

St Faiths Ward Matters

Keeping Residents up to date with issues in the Ward

November 2020

St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party



Welcome to our second local update on issues in St Faiths. Our aim is to support improvement to St Faiths and keep you informed of what is happening in the ward so that we can discuss and influence the decisions the council take on our behalf. We hope all residents are managing to stay safe and healthy. Thank you to all those traders in Havant and Emsworth who have done such an excellent job supporting our local community, and particularly the most vulnerable, during this difficult time.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Government proposes an increase to Havant new homes target
- No Council action on free holiday meals for schoolchildren?
- Confusion over “rewilding” of Warblington Farm
- Havant Council allows council workforce to be merged with East Hants
- Action on the planned Denvilles-Emsworth relief road?
- Possible progress on Warblington Station footbridge
- Looking after St Faiths

OPPOSITION TO INCREASES IN NEW HOMES TARGET

The proposed new planning reforms are causing significant disquiet amongst residents. The Borough housing target is to increase from 504 to 963 new dwellings a year.

- This is excessive in a heavily urbanised area.
- The level of local oversight over the planning approval process is to be reduced.
- The local MP made no mention of this issue in his recent leaflet and neither he nor our three ward councillors informed residents of the massive increase in housing numbers.

Our view is that we must consider the impact on green space, local facilities and transport links, ensuring that the housing mix includes a good proportion of genuinely affordable homes and rented accommodation for young families.

WARBLINGTON FARM NITRATE MITIGATION SCHEME: CONFUSION FROM THE COUNCIL

The Council have confirmed the proposal to remove parts of Warblington Dairy Farm from active farming in order to reduce nitrate run-off into Langstone Harbour caused by intensive farming. The idea is to enable housebuilding on brownfield sites to go ahead.

However, the press release on 11th September 2020 was misleading and contained several inaccuracies. It incorrectly states that Havant Borough Council bought the land for this project. Actually, the land has been owned by the Council for many years and leased to a tenant farmer. More importantly, both the press release and 'Environment Minister' Rebecca Pow suggest that Havant residents are about to get 'a green open space for them to enjoy' The reality is that the land will be taken out of agricultural production and then looked after by the farmer without public access. We understand that there will not be a nature reserve on the site for at least a decade.

Phil Munday, Chair of St Faiths and Emsworth Labour Party said *'I am concerned about the secrecy and confusion that has surrounded the project, which was lacking in transparency, with residents excluded from meetings.'*

FREE SCHOOL MEALS DURING HOLIDAY

We were dismayed that our local MP could not support the motion to provide additional help to our most disadvantaged children. This initiative would have provided meals directly to children who most need them. Studies have shown that children who are hungry struggle to learn leaving them further disadvantaged. It is a mean government that denies basic rights to children in need. We have written to Alan Mak and are delighted that Marcus Rashford's bravery in continuing to champion this cause shamed our MP and his government into a climbdown. All credit to local traders who filled the gap over half term, including The Wheelwrights who provided free nutritious meals.

LABOUR CANDIDATE SELECTED FOR 2021 ELECTIONS



Phil Munday, standing in St Faiths ward for the Borough elections is a retired secondary school teacher and headteacher and has lived in St Faiths ward for over forty years. He has four children who all attended local schools. Follow him on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PhilforStFaiths>, or email phil.munday@havantlabour.uk or Tel: 07740676675. If elected he

would

- Hold Council leaders to account working for more open, democratic and consultative decision making.
- Set sensible limits to housebuilding in Havant to protect our local environment, including considering housing density and increased use of brownfield sites
- Promote environmentally friendly projects including solar panels on all new houses, and pilot projects with heat pumps to provide energy.

MERGE OF COUNCIL WORKFORCES

The Borough Council recently agreed a proposal to amalgamate our Council workforce with that of East Hampshire District Council. The implications of this decision are far reaching and have not been fully spelt out.

- We are losing control of our services, which will no longer be tailored to the needs of Havant residents. Our needs are in many ways different from those of East Hants, which is predominantly rural.
- Some of our local council employees will be made redundant.

Phil Munday said *'Not only were the public not consulted but the merger was never openly debated even amongst Councillors. We need open discussion on implications of the change and how Havant will be governed in the future. All options need to be considered'*. You can see copies of correspondence we sent to the Leader of Havant Council on this at our website: <https://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk>



THE DENVILLES-EMSWORTH RELIEF ROAD

At consultation workshops three years ago on the proposed housing development between Denvilles and Emsworth, concern was raised by many residents about increased traffic along Southleigh Road. The Council promised us a relief road going

south from Bartons Road, crossing Southleigh Road and joining the A27 adjacent to the existing services. Attendees have received no update from the Council.

We have written to St Faiths councillors requesting much more detailed discussion on plans for this development, including progress with the relief road. Houses are already being built. We need more clarity about what is going on! We will be pushing for a properly planned and fully funded relief road.

WARBLINGTON STATION FOOTBRIDGE

At the time of the public consultation on the development of Strides Farm (which is long since built) residents were led to believe that the developer had promised to fund a footbridge at the Warblington level crossing, as a compensatory benefit to residents, and to reduce the danger of people waiting to cross. So where is it? Following enquiries, we have learnt that the Council have now asked Network Rail to part fund it. Let's hope we finally get some action!

LOOKING AFTER ST FAITHS

Thank you to all those residents who cut back their hedges in the Denvilles area. It is very helpful to those of us who use children's' buggies or wheelchairs.

Phil has contacted Havant Council and local Councillors about the increased **overnight lighting of the Langstone Technology Park**, which is causing problems for residents and wildlife. To date we have not had a reply and continue to press for one. We also requested



- Repainting the **pedestrian crossing in East Street** to improve safety. The markings have almost completely disappeared and are almost invisible to traffic travelling from the east.
- Repairing the risers on the **New Lane footbridge**, which had rotted away. Pleasingly, Network Rail have repaired these.
- The manager of Norse has promised us that replacement **glass recycling bins** have been ordered and will be distributed.

We understand that new planning applications have been put in for the **East Street site at, and adjacent to, Streets**. Also, **Portsmouth Water plan to build a new HQ on the current site in Brockhampton Lane**, linked to new housing development. We have concerns that the site needs a comprehensive plan shared with all local residents. Details of both plans are on the Council website www.havant.gov.uk and analysis on the Havant Civic Society website <https://havantcivicsociety.uk>

Please contact us on stfaithsmatters@havantlabour.uk. More detail is also available on our website at: <https://stfaiths.havantlabour.uk>