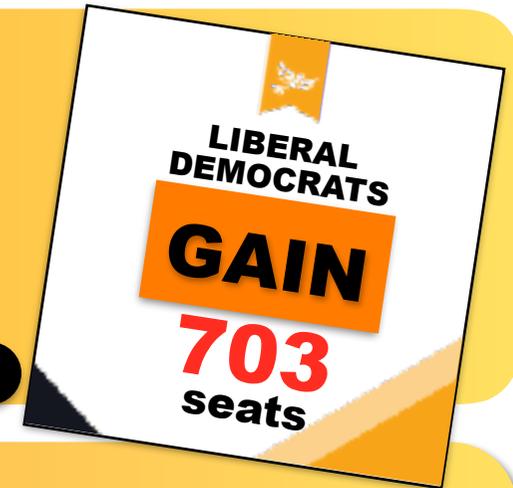


# FAREHAM EAST & WALLINGTON Focus

SUMMER  
2019

[www.farehamlibdems.org.uk](http://www.farehamlibdems.org.uk)



## *Council seeks sites for housing.....*



**F**areham Council has undertaken a consultation which ran until 26 July, about revisions to its Draft Local Plan. This is because the Government has announced a new way to calculate housing need, and Fareham now needs to plan for at least **520 new houses every year**.

The Fareham Town Community Action Team meeting was held on 8 July as part of this important consultation. There are a number of further stages in the development of the Local Plan leading up to its adoption in 2021. The process is outlined in the latest issue of "Fareham Today" which was delivered to every home in the borough.

### *.....But it can't get on with the ones it has*

**W**hile one Tory Government department is pushing councils to build more homes, another is forcing them to postpone hearings on planning applications - e.g. the proposed developments for Wallington Village. **Natural England** is seeking assurances that new developments will

not increase run-off of nitrates into rivers and eventually the sea, putting wildlife at risk. The delay means councils will be even further behind when the issue is resolved, leading to even more pressure to build.

# Best Lib Dem results in years

**Fareham** had no local elections this year - but look how our neighbours did!

**Winchester** - Lib Dems gained five seats from

Conservatives and swept to control.

**Eastleigh** - Lib Dems tighten control still further, Tories reduced to a third-

place rump of two councillors.

**Portsmouth** - Lib Dems gained two seats to become the largest party and will continue to run the city.

As well as Winchester, we took control of councils all around the country - Vale of the White Horse, Hinckley & Bosworth, North

Norfolk, Bath and North East Somerset, Cotswolds, Chelmsford, Mole Valley, North Devon, Somerset West & Taunton and

**Strong new Lib Dem team to fight for our region in Europe.**

In the European elections, Lib Dems gained 15 seats to become the second biggest party in seats and votes across Britain. In our South-East England constituency, our hard-working MEP Catherine Bearder was joined by Anthony Hook and Judith Bunting.



## Play Area Improvements

**Katrina's** work with FBC officers on improvements to the Eastern Parade play area has been successful and the much needed **dropped kerbs** have now been installed along with a new pathway and gate to improve access to the play area, as the picture shows.

One local resident contacted **Katrina** to express concern that the dropped kerb will encourage drivers to bring motor



vehicles on to the grassed area.

**Katrina** therefore asked FBC to look at placing bollards at the new dropped kerb similar to those already in place at the other paved entrance to the play park.

Thanks must now go to the **Streetscene** department as the requested bollards were installed in double-quick time.



Portsmouth Lib Dems celebrate after the declaration at the Guildhall

## Choosing our next leader

Lib Dem members are electing a new leader following Vince Cable's decision to step down "on a high" after this year's great results. The candidates are:

**Ed Davey**, MP for Kingston and Surbiton and former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. As a result of Ed's work as a Minister, the UK almost quadrupled its green energy.



**Jo Swinson**, MP for East Dunbartonshire and former Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs. Jo was Britain's younger MP at the age of 25 and as a Minister at 32.



The result will be declared on 23 July.

