

## At last! Community hospital reaches the planning table

**Completion in 2010 will end the saga that started before Casualty**

**PLANNING** has started on the proposed new Fareham Community Hospital at Coldeast with a completion date planned for 2010.

It heralds the end of a saga that has run for longer than TV's *Casualty*.

Two meetings have been held so far and Councillor Brian Bayford, the Borough's representative to the Planning Group, reports the intention to try to complete the development in one phase subject to adequate financial resources.

Capital funding will be provided partly by the Hampshire Primary Care Trust and partly by the Local Investment Framework Trust (LIFT), a type of private financing.

County Councillor Ray Ellis, Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee chairman, said construction of ambulatory care would start in 2008 and be ready by 2010.

Day care and in-patient facilities (the second phase) would be started in March 2011



**New lease of life:** The Council aims to restore and preserve Coldeast mansion (above).

**Facelift:** There will be an enhanced replacement for the Sylvan Clinic (below left).

**Axed:** Closure of Blackbrook Birthing Centre (below right) caused widespread sadness.

and be finished for occupation by August 2112.

Hampshire Primary Care Trust would then take responsibility for the hospital.

"Constant scrutiny will be needed to see that the project doesn't slip," he said.

The hospital is expected to include an enhanced replacement of the Sylvan Clinic, 12 maternity beds to replace Blackbrook, consultant outpatient clinics to enable Fareham residents to see specialists locally, a range of diagnostic and treatment facilities and a GP out-of-hours service.

Residents currently have to go to Gosport or Southampton to see a GP out of hours.

An accident and treatment service is not currently planned but, hopefully, can be included later. It would provide 3 major services:

- Immediate treatment for minor

injuries (with patients returning to their own home)

- Treatment/stabilisation and a short stay in hospital for observation

- Or immediate treatment and stabilisation of a patient before transfer to a major A&E unit for more intensive and specialist care.

Meanwhile, another act in the blockbuster Hospital by English Partnerships to Miller Homes who have consent to build up to 250 houses.



## Outrageous survey puts Fareham bottom of 'des res' league

**CIVIC** leaders are livid at national newspaper reports slating Fareham as the last place in Britain anybody would want to live.

"It's absolute rubbish," raged Executive Leader Seán Woodward who challenged the papers to name their sources.

The Daily Mail and The Independent lauded the

Regency spa town Cheltenham as top of the property hotspots in a national survey.

It placed Fareham last of the 1,833 towns listed by postcode.

"The small town on the edge of Portsmouth harbour is plagued by high crime and unemployment," they stated.

Councillor Woodward produced facts from the Office of

National Statistics which put Cheltenham's jobless at 1.7% and Fareham's at barely 1%.

"Home Office crime figures are more favourable to Fareham, with fewer crimes per 1,000 of the population in theft from vehicles, burglary, violence and robbery.

"Reported crime in Cheltenham in these areas is

up to five times higher than in Fareham." Yet both towns have similar populations.

Cheltenham has 110,000 inhabitants, Fareham 109,000.

He was happy to let Fareham people speak for themselves.

"In a residents' satisfaction survey 94% said Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work," he said.

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Ambulance HQ**

The fight to save Fareham's ambulance station has been lost.

The new Hampshire ambulance estate strategy prepared by the South Central Ambulance Service proposes ambulance service hubs in Portsmouth and Southampton, with a subsidiary station in Gosport.

When the policy is finalised, the HQ in Highlands Road will close.

**Town Quay**

The second phase of improvement proposed will involve surfacing of Lower Quay and Old Gosport roads and the public footpath from Lower Quay to Eastern Parade.

The character of the conservation area will be enhanced with granite kerbs, channels and setts.

Footpaths will be surfaced with resin bonded surface dressing, some street lighting will be replaced by stirrup style lantern and bracket.

**Cams path cost**

The Heritage bid to finance the path improvement around Cams Estate to enable wheelchair users and mothers with pushchairs to use this delightful route is likely to cost about £200,000.

£50,000 has to be raised from other sources before the bid can be submitted.

"We hope as many people and organisations as possible will help to raise this considerable sum," said County Councillor Ray Ellis.

# Resurfacing for fourth lane may reduce M27 noise level

**IMPROVEMENTS to the M27 may help to reduce noise, say the Highways Agency.**

The Agency has consulted residents on proposals to improve the M27 by adding a fourth 'climbing lane' between junctions 11-12, Fareham to Cosham.

It aims to reduce congestion due to slow moving vehicles and to use only Agency-owned land.

An extra lane will be constructed in each direction where traffic has to climb to the top of the hill.

The environmental impact will be minimal and any mammals, insects and reptiles disturbed during construction will be found new homes.

Total length of the scheme is just under 2 miles (3.2km).

To avoid restructuring and demolition of existing bridges, lane widths and hard shoulders will be slightly reduced.

