It’s ‘curtain up’ in 2022 for a transformed Ferneham Hall

THE LAST night of this season’s pantomime at Ferneham Hall will be a showstopper.

It will be two years before the curtain rises again, then it will reveal the present jaded building stunningly transformed into a new community, arts and entertainment venue.

This will be the flagship of the Conservative Council’s vision to revitalise Fareham town centre over the next few years.

Councillor Pamela Bryant said: “Ferneham Hall has become tired and dated over the 40 years of its life, and transforming it is one of the Council’s key priorities. “This exciting concept will see it become a bustling hub of activity, daytime and evening, seven days a week, offering something for everyone.”

And the new £12.3m centre will be professionally managed for the Council by leading leisure and events operator BH Live, which manages 17 venues in the South and London, including Portsmouth Pyramids and Bournemouth International Centre.

Ferneham Hall will close on January 6 after the cast in this year’s panto ‘Beauty and the Beast’ take their final bow so the project can take centre stage. It will include:

• Main auditorium with 808 seats, retractable on the ground floor and fixed on the first floor balcony, bigger stage dimensions to attract wider range of professional productions.

• Secondary performance space with 120-capacity auditorium, demountable seating, projector and screen. Flexibility allows uses such as cinema screenings, conferences, dance, community or club meetings.

• First floor studio to accommodate a range of activities eg yoga, dance, exhibitions and conferences.

• New larger foyer continuing up to a first floor bar and terrace, with areas for small pop-up exhibitions. All-day café on the ground floor, with outdoor seating available.

• Second floor performance space with 120-capacity auditorium, demountable seating, projector and screen. Flexibility allows uses such as cinema screenings, conferences, dance, community or club meetings.

• Large, flexible meeting room for hire on the ground floor. Organisations will be encouraged to hire the studio and other spaces if required. The design team is looking to ensure the building has a low carbon footprint and is investigating solar panels, photovoltaic panels and an air source heat pump.

Councillor Louise Clubley added: “Town centre shopping areas will have to transform over the next few years. “The need for a traditional shopping centre is declining. We can see that in our own shopping centre. “Shopping centres will need to develop and attract residents for other purposes and a brand new community, arts and entertainment venue will bring residents into Fareham and be a vibrant venue in the town centre.”

Welborne gets green light, but it won’t be an easy passage

FEARS over traffic and flooding continue to plague the Welborne development, despite Fareham planners giving it outline planning consent.

Fareham North Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley outlined residents’ concerns at the planning meeting, attended by several deputations.

Louise Clubley was worried by the proposed traffic layout, changes to North Hill junction and proposals to stop traffic crossing from Old Turnpike.

“This will increase traffic using other smaller residential roads,” she said.

She requested traffic control on Funtley Hill, as it’s planned to make the road under the bridge single carriageway, which would cause problems for residents to get in and out of the village.

Pamela Bryant raised concerns over the layout of the motorway junction and lack of prominence given to the small ancient archaeological site within the central park.

The committee imposed a large number of conditions to be agreed in the coming months.

However, there is still much work required to secure funding for the motorway junction before highways infrastructure can take place.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Easier glass recycling
Recycling glass has become easier as there is no need to separate colours in any of Fareham’s bottle banks.
Glass recycling is an efficient way to reduce our carbon footprint. The banks are all painted blue making them easy to identify.
Fareham Council is one of the first in Hampshire to become totally free from single use plastics in its buildings.

Signs appeal dismissed
An appeal to retain brightly coloured signs advertising the business in Funtley Court was dismissed by a planning inspector. He stressed the effect of the bright colours and size on the visual amenity of Funtley Hill.

Surgery
North Ward councillors and county councillors are available for local residents at their surgeries, usually held on 2nd Saturday of each month. It is by prior notice. Contact one of the councillors for an appointment time. Details are at the foot of the page.

Selfish parking
We are receiving numerous complaints of inconsiderate parking, mainly from residents in the Miller Drive estate and especially regarding the Miller Drive estate and especially regarding Clubley and Councillor Pamela Bryant.

CITIZENS Advice in Fareham has celebrated its 80th year of service in the town, a real achievement - as the centre requires a large number of regular volunteers.

