



Proposed local plan reduces housing numbers



After pressure from residents and local organisations including Fareham Labour, the Tory controlled council has published a revised local plan which reduces the number of houses to be built on greenfield sites. The reduction in total planned housing is from a minimum of 514 to 403. Sites removed from danger include land South of Fareham strategic growth area, plus some sites in Portchester and Wallington. It does not include sites designated for development in the Western Wards. We are disappointed that greenfield sites remain under threat. The revised plan has now been published for public consultation. The consultation ends on 18th December.

Labour is on record as saying that Welborne should supply most of the housing development within the borough with brownfield sites meeting any additional requirements. Labour said: 'We would support prioritising brownfield sites, including building higher density housing in existing town centres. We see town centres as one area that can provide much needed affordable housing.'

We should not ignore the fact that many especially young people need affordable housing. The council should identify further brownfield site for development.

Labour councillors for Fareham would:

- Take action to safeguard our local environment
- Introduce green policies in response to the climate change threat
- Increase the provision of affordable housing for rent and to buy
- Work with local providers to give a more integrated local public transport system
- Introduce cycleways connecting Fareham with neighbouring boroughs
- Work with property owners and shop-keepers to reinvigorate our community shopping areas

Saving our shops

Fareham's shopping centres are facing a real threat to their very survival with falling numbers of shoppers and the impact of Covid-19.

Retailers are facing high rents and business rates, while internet shopping, high parking charges (in Fareham town centre) and the loss of banking services have added to the problems.

Urgent work needs to be done to revive our shopping centres.

A Labour council would join together with retailers' groups and local residents to consider measures to improve the shopping experience. Local specialist markets and cultural events could be included in any plan to revitalise our shops. In conjunction with property owners we would seek to find solutions to reduce unaffordable rents and business rates which threaten the viability of many independent retailers.

Parking charges in Fareham shopping centre discourages shoppers. We would introduce free parking after 3.00pm in town centre car parks and oppose the introduction of charges in Portchester or Stubbington.



Stealth Council Tax

Tory controlled Fareham Borough Council (FBC) is introducing charges for green refuse collections and car parking at all coastal car parks. The excuse is the rising cost associated with Covid-19.



Starting in February 2022 green waste will be collected by a 240 litre or 140 litre wheelie bin. This scheme will replace the current free collection service. Charges for the service will be, for the larger bin, £60 per year plus an initial charge of £34 one off payment for the bin. An early bird charge of £17 for the bin is also planned. Residents will not be forced to take up the scheme but will then be without the facility to dispose of green waste through the council.

Second is the introduction of car parking charges at all coastal car parks. These include Hill Head and Warsash. FBC is in discussion with English Heritage with a view to introducing the charge at Portchester Castle. The charge will be £1 per hour up to a maximum of £6.

Hampshire County Council is raising prices as well. One example is the increase in school meals. Meals have been increased twice since May 2019 from £2.30 to £2.50 - up 8%.

These new 'taxes' of course mean that the headline Council Tax can be kept artificially low. Look out for organisations and companies using Covid-19 as a good excuse to raise charges and reduce services.

Keep in touch



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Action on climate change

Along with many Fareham residents Labour is demanding action on the climate crisis. We need fast, significant and long term action from both councils and government to help save our environment.

In particular Fareham borough is a heavily car-dependent area due to insufficient and expensive local public transport. This must be a priority area for improvement to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fareham Labour demands substantial action.