Learn more about the new community to the North of Fareham
Welcome to this special issue of Fareham Today which brings you the latest information about the new community to the north of Fareham. It lets you know how things have progressed over the past year and what is being considered for the future. It sets out what it means for you and the Borough and how you can get involved in the next steps - what the new community will be like, where new homes, business areas, open space and transport access points will be and the amount of ‘affordable’ homes and types of community facilities needed.

You have already played an important part in how we move forward. From a public survey to visits to schools and from a youth conference to comments on Twitter and Facebook, you have been involved in helping us to shape the future of the new community and the Borough.

We want and need your involvement to continue. Over the coming months there will be a series of exhibitions, a survey and events for older and younger people so that we can continue to reflect your views as the new community is developed. It will give us a unique opportunity to meet the Borough’s needs in a planned, sustainable and creative way whilst protecting its established character. That’s something which is important for us all.

A good quality of life in the Borough

It is often said that our quality of life in the Borough of Fareham is something for us all to be proud of. It’s something that has been developed over many years as the area has adapted to manage the ever-changing economic, social and environmental demands placed upon it.

Those challenges continue today. The Borough is growing and we need to plan for that. From stimulating the local economy to create jobs, to meeting the diverse housing needs of a changing population to protecting our environment, achieving a balance has never been more important.

Fareham Borough Council has played - and will continue to play - an important role. But we can’t do it alone. We need local residents, businesses and other interested groups to be involved.

When we started to look at the future of the Borough, we asked for your views. We had a choice – to plan and manage growth in a sustainable way by building a new community or to lose the opportunity by allowing smaller housing developments across the Borough. As a Council, we had a view but we wanted to know what you thought. In a survey in 2010, the majority of respondents said they preferred the idea of a new community rather than developing in gaps between towns and villages.

The principle of a new community was agreed in August 2011 in the Council’s Core Strategy, which outlines the Council’s vision for the next 15 – 20 years. Now we need to fill in the details. We will be doing this by preparing an Area Action Plan for the new community. Developing a distinct community means that the Borough’s future needs can be met in a sustainable way, whilst protecting its character of a number of individual communities each with their own unique identity, separated by areas of countryside.
A sustainable new community

The local population is projected to increase by 12,000 people to 125,000 by 2026. Within this, the number of people over the age of 65 years by 2025 is expected to rise by 44% (11,000 people), with those over 85 years expected to double to 6,000. In building a new community of around 7,000 homes, we will be able to provide new services and facilities, such as shops, business premises, primary schools, a secondary school and health facilities. New open spaces, play and sports facilities will support people living in the new community and surrounding areas.

The more homes that are built, the more facilities can be provided for the new community, making it as convenient and self-sufficient as possible for its residents. It will meet the widest possible housing needs from within the Borough - from smaller one bedroom homes to larger family housing. A significant proportion will be 'affordable' for people on lower incomes.

Building a new community doesn’t mean just new homes; it is about creating economic prosperity and a good quality of life. It will have a new district shopping centre, a secondary school, primary schools and health facilities. Jobs will be created in new offices, in manufacturing and in shops, restaurants and schools. There will also be spaces for people who want to set up in business or work from home.

The new community will help us to meet higher environmental standards, with good quality homes giving excellent energy efficiency. Travel choices for residents will be developed, including walking, cycling, public transport and improved access to the motorway.

The development will follow the well-established principles of ‘garden cities’, with large areas of open space - from formal parks and sports pitches to informal spaces, allotments and areas left in a natural condition to encourage local wildlife.
Making bus travel easy and convenient

A new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system will be an important travel option for the new community. It will enable residents to make quick and convenient journeys on high quality buses around the new community, to Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth.

The route between Gosport and Fareham has been completed and is running successfully. Additional phases of the network are being planned to meet demand from people living or working in the new community and wider area.

BRT will offer local residents a new choice in how they travel. It is a system used in several parts of the UK to provide a faster, more efficient service than an ordinary bus line. BRT buses travel on roads and dedicated lanes to get passengers to where they need to be quickly and flexibly.

For more information about the BRT system, visit www.hants.gov.uk/eclipse

Helping us to achieve the vision for the new community

The broad requirements of the new community are set out in an important planning document the “Fareham Borough Core Strategy”. They are based on a vision of a community meeting most of its daily needs – such as employment and food shopping – locally. The Area Action Plan will guide how the new community will be developed: the number of new homes, how much employment space is needed and where it should be. To help us with this, we have prepared options in a first stage ‘masterplan’. This will not provide a detailed layout at this stage. However, the plan shows the broad location of uses on the site, including schools, district and local centres and areas of open space. From these choices, we will need to develop a preferred masterplan option, so your involvement will be important.

A green approach to planning

Before preparing masterplan options, we looked at the landscape of the site and the area around it to decide where new homes and businesses might be located. A plan has been developed for all open space – from formal parks and sports pitches to allotments and land left in a natural state to encourage wildlife to flourish. Young people and schools worked with us to develop this by telling us what they wanted.
Finding out what you think will make the new community a good place to live, work and enjoy is very important. In January, we started to consult with residents about this. During this first phase of consultation, between January and March 2012, we asked you about open spaces, community facilities, housing and climate change. This was done through a survey, primary school visits and a youth conference.

Survey results

The public survey started the consultation process. It was sent to the Council’s e-Panel and to people who had registered on the planning policy consultation database. It was advertised on the Council’s website, Facebook pages, Twitter and paper copies were made available.