Information: www.citizensadvice.org.uk or phone 03444 111 306 Monday to Friday 9.00-17.00.

PHOTO: Fareham North Councillor Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley visiting the new hub in Café Imbizo.

We’re seeking your local heroes
RESIDENTS are asked to nominate local heroes for Citizen or Young Citizen of Honour awards.
The Council runs the annual awards to honour those who have made a difference to the lives of local people. There are two categories – under 18s and 18+.
Previous winners have been nominated for bravery, helping others at school or college, coping with something life changing, volunteering, helping the local environment or caring for an individual.
Councillor Louise Clubley said: “No matter what it is, we want to hear about it, so we can give local heroes the recognition they deserve.”

We are for Citizen or Young Citizen of Honour certificates; the Civic Service and Remembrance Day Service; a £100 anytime spend card.

To nominate your hero either fill out our nomination form online, call communications on 01329 236100.

Fourteen years of unsightly dereliction ended when the bulldozers moved on to the Hampshire Rose site.
It marked the start of construction that will transform the eyesore behind the ugly hoarding, nicknamed Fareham’s ‘Berlin Wall’.
The former pub site on the corner of Highlands Road and Fareham Park Road will provide much-needed homes, which should be ready next summer.
The Conservative-run Council has invested £2.85m to redevelop the site where 18 affordable homes for rent, comprising 9 one-bedroom flats and 9 two-bedroom flats are being built.
They will be owned and managed by Fareham Housing, the Council’s housing service.
Fareham Mayor Pamela Bryant, who welcomed the development when she visited the site, is pictured with Council Leader Sean Woodward, Fareham NW Councillors Peter Davies and Fred Birkett, Housing Scrutiny Panel Chairman Kay Mandry.

Fareham renews reigns supreme in annual regional floral display competition
WHEN it comes to floral displays, Fareham is untouchable.
For the 16th year running the Borough won gold in the Small City category at the South and South East in Bloom competition.
It was also declared category winner, with the Sensory Garden of Reflection winning its category and Westbury Manor garden awarded a gold and category winner.
Burcham Wood yet again received a Level 3 Thriving Award in the Britain in Bloom ‘It’s your neighbourhood’ category.
And Burcham Wood won another gold at Fareham’s annual In Bloom presentation evening, thanks to Jan Purnell’s leadership. She was also a worthy winner for her stunning garden and baskets.
Councillor Louise Clubley said: “Congratulations once again to all those who work so hard to keep the Borough looking beautiful.”

Carbon neutrality aim
FAREHAM is forging ahead with plans to mitigate effects of climate change, targeting carbon neutrality by 2030.
The latest environmental initiative promoted by the Council includes development of an extensive recycling service, a programme to plant 30,000 trees around Daedalus and removing Single Use Plastics from Council operations by the end of the financial year.
At the October meeting, councillors discussed the scope of a newly-formed working group.
Councillor Pamela Bryant said its first priority was to identify the Council’s carbon footprint to provide a baseline against which progress could be measured.

So successful they now need a bigger ‘shed’
CRAFTSMEN from the Fareham Men’s Shed showed their woodworking skills at Uplands Primary School, where they built new play equipment and a splendid gazebo.
They also carried out maintenance to fencing and ensured their work complied with health and safety for the children.
Councillor Pamela Bryant said the Shed, a registered charity now had over 60 members and had outgrown its present workshop at Titchfield Festival Theatre.
“They have an excellent relationship with the management, paying a modest rent and in return help the theatre with scenery and maintenance.”
“However, with more space they could increase membership and assist others,” she said.
The group also organised a Macmillian Cancer Support coffee morning held at the Great Barn in Titchfield, the second year they had done so.
Some of the members showed their culinary skills with excellent cakes and entered their own ‘Bake Off’ competition.
Their efforts at the successful morning raised £900 for this worthy cause.

At last Fareham’s ‘Berlin Wall’ comes down
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We serve you all
Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we’ll respond personally within 48 hours.

