

mean that patchy conditions in Upper Shore Road will be with us for a little longer," said Councillor Cartwright.

Mike sets example in 'keep the borough tidy' appeal

A LOCKS HEATH ward councillor has set an example in his appeal to people to take more pride in the borough.

Councillor Mike Godrich is asking residents to be more tidy and dispose of litter properly.

He said the Council had a regular programme of cleaning with the aim of creating a clean and tidy borough.

"In broad terms this aim is achieved, howev-

er there are patches which become unsightly due to litter being dropped haphazardly, often just after the routine clear-up has taken place.

"Clearly, it is not viable to return and clear up again so soon afterwards.

"I recently found two large black sacks of exparty rubbish—crackers, serviettes and takeaway containers, food dumped and spread

over verges on both sides of a road junction, so I went out early one morning and collected two bags of waste which did improve the appearance of the area.

"I am not asking anybody to do this, but I would ask you that perhaps in walking your dogs or going to and from the shops to pick up odd pieces of rubbish to improve and maintain pride in our borough."

Council sees the light under a dark bush

A SECTION of foot-path to the south of Lockwood Shopping Centre alongside Centre Way is subject of complaint by locals.

It passes under an archway of trees and is very dark at night.

Councillor Mike Godrich said the Council had listened to the complaints.

"We have now managed to get it included in the next programme for community lighting, and this work should be carried out soon," he said.

Judicial review drags Stone Pier issue into deeper water



THERE has been a new development in the Stone Pier saga.

The application to re-position the pontoons into deeper water was refused by Fareham planners because it was felt it would jeopardise ease of navigation in the secondary channel.

In December, the Council was served with papers for a judicial review on their decision.

"We are awaiting more detail and hope to have more news for the next issue of *In Touch*," said Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

Knotweed ties up link road to 2008 start date

ONE of the world's most invasive plants is holding up completion of the missing link in Fareham's Western Wards distributor road system.

Japanese knotweed is also one of the most difficult to get rid of and can cause serious allergies and infections such as conjunctivitis.

It has taken over the former Warsash Motors site, which was bought by the County Council to complete the link between Warsash Road and Dibles Road, and spread to other areas.

It means the site will have to be purged of the weed and it will now be two years before the road is open.

County Councillor Keith Evans reassured residents that the affected areas were being treated.

He said: "I am very disappointed at the news at this late stage of a further delay until the summer of 2008.

"This delay is caused by the 'sudden' discovery of Japanese knotweed and the need to eradicate before development work can commence.

"Because of the difficult ecological



Choked off: Japanese weed has taken over

nature of the site, excavation methods would cost about £35,000 compared to £5,000 for chemical treatment which will take three years."

He confirmed that the £1.45m funds for the project were secured within the delayed timescale.

Proposals for the distributor road were agreed in 1992. It will entail:

- A 7.3 metre carriageway to connect Warsash Road to Dibles Road at its junction with Schooner Way.
- A new roundabout on Warsash Road at the junction with the link road and Lockwood Road.
- Closure of Cutter Avenue at its junction with Warsash Road – an extremely dangerous stretch with regular near misses and occasional accidents.

Any problems? Now you can report them on-line

AN EASIER-to-navigate website was launched by the Council in December.

The site, started in 1995, now contains over 5000 web pages and 22,000 documents.

Features include paying on-line, what's on, Ferneham Hall show dates and over 40 forms to report issues, such as abandoned vehicles or to make requests for street cleaning, licence applications etc.

It is Phase 1 of a strategy to provide more services and information. Phase 2 will be introduced over the next 18 months and allow residents to review current planning applications, book tickets for Ferneham Hall and request bulky waste collections.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "It will be quicker and easier for residents to find their way around and allow them to access information on services and keep updated with what's going on in the borough."

New Fareham regional fire HQ to serve 8.9m people

FAREHAM will be home to a huge regional fire control HQ covering nine counties.

The Government announced that the multi-million pound centre is to be built at Kite's Croft off the A27 Southampton Road at Segensworth.