## Action on Office Conversions

Responding to issues highlighted by local residents, **Katrina** proposed a Motion to Council concerning the wide ranging impact of so-called “**Permitted Development Rights**”. This is central government’s policy which allows the conversion of mainly office buildings to residential use without planning permission.

The motion, agreed by the full council in April, went on to say that, developers do not have to contribute towards affordable Social Housing or local infrastructure and there is no ability to consider whether the development provides suitable levels of internal or external amenity space, privacy, sunlight, daylight or outlook”.

Her request that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local

Government (MHCLG) was agreed. A response has now been received. The letter confirms that the MHCLG intend to review the permitted development policy.

An extract from the ministerial statement by James Brokenshire MP is copied here:

*I intend to review permitted development rights for conversion of buildings to residential use in respect of the quality standard of homes delivered. We will continue to consider the design of a permitted development right to allow commercial buildings to be demolished and replaced with homes. We will also develop a 'Future Homes Standard' for all new homes through a consultation in 2019 with a view, subject to consultation, to introducing the standard by 2025.*

The highlighted phrase is the nub of this issue as there are several examples of poor building quality on our doorstep !

## Former Argos Site

**Katrina** is passionate about brownfield sites being developed for much needed housing before our valuable green areas. She therefore asked planners whether the vacant ARGOS site on West Street could be better utilised for housing rather than being left empty.



**The site is not owned by Fareham Borough Council.**

Argos have a lease until Dec 2020 and are responsible for paying rent and outgoings until then. FBC does not expect any redevelopment until at least 2021.

Unfortunately this eyesore in West Street is likely to remain for at least two years.

## Willow-Light Problem

On the annual ‘Wallington Village Walk Round’ with council officers and WVCA Executive members, which Katrina has attended for 17 years, it was again made clear that residents are concerned that a willow tree on the riverbank by the “White Horse bridge” obscures light from the nearby lamp-post. **Katrina** has lobbied HCC to trim the tree and has gained a promise that the tree will be dealt with.



## Missing Road Sign - Replaced



Alerted by a local resident that the road name plate had been removed from Eastern Parade, **Katrina** took **immediate action** and contacted the Streetscene Technical Officer at FBC who ordered a new name plate.

As these items are specific to each road, it needed to be manufactured and took a while to be installed.

## Crossing Woes

Local Resident Penny Addicott has asked for a light controlled (Pelican) crossing to be installed at the junction of Harrison Road and Osborn Road to replace what she, and many others, feel is a dangerous place to cross. Penny originally raised her concerns by contacting Hampshire County Council (HCC) in November 2018 but as yet to no avail. So she contacted **Katrina** for help, reporting that there have been several near misses at the crossing over recent months.

**Katrina** followed up this request with HCC. This uncontrolled crossing is in a high risk area, being close to Harrison School and a main pedestrian route into and out of the town centre. The information that in early July there was a serious accident at the crossing, involving an elderly lady who has been admitted to hospital, highlights the real need for a pedestrian controlled crossing at this point.



## Meet Richard Hall

**Richard Hall** has recently joined the FOCUS team and will increasingly be seen out and about with **Katrina** over the coming months getting to know the residents of Fareham East Ward.

He lives in Fareham East Ward with his wife and 2 of their 3 children - all adults.

He is currently working on "clean growth" solutions at the University of Portsmouth. After a career with the Woolwich, he ran a small business for 15 years. Five years ago he started working with local Universities to help businesses develop innovative low carbon technologies. The aim of clean growth is to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, reduce energy and water use, eliminate single use plastic and increase the use of renewable energy.



## Contact the LOCAL team

**Katrina** holds Councillor surgeries at **Westbury Manor** from **1030 to 1130** on the 1st Saturday of each month.



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**NAME**.....

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I would like to help the Liberal Democrats **WIN** more seats in Fareham.

Your Comments:

Please email a member of the team or return your comment to:  
**Katrina Trott at 21 Furzehall Ave, Fareham, PO16 8UD**