Only a CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL can deliver the goods year after year
If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, then why not join Fareham North Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Pamela Bryant on 01329 281427.
Let us deliver Brexit and get back to domestic priorities

I am honoured to be standing for re-election as your Conservative Member of Parliament on 12th December. This General Election is vital because we need a new Parliament to support Prime Minister Boris Johnson to get Brexit done. Like the majority of voters in Fareham, I voted and campaigned to leave the EU in the 2016 Referendum because I see the many opportunities for trade, migration, sovereignty and laws.

Boris’ new deal offers these opportunities and that is why I support it. Your vote will make the difference on 12th December.

By voting Conservative, we can secure a majority in Parliament so that we can deliver Brexit, restore democracy, bring this constitutional crisis to an end and move onto other domestic priorities like more police in Fareham, more funding for our local schools and better NHS services.

None of the other parties offers this. Labour and the Liberal Democrats want to prolong the uncertainty and not honour democracy. Vote Conservative on 12th December to get Brexit done!

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Suella BRAVEMAN
AS YOUR Conservative Member of Parliament since 2015, I have worked on a large variety of local issues and been a voice for Fareham in Parliament.

My track record includes:
1. Leading Fareham Community Hospital Taskforce to support more services there, including the Same Day Access to local GPs
2. Supporting young people and skills through my 4 annual Apprenticeships and Jobs Fairs with Fareham College and seeing a doubling of the number of apprentices in Fareham since 2015
3. Fighting for better transport such as upgrades to Junction 10 and better train links.
4. Assisting thousands of people in Fareham to find better housing, resolve problems with pensions or benefits, secure a school place and better social care for an elderly relative.

Thousands of residents have attended my public events for Senior Citizens, Health Services, Brexit and better Broadband.

More needs to be done and that is why I am pleased that Fareham will see more police on the beat locally following worrying incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in Fareham Town Centre and Locks Heath.

I am delighted that all schools in Fareham will see an increase in their funding with Sarisbury Junior School, Hook-with-Warsash, Park Gate Primary, Brookfield Community School and Cams Hill schools receiving significant amounts to address their previous lower levels of funding.

I am glad that we are seeing record investment in our NHS, mental health services and social care.

I hope that I can count on your support to continue the work.

Nitrates pollution disrupts Fareham housing plans

FAREHAM planners are well advanced identifying new sites to meet Government demands for up to 2,500 extra homes, but the Council could still fail housing delivery tests due to the nitrates pollution factor.

After being forced to take its development plan back to the drawing board, it hopes to put the revised strategy and any necessary new policies before the December Executive meeting.

But Executive Member for Planning and Development Councillor Keith Evans said that although progress was being made to achieve nitrate neutrality on development sites, there were still 1,700 on-hold applications for houses.

He said: “These delays are not good news because until this backlog is cleared, Fareham is at serious risk of failing government housing delivery tests with resulting penalties requiring even more short-term housing delivery – a real mess.”

“Fareham, with other local authorities, is strongly engaging with government departments and statutory organisations to get some common sense applied and to see longer term solutions as opposed to short term fixes.”

Meanwhile, if the Executive agrees the revised strategy there will be a public consultation during the winter.

The Council will then merge the results with the ‘on-hold’ draft Stage 1 and prepare the plan that it proposes to submit to the Planning Inspectorate.

This new overall Borough Plan will be published for general comment in early summer 2020, before going to the Inspectorate in mid to late summer.

The examination timetable is up to the Inspectorate but should be over the autumn – winter period, allowing formal Council adoption of the plan in early 2021.

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Prestigious Queen’s award for Fareham’s Y-Services

Y-Services, the charitable organisation looking after youth services across the Borough, were honoured to receive a Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

It’s the highest award a voluntary group can receive and was presented by the Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson.

Andy and Maria Kennedy, who founded the charity in 2011, received the award.

Councillor Pamela Bryant said: “Y-Services is well-known across the area as being a great organisation offering a range of diverse groups and young people fantastic opportunities.

“This prestigious award is well deserved.”

PHOTO (l to r): Y-Services CEO Andy Kennedy, quadriplegic yachtman and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Geoff Holt, Mayor Pamela Bryant, Lord Lieutenant Nigel Atkinson and Councillor Connie Hockley.

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