



In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER – SUMMER 2005

Residents' anger at breach of density set by Deputy PM

Prescott's policy will devastate Downend

A PLAN to demolish five large houses at Downend to make way for a huge development of houses and flats was branded "a gross example of over-development" by ward councillors.

It is just one more example of John Prescott's policy forcing councils to make what he calls more efficient use of land.

Residents are angry. They say it will spoil the area.

It will also thrust scores more vehicles on to the already congested A27 at the Condor Roundabout.

Fareham planners had little alternative but to pass the application for four blocks of flats and a row of houses behind, totalling 68 houses and flats.

They had previously turned down two applications by developers King's Oak firstly for 50 units, then for 55 units.

The developers appealed on both occasions and lost.

But they came back a third time having upped the density to beyond the limit, although Councillor Ernest Crouch said the later plan was far better than the original.

Councillor Crouch, who put residents' objections to the committee, pointed out one of Fareham Council's planning policies, that development should be 'in-keeping with character, density, height etc' of the surrounding area, was being breached.

Another policy declared Downend as an area of special residential character.

He also cited Mr Prescott's own housing department policy guidance which seeks more efficient use of land by giving densities of 30 to 50 dwellings per hectare.

"The Portchester Road development will have a density of 56 per hectare," stated Councillor Crouch.

He said Fareham planners were always professionally advised and members were acutely conscious of appeals which



Going: This fine house and four others will be demolished and replaced by flats, despite protests from Ernest Crouch (inset).

could be very costly to council taxpayers if lost.

"But on this occasion Portchester's councillors believed this to be a gross example of over-development which is not in keeping with existing housing along Portchester Road," he added.

However, he was told by the planning officers that although the council could not

go below the 30 per hectare limit, the upper limit was "only a guide line" and it was likely another developers' appeal would succeed.

The residents mainly affected live on the south side of The Spinney.

They, of course, had no right of appeal.



HOW PRESCOTT IS RUINING COMMUNITIES

DEPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott's dictatorial planning policies are forcing us to become a nation of flat dwellers.

Hundreds of 'Coronation Streets', which could be easily modernised, are being demolished in the North and North East.

Planning applications to build flats have been flooding into Fareham Council and it is being repeated across South East England, with councils powerless to stop them.

Last year, for the first time, 50% of new homes built in the South East were flats. In 2000, just over 25% of new dwellings were flats and 40 in every 100 homes were detached houses.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Station extension

Work has started on extending the western end of the platform at Portchester Station.

Passengers look forward to the completion of the work which will enable them to exit and enter the long trains from all doors.

Gala success

Portchester saw yet another extremely successful Gala Day in June, thanks to Alan Simpson and his team.

It was attended by thousands of people who enjoyed watching the carnival and afternoon of entertainment and many stalls set out in the Castle.

Speed limit

Hampshire County Council, acting through Fareham Borough Council, is proposing reduce the speed limit on the A27 between the Seagull roundabout and just beyond Westlands Grove from 40mph to 30mph.

Annual survey

This year's annual residents' survey has recently been issued by the Council to give residents the chance to have their say about local services.

It is a key part of the Council's decision-making as it helps to inform them of residents' views.

Mayor elected

Councillor Leslie Keeble was elected as Fareham's new Mayor at the council's agm in May. His wife, Christine, is Mayoress.

Extra parking at crematorium helps mourners and residents

MOURNERS attending funerals at Portchester Crematorium will find it less stressful to park there in future.

Fareham Council has granted permission to extend the overflow car park to provide more spaces.

It is hoped the work will be completed by the end of the year.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said parking at Portchester Crematorium had been an on-going problem.

"There are 245 crematoria operating in the UK, but only one – in London – carries out more cremations than Portchester," he said.

With well over 4,000 funeral services taking place there every year, often with two congregations filling both chapels simultaneously and a third in waiting.

"When there is a funeral with a great number of mourners, cars are parked on both sides of Upper Cornaway Lane, around the entrance road and along Dore Avenue.

