Planning appeal discussed

A CAT meeting, chaired by Councillor Susan Bell, was held at Wicor School concerning Cranleigh Road and what the Council is doing to fight the appeal.

Councillor Geoff Fazackerley said: “We called the special Community Action Team meeting to enable residents to be fully informed and to be able to discuss the fact that, even though Fareham Borough Council has refused the application for 120 houses at Cranleigh Road, the applicant, Persimmon, has gone to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

“We want to work with our residents in order that the council and public can put together the best possible case to the inspector which will hopefully lead to this abomination of an application being thrown out once again.

“An appeal hearing date has now been set which is 25th April 2017 and will be heard in Fareham by inspector Tim Salter. The council will make whatever resources are necessary available to fight this appeal which will include appointing a planning barrister and specialised planning consultants. Meetings will be held between Councillors and residents to help prepare the evidence to lay before the inspector. We very much hope that we can again successfully fight off these proposals.”

Reasons for refusal included the loss of grade 1 and grade 2 agricultural land with grade 1 being the very best in the country.

Chairman of the Planning Committee, Portchester Councillor Nick Walker said: “We have until 28th March to get all of our evidence to the appeal inspector. We have been successful in previous appeals and have a very good track record of success however we cannot be complacent. I have an assurance from the Leader of the Council that we will make available whatever resources are necessary to put up the most robust case possible to the appeal inspector.”

Miller Homes submitted a screening request to the Council before deciding whether to submit a full application for 358 homes at Winnham Farm, east of Downend Road.

Villagers tell Royal Mail: ‘Give us back our postal address’

ROYAL MAIL’S decision to remove Portchester from postal addresses got the stamp of disapproval from residents.

Many businesses and residents have already been affected by the ludicrous decision.

At the time we went to print, the number had swelled to over 1,600. He said: “People here want to keep their identity and their village separate from Fareham.

“Why not? Its roots and heritage are in its name.”

He was grateful for help from several individuals and added: “It was a real community effort.”

The issue will be down for full debate at the December Council meeting before the Executive makes a decision.

England’s 5th lowest district council tax – that’s CONSERVATIVE budgeting
**Fun day raises £3,000**

Portchester firm SMR had a fun day for its employees which this year chose to raise money for the Moving Forward in Touch 32 project.

Deputy Mayor Geoff Fazackerley, pictured with Isaac, who was invited to a good day out with Sam Merrick, a very brave little boy who has inspired a charity in his name.

Sam Merrick is a very brave little boy who has inspired a charity in his name. He is the reason why Fareham Deputy Mayor Geoff Fazackerley has chosen Sam’s Haven as one of his charities when he takes over as Mayor in May 2017.

“He’s in desperate need of board games,” said Geoff, who has appealed for help from Portchester people.

Sam’s cheerful smile belies his continuing struggle against health related issues.

He has spent so much of his life in Queen Alexandra Hospital and he considers doctors and nurses there as part of his family.

His parents, Paul and Louise Merrick, set up Sam’s Haven in September 2013 with the long-term aim of raising funds to buy a caravan on a holiday park so that they could offer holidays to families who have children in a similar situation.

They knew it was going to be a long while before they could be in a position to offer these holidays, but to their surprise and delight they managed to put a deposit on a caravan and provide holidays for 15 families in their first year.

2015 got off to a good start with Paul and Louise negotiating to upgrade the caravan to a newer model with double glazing, central heating and a ramp up to the main door.

By January 2016 they had provided holidays for 36 deserving families.

*PHOTO: Always smiling, Sam and the charity’s chief fund raiser Julie Middle chat to Geoff Fazackerley.*

**‘Talent’ star plays for charity**

PORTCHESTER’S rising singing star Isaac Waddington thrilled residents at Assheton Court, Castle Street with his piano playing.

Isaac, who impressed TV producer and talent scout Simon Cowell at last year’s Britain’s Got Talent contest, was guest at a fund-raising coffee morning.

Forty residents attended the event, which raised over £300 with more coming in.

It was opened by Fareham Deputy Mayor Geoff Fazackerley, pictured with Isaac, who’d been invited by Sarah Storey.

She dedicated it to her late husband with the funds going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**Honouring the doctor who cured scurvy**

SCURVY was the scourge of the Royal Navy’s ‘wooden walls’ in the sailing era, caused by lack of Vitamin C.

Long periods at sea without fresh fruit led to debilitating illness and even death.

So it was fitting that the 300th anniversary of the birth of the naval surgeon who discovered the remedy, Dr James Lind, should be marked in Portchester where he’s buried in St Mary’s churchyard.

Deputy Mayor Geoff Fazackerley attended the ceremony.

Dr Lind’s research in 1753 found that lemons, limes and oranges provided the vital vitamin.

But it took another 40 years for the Royal Navy to take it on board and routinely issue lemon and lime juice.

**Early opening**

LIDL’S supermarket on Castle Trading Estate was due to open its doors to shoppers at 8am on November 17.

It will please the thousands of residents who signed a petition calling on the Borough Council to approve the plans.

A further extension was approved in January for a mezzanine floor for staff, manager’s office, 3 warehouses and a larger delivery bay.

The store had been due to open in December, but fast progress with its construction led to the earlier date.

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Suella FERNANDES MP for Fareham

An invitation to my Senior Citizens’ Fair

TOO OFTEN we hear about problems that can accompany the ageing process, including loneliness and isolation. In my opinion too little is being done to tackle these issues.

Kindly supported by the Rotary Club Meon Fareham, I am hosting a fair on Friday, November 25 (3pm – 5.30pm) to bring together the huge variety of interests and activity groups we have in our community, enabling people to browse these at leisure and chat with representatives of different organisations.

Stands will include: health and fitness, hobbies, voluntary services, home support, financial advice and bereavement services.

Demonstrations will be held on stage as well as a coffee and cake session with me.

Many activities will be on offer such as physiotherapy and sports massage tasters, tailored advice from a pharmacist, a Zumba Gold taster class aimed at ladies over 50, information on health and clinical trials by Cancer Research UK.

I found these seniors enjoying the Fareham & Gosport Dementia Action summer tea dance.

Local clubs will demonstrate activities for people to get involved with such as knitting, arts and crafts and Fareham’s Men’s Shed. A travel company well help you find your perfect getaway.

Admittance is free and there is plenty of on-site parking.

St John’s Church Hall, Upper St Michael’s Grove is on main bus routes, not far from Fareham Station. I hope to see you there.

Contact Suella

As yet, I have not been able to arrange surgery dates but I hope to do so soon.

www.suellafernandes.co.uk/newsletter

I am happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for groups of my constituents.

To book please contact my office with a minimum of three months’ notice, as they are very popular.