There will be a slight increase in the volume of surface water run-off, which will be contained within a new drainage system.

New concrete safety barriers will be erected in the centre of the highway and more upgraded lighting provided.

It is anticipated that resurfacing of the road with modern quieter materials will reduce noise levels, although there may be a very slight adverse impact on air quality due to increased traffic.

Construction is expected to take about 10 months and an environmental management plan will be implemented to minimise impacts on the population. Contra-flow and speed reductions will be required during the construction, but 3 lanes will be mostly maintained in each direction.

## Green flag for Hampshire parks



**STAUNTON Park and Queen Elizabeth Country Park have received the prestigious national Green Flag award for excellent standard.**

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Department runs both parks and the staff are to be congratulated on their performances.

Staunton Park is ideal for a day out for young families and the QE park provides mountain bike trails and safari tours to visit the wild life.

•Picture shows (left to right) County Councillor Ray Ellis, Tim Speller (manager QE park), Lewis Paterson (manager Staunton Park) and John Tickle (Head of Countryside Service) receiving the flag in Birmingham.

## Wallington's bridge over troubled waters replaced



**FLOODING of Wallington village in 2000 was in part due to the interruption of river flow by the bridge at the White Horse.**

Now, after a wait of 5 years the bridge has been replaced by Hampshire County Council and will no longer trouble the waters beneath.

The County Council apologised for several weeks' delay in hoisting the bridge into place, due to the manufacturer being behind schedule with

the painting. The new bridge, constructed of steel, has made significant improvement to the village and river flow.

Villagers were also celebrating a successful summer fete held on a hot summer's day in July.

It raised £1,900 for Wallington Village Community Association.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said it was a great social function. "I enjoyed it and would like to congratulate the organisers."

## HATS off to a good start

**NEWLY formed Hampshire Action Teams (HATS) are holding their first meetings soon.**

Fareham and Gosport HAT, chaired by County Councillor Ray Ellis, was due to meet at Titchfield Haven on October 27.

HATS aim bring together in one forum all the area's county councillors, so that they can collaborate with district councils and local strategic partnerships to provide a better use of county resources.

For instance, it will recommend the most effective use of highway funds and suggest road safety improvements.

It will also perform school monitoring functions and consequent improvements, suggest topics for health scrutiny issues and in general promote local involvement in county decisions.

It will not duplicate district council functions or those of the local strategic partnerships, but it will use existing mechanisms to inform decisions on the most efficient use of county funds.

## Tory councils 'best value for money' say neutral surveys

**CONSERVATIVE-controlled Hampshire County Council is rated as 'excellent' for the services it provides by the independent Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspection and MORI surveys of the population.**

"Something which is not so well known," says County Councillor Ray Ellis, "is that it spends less of your money in achieving that level of performance than all but two of the counties in England."

The only two with a lower spending per head of population are Worcestershire and Leicestershire, which are smaller counties with fewer demands on their services.

Of the four most economic counties, three are Conservative controlled and one has no overall majority.

Similarly, of the four least economic, three are Labour controlled and one has no overall control.

"Is there a lesson to be learnt here?" asks Councillor Ellis.

The ranked spend per head of population is:

### MOST ECONOMICAL

Worcestershire (NOC)	£1191
Leicestershire (C)	£1199
Hampshire (C)	£1208
Cambridgeshire (C)	£1230

### LEAST ECONOMICAL

Lancashire (L)	£1357
Cumbria (NOC)	£1358
Durham (L)	£1423

## Rural policies challenged at conference

**THE BIG ISSUES for local government and their impact on Hampshire were discussed at the Rural Commission and Conference**

County Councillor Ray Ellis attended as a member of the Local Government Association Rural Policy Group.

Senior politicians and policy makers spoke and delegates had an opportunity to challenge emerging policies.

With Sir Michael Lyons due to publish his final recommendations on the future and role and functions of Local Government in December, the White Paper on Local Government due later this year and with the city-region debate already in full swing, the conference was timely.

Councillor Ellis said: "It provided an opportunity to identify the problems and to influence the members who will be addressing the problems facing our communities in the future."

"In Hampshire, a new rural policy is being developed to provide solutions to some of the issues raised such as the future of our farms, survival of our villages, provision of affordable housing and



rural health services.

"With the South East Development Plan being pushed hard, it is essential that we all do our best to preserve the best features of our communities.

"This is particularly relevant to the proposed expansion of housing in North Fareham. All development must be carefully considered in terms of environmental impact and the overloading of available infrastructure services," he said.