"The overflow car park, built a few years ago,

will now be extended by 43 more spaces, which will go a long way to alleviating the distress for residents of Northfield when they are blocked in. "It will also be less stress for family mourners looking to park before the cortege arrives," said Councillor Crouch.



Councillor Crouch (right) shows the car park plan to a resident.

Police give crime assurance to Portchester residents

PORTCHESTER residents' fears over juvenile-related crime were expressed at a public meeting about community policing.

Cranleigh Road residents said damage to their properties such as kicked down walls and the litter of beer cans along the road, as well as the danger of speeding vehicles and noise at night had all been much worse since the skate park had been opened.

People from Anson Grove had similar problems with youth gathering "up the hill" and White Hart Lane had alcohol related disturbances.

It was thought the order that authorised the police to disperse young offenders from Portchester precinct had only moved the problem elsewhere.

Fifty people attended the meeting which was organised by Inspector Wrigglesworth, who was accompanied by Sergeant Dawson and two beat officers.

Councillor Ernest Crouch, who was there as an observer, said the purpose was to con-

sult local people about their concerns.

The government had given the police targets for the reduction of crime, prioritising burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime and robbery to achieve a 15% reduction of incidence within three years.

Inspector Wrigglesworth said statistics for Fareham showed marked improvements, mostly better than the national average.

The incidence of government-target serious crimes in Portchester, was quite low. Only five reported robberies in a year for instance, and only one of those (a snatched handbag) was of serious concern.

The inspector also demonstrated how the beat was covered by his officers and asked for more Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

Another meeting will be held on October 20 in Portchester Community School to see how beat officers and their support staff have been able to respond to the incidences listed.

Overwhelming tenants' vote to stay with council

GOVERNMENT grant schemes to enable councils to develop needed social housing ceased three years ago.

John Prescott ordered all councils with housing stock to consult their tenants and leaseholders about the future management of their homes.

The consultation had to satisfy the Government of South East England (the unelected regional board) that the consultation had been deeply committed and that tenants had been at the heart of the appraisal.

Fareham conducted a ballot of the tenants in 2001 about transfer to a housing association, using consultants to advise the tenants of the pros and cons and separate consultants to advise the council.

The ballot then was narrowly in favour of staying with the council.

By government edict, the same process had to be gone through again and at a similar cost.

This time, the tenants' representatives overwhelmingly chose to stay with the council.

A full report of the procedure and outcome has been made to GOSE and accepted as Fareham's final decision.

On the verge of a wheel success

KEEP your wheels off our grass verges!

Park or drive on a grass verge in Portchester in future and you will commit an offence, warns Councillor Ernest Crouch.

A few years ago, six roads in Portchester were included in a pilot scheme which proved successful in preserving the verges.

There has since been an annual programme across the borough and this year, in Phase 6, 48 more roads in Portchester will be subject to the Traffic Regulation Order.

The list covers virtually the entire ward and can be inspected at the council office.

Some residents objected to loss of parking space, saying parked vehicles would obstruct their narrow road.

Obstruction on the highway is in itself an offence enforceable by the police should that become a problem.

When they supported the proposal. Ward councillors considered that pre-



Get off! This will soon be illegal in Portchester.



venting verge parking would ease the environmental damage and material damage to some utilities running under the verges which sometimes occurred.

Community school's achievements

PORTCHESTER Community School has gained Specialist Status in Performing Arts, gaining extra funding for the next four years.

It is also one of 20 Hampshire schools to participate in "Building on Success" which furthers the government grant to Hampshire of £1.4m for full service extended schools.

The Community Manager is seeking funds from other sources for an artificial surface on the playing field for school and community use, plus low-level floodlights.

He has also announced the opening of a drop-in computer centre at Castle Street.

Having a ball to remember Nelson

FAREHAM Conservatives' main social event this year will be a "Trafalgar Ball" to be held in Ferneham Hall on Friday, September 9.

We are delighted that David Cameron MP (a potential candidate for Leader of the Conservatives) is our speaker, and music will be provided by "Nite Shift" (back by popular demand from last year).