Recreational facilities

We asked which recreational facilities you would like to see in the new community. The most popular outdoor choices were public parks, natural areas and children’s play areas. Sports areas and allotments were also popular. Other suggestions included water features, outdoor performance space, woods and orchards.

Community buildings

We asked what type of facilities you thought should be offered in community buildings. A meeting hall was the most popular choice, with indoor sports facilities, a library and a police office also thought to be important. People also suggested other facilities, such as a swimming pool, a place of worship and performance space. There was support for different services sharing buildings from 87% of respondents.
Affordable homes

As 30 – 40% of the new community’s homes will be affordable, we asked about the balance between the two main types of affordable housing – shared ownership and affordable rent. 48% of respondents wanted a balance between them. More than half of respondents preferred an even balance of houses and flats. The most popular choices for who should live in affordable housing were local people and families. More than three quarters of respondents thought that being able to adapt your home to meet your needs as you get older was important.

There are two types of affordable housing:
- Affordable rent: homes are rented from housing associations
- Shared ownership: eligible people can buy a proportion of the home and pay rent to a housing association on the remaining proportion.

Who should get priority for affordable housing

- Young people 13%
- Older people 11%
- Single people 5%
- Couples 9%
- Families 19%
- Local people 25%
- Whoever needs the housing most 18%

Sustainability

Our survey found that half of respondents work from home some of the time, with 30% doing this at least once a week. 61% of respondents said they would be prepared to pay more for an environmentally friendly home. More than half thought energy efficiency was the most important feature, 10% thought generating your own electricity was important and 2.5% thought water efficiency was desirable.

How often people work from home

- Every day 14%
- At least once per week 16%
- A few times a month 8%
- Once a month or less 13%
- Never 49%
School visits

We visited four local schools to get pupils' views about the new community. It's always important to involve young people - particularly as they might be living at the new community in the future! They were asked what they liked or disliked about certain places. Working in small groups, they planned where features should go in the new community.

They thought it was important to:

- Provide a wide range of open spaces to meet residents’ needs
- Put open spaces near to homes but spread them across the development
- Provide parks
- Include sports pitches, wildlife areas, wetlands and skate parks
- Protect existing woodland and plant plenty of trees

Pupils were keen for different types of homes to be available - with gardens for families, bungalows and retirement homes for the elderly, and flats for young people with good access to open spaces. They were very concerned about feeling safe and suggested ways to promote road safety and personal safety, including an on site police presence.

Youth conference

The Borough Council and Fareham Youth Council hosted a youth conference in March to explore two issues for the new community: sustainable travel and green spaces. All secondary schools in the Borough and Fareham College were invited to send delegates.

Young people discussed the most and least sustainable forms of transport. Many were prepared only to walk for up to 10 minutes to get to local shops and bus stops, up to 30 minutes for school/college and longer for social activities. They thought the most popular 'smart' travel choices at the new community should be:

- Bus Rapid Transit
- Discounts for public transport
- Safer routes for walking and cycling
- Using a computer instead of travelling (e.g. internet shopping, working at home)

Young people discussed and voted for one of three approaches to laying out green spaces in the new community. The two most popular options received equal numbers of votes, so a network of green spaces which brought together the best of both was designed. All groups opted for a central park as the main feature; several planned smaller pockets of green space throughout the development for wildlife and for children to play near their homes. They suggested that a sports ground should be shared with a secondary school for maximum school and community benefit. They were keen to make the most of existing woodland with walks, trails and wooded play areas.

What young people thought should be included in a park:

- mainly informal open space
- wildlife areas
- sports facilities
- children’s play areas
- benches and picnic space
- dog walking area
- focal point (e.g. bandstand)
- lake
Getting involved in the masterplanning

Here’s how you can get involved with finding out about the masterplan options and giving us your views in the next phase of consultation from 2nd – 31st July 2012:

**Online**
Masterplan options will be available for comment on the Council’s website

**Public exhibitions**
A series of public exhibitions in Fareham, Wickham and Knowle Village during July to explore ‘masterplan’ options

- Monday 16 July 2pm to 7pm at Ferneham Hall, Octagon Lounge, Osborn Road, Fareham
- Wednesday 18 July 2pm to 7pm at Funtley Social Club, 84 Funtley Road, Funtley
- Thursday 19 July 2pm to 7pm at Ferneham Hall, Octagon Lounge, Osborn Road, Fareham
- Wednesday 25 July 4pm to 7pm at Knowle Village Hall, Greater Horseshoe Way, Knowle
- Thursday 26 July 4pm to 7pm at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham

**Next Steps**

The results of the masterplanning consultation will help us to develop a preferred first stage masterplan option. This, along with all other consultation will be used to produce a first draft of the Area Action Plan which will be published for public consultation in the Winter of 2012/2013.

We will take into account what you tell us about the draft Plan, and in Spring 2013 we will produce a final draft. The Plan will then be considered by an independent inspector early in 2014, in what is called an “examination in public”, at which local people and interested groups can make representations. The Plan is expected to be adopted in mid 2014.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about the new community, the future of the Borough and how you can get involved please:

Visit our website at www.fareham.gov.uk

Phone us on 01329 236100 and ask for Strategic Planning and Design

Email us at planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk

You can see some of the Frequently Asked Questions on our website at www.fareham.gov.uk/sdafaq

You can view our community engagement plan at www.fareham.gov.uk/pdf/planning/idf/CEP.pdf

You can also sign up to the Council’s database by emailing us with your contact details at planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk or writing to Strategic Planning and Design at Fareham Borough Council, Civic Way, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AZ.

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