**•Photo: Ray Ellis (left) discussing issues with Councillor Barry Lipscombe, the cabinet member from Winchester City.**

## Fareham schools' pass rates better than national average

**THE PERCENTAGE of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades "A" to "C" in Fareham schools continue to show high pass rates, which are better than the national average for state schools.**

The results for individual Fareham schools with last year's results in brackets are:

Brookfield Community School	71%	(68%)
Cams Hill School	71.4%	(70.5%)
Crofton School	77%	(83%)
Portchester Community School	53%	(50%)
Henry Cort Community College	58%	(49.5%)

The average for Fareham schools is 66% which compares well with the averages for other local schools, Portsmouth 49%, Southampton 49%.

The national average this year is 62.4%.

## Warning to monitor for smells and dust

**RESIDENTS have been warned to keep a watch on a multi-purpose waste transfer station in Downend if it gets planning permission.**

It will process a range of waste, including dry recyclables, commercial waste and domestic and civic waste. It will also sort and pre-treat.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said: "As there have been problems of smell and dust from similar sites in the past, it is essential that, if approved, the community affected carefully monitor the site."

## FAREHAM EAST CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your councillors.

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**Your man in Westminster**



By Mark Hoban MP for Fareham

AT THE heart of the debate about development in Hampshire is how many houses should be built in the area. We know from population trends that we are going to see a huge increase in the number of people who live by themselves. In part, this is good news. People are living longer, but, sadly, higher rates of marriage breakdown lead to more people living by themselves. This means in my view there is no choice but to build more houses. This is not a comfortable message for people living in our area.

We are already seeing the consequences of this population change. In Fareham, where in the past we have seen lots of three or four bedroom houses being built, we are seeing developments with a higher proportion of flats – whether in Park Gate or Portchester or along the Avenue. The argument that is being made at the moment is that if we are to meet the needs of a changing population, we will need to continue to build more one and two bedroom flats.

But if we don't build more houses, the people who will miss out will be those who don't already have a place of their own. Young people already find it hard enough to buy a house or a flat; if there are fewer places on the market in the future, as the demand for houses increases, will they be priced out of the market?

For me, the crucial decision is if we need more houses, who decides how many? At the moment, the decision is taken in Whitehall. Government ministers will make the final choice. It is not right that decisions that shape the future of our communities should be taken in London, they should be decided in Hampshire by people who are accountable to you.

We should take responsibility for meeting the needs of our community in Fareham rather than being dictated to by Whitehall. Let us decide, not the Government, how many new houses we need to build to meet the changing population in Fareham.

**•You may contact Mark via his office  
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# Bloomin' marvellous!

## Golden hat-trick and a bunch of awards for Fareham's gardeners

**FAREHAM is basking in the summer glory after a hat-trick of wins in the South and South East in Bloom competition brought a coveted gold award.**

It came when Fareham won the Large Town/Small City category for the third successive year.

It was the first time the town had been awarded gold as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Fareham will now be invited to represent the southern part of the region, which covers Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and East Wiltshire, at next year's national competition.

Holly Hill Woodland Park at Sarisbury

was declared overall winner for the Best Countryside Park which earned a silver gilt award. The RHS also gave Fareham the only regional prize – the Britain in Bloom Biodiversity Award.

The citation praised all aspects of the campaign and excellence across the Borough.

Matt Wakefield, the Council's Horticultural Development Officer, put the icing on the cake when he won the Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in horticulture, the community and the In Bloom competition.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Connie Hockley was ecstatic after the ceremony in Chichester on



**Celebration:** Councillor Connie Hockley, Les Dawson (Chief Executive Officer for sponsors Southern Water), FBC's Horticultural Development Officer Matt Wakefield and volunteer coordinator Heather Othen.

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"The Council is totally committed to provision of first class parks, countryside and woodland sites.

"You have only to walk, cycle or drive around the Borough to see the evidence," she said.

"Events like 'In Bloom' do not just happen, but they are the result of years of hard work by Fareham's gardeners, dedicated volunteers and the

Council's public spaces team."

Fareham's 'In Bloom' gardening competition is 11 years old and very much the jewel in the crown of the Community Services.

Its awards ceremony was held on September 14 at Ferneham Hall when Councillor Hockley congratulated all who entered the competition and those who won an award.

## Department store giant is focus for centre revamp



**Exciting:** A big spender will revitalise the Shopping Centre.

**A FAMOUS high street name will be the focus of a multi-million pound facelift for Fareham Shopping Centre.**

It will involve demolition and replacement of the jaded multi-storey car park in Civic Way and doubling the size of

the retail area to the north of Osborn Square

The store's name is being kept secret until a planning application is made shortly, but Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward promises it will revitalise the centre.

Five smaller shop units

near British Home Stores will be replaced and a modern car park built.

The plan will include construction of 2,900 sq m (31,200 sq ft) of retail floor space on two floors.

The department store and new shops will be about the size of the Boots store.

Councillor Woodward said: "This exciting new, high quality development will represent considerable investment into Fareham town centre."

An exhibition showing the plans and inviting people's comments was being held in the centre in October.