

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

Bus shelters

New bus shelters cost £4000 and a survey has shown a need for 14 new sites and 19 that will need replacing.

Funding has been allocated for just three this year, but a rolling programme will be implemented in future.

Parking charges

After consultations with the Chamber of Commerce and other bodies, it was decided not to increase charges for short stay or long stay parking, whether 'Pay-on-foot' or 'Pay-and-display'. Season tickets will go up by 5%.

Councillor Ernest Crouch says free parking areas in the outer districts of the borough, such as Portchester, will remain free.

Young cricketers

Portchester Cricket Club is looking for new players to join their Colts.

Coaching by professionals at Cams Hill School starts on Saturday, February 1 at £1 per person. Boys and girls of all ages and experience will be welcome.

Details from Craig Stainton on 079 3215 2373 or Paul Hungerford on 078 8173 7624.

Recycling

Latest recycling figures show an increase of 15% over November 2004 and at 36% Fareham has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, achieving the 2005/6 Government set target of 30%. Target for 2006/7 is 40% so there is still a lot to achieve.

Planning process now easier to follow on-line

ARE YOU angry that Joe Bloggs next door wants to build a granny annexe in his back garden?

You can now object and follow the planning process on-line thanks to a new service offered by Fareham Borough Council.

Following the success of the new-look Fareham Borough Council website, the new service provides access to electronic information relating to current and historic planning applications and appeals.

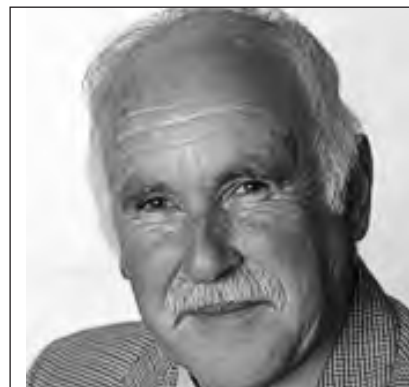
It allows residents viewing the website to check the status of an application and an appeal and view plans and forms. Copies of decision notices and conditions can also be viewed and it enables comments to be provided on the merits of a proposal.

Last year, the authority linked to the Planning Portal to enable applicants and agents to submit planning applications electronically. This new service is a continuation of the move to the provision of on-line service to Fareham people.

It also means that the authority now meets the Pendleton Criteria, a set of standards by which all authorities are judged in relation to the provision of electronic services.

Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee, Councillor Nick Walker, said:

"The online planning service provides up to date information on current planning applications and enables residents to track progress, view plans and



Nick Walker: 'Greater involvement'

comment on proposals.

"It will provide greater opportunities to involve people in the planning process and also keeps Fareham at the forefront of electronic service delivery.

"I encourage all of our residents not only those interested in planning to view the web site and see what developments are being undertaken within the Borough."

How to reach the site

To access the new Online Planning Service use the following link: "<http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning>" The Council would appreciate any comments or suggestions on the new look website. Please email: webmaster@fareham.gov.uk or fill in our feedback form at: "<http://www.fareham.gov.uk/general/webfeedback.asp>"

Mobile 'Big Brother' has his eye on offenders



VANDALS and hooligans beware...Big Brother will be secretly moving around your haunts.

A mobile CCTV unit has been ordered by the Borough Council.

The Executive decided it would augment the

service provided by the existing Council operated CCTV monitoring facility operated from the monitoring and control room in Gosport.

The CCTV system is primarily to address crime and disorder issues in support of Council policy and officers who have responsibilities in those areas.

The mobile CCTV system will be used in support of ASBO enforce-

ment, prosecution etc and can be deployed across the Borough to assist the Vandalism Task Force and police to combat vandalism and anti social behaviour.

£25,000 has been set aside for the purchase of a deployable CCTV camera together with suitable computer, mobile phone and associates costs.

You will know **where** the deployable camera will operate because yellow warning signs will be erected in those locations, but you won't know **when** Big Brother has his eye on you.

Fareham bus pass system is fairer than Gordon's

GORDON Brown's last Budget promised every pensioner and disabled person free local bus travel.