There will be a drinks reception followed by a three course dinner supplied by award winning Royal Marine chefs.

Tickets are available at £45.00 each. Please telephone 01329 822 646.

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

Can I first of all thank you for your support at the General Election. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability in Westminster and Fareham. There has been no let up in my work for you since the election.

In Westminster, I continue to battle on behalf of local people so that your voice will be heard by the Government. Since the election, I have questioned the Government on the plans to build an extra 80,000 houses in South East Hampshire over a 20-year period. I have been pressing them on the need for better infrastructure. Because of the work that I have done, ministers are aware of your concerns about the local health service.

The tragic events of Thursday 7th July are a reminder that Parliament, as well as tackling the needs of local communities, needs also to focus upon maintaining the security of our nation.

Whilst I am sure that there are lessons to be learnt from the attacks on London, we need to be clear about one thing, we should never give in to terrorists.

Not only should we not give in to their political demands, but we should continue to get on with our lives.

People planning to visit London during the summer holidays should go ahead.

Those in our community who work in London should continue to do so. Terrorists try to force us to change so standing firm in the face of their threat sends them a message that we will not be defeated.

•You may contact Mark via his office
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email: mail@markhoban.com

Celebrate a glorious day for Fareham

WRITE Saturday July 30 in your diary in red ink.

It's the day Fareham is planning a feast of celebrations to mark this momentous year for the borough and Britain.

It will be a day of rejoicing, commemoration, festivities, music and lots of fun. And fireworks.

So what are we celebrating?

Firstly, two national anniversaries – Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the end of World War 2 in 1945.

Appropriately, it's the 30th anniversary of the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough on HMS Collingwood, named after Vice Admiral Lord Collingwood, who took command of the British fleet when Nelson died.

Secondly, it is also the day when the prestigious Market Quay complex with its splendid new cinema will be officially opened, Cremer Mall, Vannes Parade and Pulheim Parade will be named and a cannon from the Trafalgar era loaned by Fort Nelson will be unveiled in West Street.

The day begins on a serious note, when Fareham Mayor Councillor Leslie Keeble and Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward will join Hampshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan, in the formal commemorations.

Representatives from Vannes and Pulheim will attend and be particularly honoured later when they inaugurate the parades named after Fareham's twin towns in France and Germany.



Contrast in styles: The new Apollo and (inset) the former Embassy.



At 10 am, led by the Royal Marines Band, sailors from HMS Collingwood will exercise their right to march through the town with drums beating, colours aloft and bayonets fixed.

Then, the town centre will erupt into a cavalcade of fun all the way through the afternoon and evening, starting with the launch of 200 balloons.

There will be a balloon race, fairground rides, stilt walkers, jugglers, musicians and competitions provided by Ocean FM.

A French market will be in the precinct from July 28 - 30, offering the delights of cuisine from across the Channel.

During the day, collections will be taken to support local charity The Rainbow Centre, which is raising money for its new premises at Cams Alders and has also organised events for children.

And owners of the new Apollo Cinema have promised a special preview to mark its opening.

A firework display will bring down the curtain on what promises to be, in the words of Seán Woodward, "a glorious day for the town".

New law will trim causes of hedge rows

SHARPEN your shears and trim that hedge.

High hedges that block views and steal the light have been the cause of numerous rows between neighbours.

Not any longer. Thanks to new legislation that came into force on June 1, if neighbourly attempts to solve problems are unsuccessful it is now possible to apply to the Council for enforcement action.

Residents will need to show evidence that several attempts have been made to resolve the problem and on payment of a small fee (not applicable to pensioners and those on benefits) an order can be served requiring action to reduce the offending hedges to a maximum of 2 metres (just over 6 ft).

A penalty of £1,000 and direct action by the Council to reduce the hedge(s) is possible if action is not taken.

There have been several problems recently in the area that have now been amicably resolved between neighbours when details of the new law were advised.

If you have a hedge problem contact your local councillor who will be pleased to advise.

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