The new control room, employing an estimated 58 workforce, will handle all the 999 calls from Buckinghamshire to the Isle of Wight to Kent.

It will merge the current control rooms in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and others in the South East covering 8.9 million people.

LOCKS HEATH & WARSASH CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your ward councillors.

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Your man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

DAVID Cameron's election as Leader of the Conservative Party is a turning point.

He has been very clear that if we are to be a party that reflects the aspirations of the whole country, then we need to talk about the long term challenges facing Britain today and have answers to them. These include economic competitiveness, globalisation and poverty, and improvements to our public services.

They affect each of us differently. Our economy must remain strong in the face of threats from India and China if we are to fund our schools and hospitals properly.

Young people need to know there will be jobs for them in the future, but we can only do this by preparing for the economic challenges of the 21st century.

We can only afford adequate pensions if we have a prosperous and thriving economy. It is in everyone's interests to ensure we improve the competitiveness of the economy to maintain and improve living standards and quality of public services.

It is a sign of the importance of these challenges and the reinvigoration of the Party under David that people such as Bob Geldof are willing to help us develop the policies to tackle these challenges.

David's agenda looks to build a modern, compassionate Conservative Party. I know from talking to people across the constituency that this has struck a chord. It is an exciting time to be a Conservative.

Elections of party leaders bring reshuffles and changes of responsibilities.

Having been the Conservative school spokesman for two years, I have been promoted to the Treasury team. It is a role I have always been keen to do having worked in business and as one of the handful of MPs who is a Chartered Accountant. My appointment coincides with a series of visits to local employers, which will deepen my understanding of issues they face.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2006.

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'We like the good life in Fareham' say residents



Beautiful borough: A striking aerial view of the River Hamble with the Air Traffic Control complex in the foreground and (right) the lovely setting of Holly Hill Woodland Park.

FAREHAM is a safe, prosperous and attractive place to live and work, according to most residents.

A recent borough survey shows 91% of people are happy to live here and 88% are satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs things.

The only real gripe locals have is that after dark only 23% feel safe in the town and district shopping centres and 46% in their neighbourhoods, against 90% outside in daytime.

The consultation is a key part of decision-making as it informs the Council of residents' views on important issues such as building developments, public toilets, environmental health, safety regulation and enforcement, community safety and personal health.

The survey also shows 92% are happy with waste collections and 68% with litter clearance, while 88% are satisfied with the overall quality of the environment.

A higher number think general cleanliness and condition of public toilets has improved since 2004.

As a result of the Market Quay redevelop-

ment, 86% are happy with the range of shopping and 75% with leisure and social activities in the town centre – both percentages showing a material increase.

Residents rank the statement 'the Council should strike a balance between increasing charges to service users and small increases in council tax' as their preferred choice, with 'council tax should be increased to provide better services' as the least preferred option.

Conservative Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, says:

"This survey gives residents the opportunity to share with us their views about life in the Borough and to ensure our services continue to meet the needs of the local community.

"I am pleased to note from the survey results that a high percentage of our residents are satisfied with the Council's overall services.

"We will continue to work hard to ensure we maintain an excellent service for residents."

The survey will be analysed by officers and any lessons learnt will be included in service plans for 2006/07.

Tories are aiming at very low council tax rise

Fareham Borough Council is considering a council tax rise for 2006/2007 of just 1.9%.

This is consistent with low rises in the Borough Council's share of the tax which has been set over the last 7 years of Conservative administration.

It means the level will remain the lowest in Hampshire and among the lowest in the country, despite Fareham receiving one of the smallest levels of government

grant of any authority.

There will, as always, be no reductions in the important services we provide to our residents.

It has also been possible to freeze pay and display parking charges in the town centre for a further year and to not charge on Sundays, evenings, Bank Holidays, for disabled residents or outside the town centre.

Now that pay-on-foot has been introduced in the multi storey car parks and in

Market Quay, shoppers need only to pay for the period they stay and do not need to rush back to their cars.

Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am very proud to be again recommending such a low council tax increase of just a few pennies per week while being able to maintain and enhance the important services we provide."

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