But Fareham already operates a fairer system and will stick with it.

Fareham's share of the new government grant to cover the cost would be £351,000.

The Council currently spends £359,000 of the council tax on concessions for the elderly and disabled without any grant from government.

It allows pensioners and disabled half fares right across Hampshire with a free pass.

The government scheme would allow free travel, but only in the borough of Fareham. Travel anywhere beyond the boundary would cost full fare.

Pensioners opted for the present half-fare concession across the county.

Adding that concession to the 'free within the Borough' part will cost £846,000, which is £136,000 more than our present cost and the new government grant added together.

It would be unfair to introduce a government scheme that sounds marvellous but in fact is a downgrade on what the elderly and disabled enjoy at present.

So the Council decided to keep the 'half fare within Hampshire' concession and free bus travel inside the borough boundary and pay for it from efficiency savings. The present token scheme will be restricted, however.

Over 75s already in receipt and qualifying disabled will continue, but those reaching 75 will no longer qualify.

Bid to squeeze 24 more flats on Portchester Road

THE LABOUR government has virtually removed local accountability for deciding planning issues.

Increasing housing density in urban areas to limits defined by John Prescott's department will always take precedence over local views in the present era.

Another development for which planning has been submitted would replace four more houses in Portchester Road with 24.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said he would strongly oppose the plan, although Councillor Nick Walker, as Chairman of the Planning Development Committee, is constitutionally bound not to take sides.

Councillor Crouch said: "The council has made clear to Mr Prescott that rapidly increasing urban development places a very heavy strain on the current supporting infrastructure.(see Page 1)

"Roads are inadequate, utilities are becoming overloaded and Fareham has no hospital."

Down End pong upsets locals

A LIAISON panel, including seven residents who keep monitoring reports, discussed problems arising from the Down End recycling unit.

The Environment Agency said 48 incidents had been complained about in the past year, 21 had been attended. Two were substantiated, both regarding odour, on which 'breach of licence' action had been taken.

Dangers of a condition known as Aspergillus would be investigated and the chemical process which causes odour and how it can be suppressed would be explained. All complaints should initially be made to Mr Homeyard at the Borough Council, who will pass them on to the appropriate body for action.

Play time will be more exciting



THE OLD play area in Roman Grove will soon be a small residential development of six chalet bungalows which are being built by Portsmouth Housing Association for social rent.

£85,000 of money received for the sale of the land will be spent on upgrading the play areas at Harbour View and Portchester Park.

After consultation with the public and the ward members of the council, it was decided not to upgrade the play area at Kenwood Road.

There, it was preferred to remove remaining equipment and grass the whole area but with an improved path, suitable for wheelchair use, to the shoreline.

Holiday litter complaints lead to extra collections

COMPLAINTS from across Fareham about overflowing litter and dog bins during Christmas resulted in the Council changing its holiday emptying policy.

Council offices closed throughout Christmas and New Year holiday, although essential services for waste bin collection and road gritting worked well.

But little thought was given to the street litter bins and the dog bins, which are heavily used at holiday times and it was a long period before they were emptied.

The matter was discussed by Councillor Ernest Crouch and his colleagues who decided special clearing arrangements would now be made for holiday periods beginning at Easter this year.

PORTCHESTER 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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name

Address

Postcode.....

Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

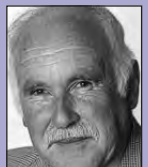
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Your man in Westminster



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.

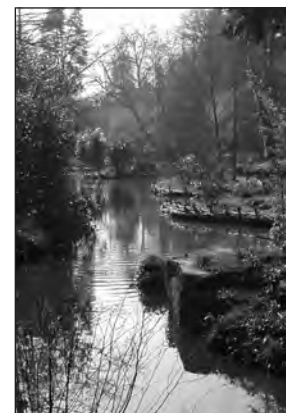
David's agenda looks to build a modern, compassionate Conservative Party. I know from talking to people across the constituency that this has struck a chord. It is an exciting time to be a Conservative.

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 redevelopment,

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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