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In brief

Police: Guard your PIN numbers

POLICE are warning Fleet residents to be on their guard following a number of distraction thefts.

A spokesman said elderly people are being targeted in busy places such as supermarkets, adding: "It is believed the suspects are eastern European and operating in small groups.

"Two or three people hover around a victim at cash point machines or tills and watch them feed in their pin number. They then follow them and distract the victim by asking questions.

"While they are distracted they take the card out of the victim's purse or take the purse/wallet and immediately go to the ATM machine and withdraw large amounts before the victim realises the card has been taken."

Police are urging people to make sure they cover the keypad on chip and pin machines and at ATM cash points every time the enter their PIN number.

A new sustainable village

Council's plans for around 1,000 homes, shops and community space at Pyestock site

by Stephen Lloyd
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AROUND 1,000 homes could be constructed on a large site between Fleet and Farnborough.

Hart District Council has revealed proposals for a sustainable village on the former Pyestock site, which has now been renamed Hartland Park.

M&G Real Estate and Prologis did have permission to create a warehouse complex on the land but, since it was finally cleared in August 2014, it has been marketed without success.

Developer St Edward Homes has submitted initial proposals for a potential residential development on the 135-acre site, as part of Hart's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

St Edward will now work with the council to provide a new village with homes, shops, community space and residential amenities on the site of the former home to the National Gas Turbine Establishment.

Daryl Phillips, Hart's joint chief executive, said: "We are delighted this significant brownfield and largely vacant site is now being proposed for the delivery of much-needed homes in the area.

"We look forward to working with St Edward to come up with a shared vision for this new community."

Hart District Council leader Stephen Parker said the new development would remove the threat of night-time



The former Pyestock site between Fleet and Farnborough, which was cleared 18 months ago, is now at the centre of the council's plans to meet housing targets for the area.

heavy traffic disrupting communities to the east of Fleet and west of Farnborough.

"Fifteen years ago this threat was imposed on our communities, and in 2009 this was crystallised by the outgoing Labour government allowing the appeal by the then owners against the wishes of residents, Hart District Council and even their own planning inspector," he added.

"Even limiting the heavy goods vehicle movements was still going to place 800

lorry movements each night past bedroom windows, with the high-pitched reversing warnings sounding through the night hours.

"All this is now gone as St Edward is planning a sustainable new village with homes, shops, community space and residential amenities.

"The existing junctions on Summit Avenue and Iveley Road will give excellent access to the M3, the A30 and Farnborough by road while new parking facilities at

Farnborough station will facilitate commuting to London and Basingstoke and beyond.

"Not only does this proposal lift the threat of HGV movements connected with the warehousing consent and offer a significant contribution to Hart's housing target, it offers an opportunity to create a vibrant new community."

David Turver, of the We Heart Hart campaign, said: "We believe this effectively kills off the flawed plan for a

new town at Winchfield and should also mean that we don't need any urban extensions and can meet our housing needs on brownfield sites alone for decades to come.

"This is exceptionally good news."

Mr Turver added that he understood contamination was a major concern for the site.

"For commercial use, the cost of decontaminating the land was expected to be £8 million," he added. "For

residential use, the cost is likely to be much more.

"There is also a traffic limit imposed through the previous commercial permission, which is a source of concern."

Mr Phillips had previously said he believed that just over 1,000 homes would be best for the site, although Mr Turver believes the figure could be nearer 1,500.

Both M&G Real Estate and Prologis had not replied to a request for a comment as the *News & Mail* went to press.

12 months

NO

OTHER PLANS

T&Cs apply