



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM EAST – SUMMER 2008

January start for Fareham's community hospital

FAREHAM'S new community hospital goes for planning approval during the summer with a programmed building start at the Coldeast site in January 2009.

The public consultation recently undertaken by the NHS was mostly well received, but there was disappointment with the lack of maternity and in-patient beds.

The first phase is planned to be operational in early in 2011.

A key aim is to bring together a wide range of healthcare professionals in one building to support and enhance the delivery of patient care in Fareham area.

To achieve this, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) has consulted staff involved in the development of the service, with workshops and user group meetings.

Phase 1 will deal only with outpatient treatments.

Maternity beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook, may be provided in Phase 2, although Fareham is the only area in Hampshire with a predicted rise of 15% in the birth rate, compared with a decrease of 14% for Gosport and similar decreases in other neighbouring areas.

All's well that ends well after multi-million revamp hits snag...

WORK on Fareham's multi-million Shopping Centre re-vamp has been delayed after workers ran into unforeseen pitfalls.

Several old wells, probably dating from the time when there were houses on the site, were discovered where the new multi-storey car park and Debenhams Desire store are being built.

It means Debenhams and the new car park will not be open until spring 2009, thus missing the important Christmas period.

Building works were always going to be quite tightly programmed for Debenhams Desire to open for Christmas.

Debenhams, along with other major national retailers, have 'windows' which are the dates when new stores can open to achieve their own trading goals.

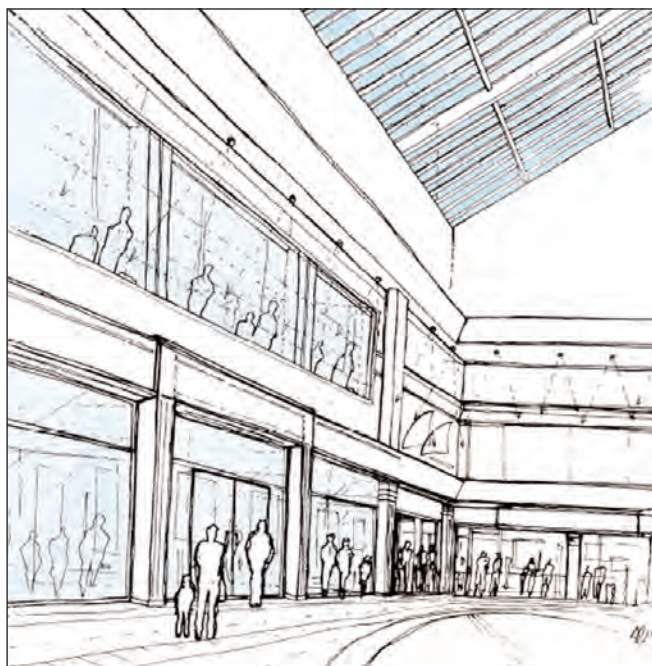
The Debenhams window reopens on February 1.

"Building control records did not show the existence of several large wells. These had to be bridged and, although this has now been successfully completed, it has caused some delay," said Centre Manager Pam Gillard.

However, store bosses remain committed to the Shopping Centre.

Robert Hadfield, of the Debenhams property team, said "I can confirm we are happy with the progress and are eager to open the store at that time in line with our current store opening programme."

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council,



Delayed: But bosses say Debenhams Desire, shown here as an artist's sketch, will be *well*/worth the wait.

Councillor Seán Woodward, said: "It is unfortunate that the wells were found but I am delighted that Debenhams remain committed to Fareham and look forward to it opening as soon as possible in 2009."

Pam Gillard added: "Shoppers are eagerly awaiting this and the other new stores.

"Although not available for this Christmas I know that Debenhams Desire will prove very popular and it promises to be a wonderful asset to Fareham when it opens next year."

...but this well makes fund-raising wishes come true

ANOTHER sort of well in the Shopping Centre proved more useful.

Rotary Club of Fareham's 'wishing well' helped raise enough cash to buy 4 scooters for Shopmobility.

Outgoing President George Cantrill (pictured with chain) and his successor, Jill Newby, presented them, helped by Fareham Borough Council Executive Leader,



Councillor Seán Woodward (third right).

Also pictured with Shopmobility staff are Shopping Centre Manager Pam Gillard (second right) and Rotarian Tom Churchill who built the well.

Shopmobility is funded by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Social Services.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Top teacher

Congratulations to Sarah Cox on her award as best Primary Teacher.

She has been teaching for five years, but has achieved major improvements in performance at Harrison School and is team leader for Year 6.

Sarah is a modern language specialist and is well liked and respected by her pupils who, with their parents, nominated her for the award.

Farming centenary

Tenant farmers from the Fareham area attended a reception in the Great Hall at Winchester to celebrate 100 years of tenant farming in Hampshire.

The importance of farming to Hampshire was emphasised in a speech from County Council Leader Ken Thornber.

Keith Mannerings replied as chairman of Hampshire Tenant Farmers' Association.

Get in your bids

The new round of applications for grants to your HCC councillor opened on June 1.

If you have a project, which you feel would benefit from grant funding, contact either Ray Ellis or John Bryant for further information and application forms.

Keep it short

As part of the National Year of Reading, HCC invites people to submit a story on any topic of not more than six words – a huge challenge. Email entries to www.3hants.gov.uk/six-word-story

Brighter street life plan

IMPROVEMENTS costing £1m to Fareham's West Street are now almost finished.

Several more private frontage owners agreed to take part in the scheme, including the Post Office.

Sadly, a few private owners have not agreed to participate but the Council still hopes they may change their minds and sign up.

Meantime, improvements to West Street between Quay Street and Bath Lane were approved by Hampshire County Council in May under the scheme for Regeneration of Older Urban Areas. A feasibility study will begin soon and will include:

- Measures to reduce



Quay Street: Improvements are on the cards at its junction with West Street.

traffic speeds and improve pedestrian facilities.

- Pavement and forecourt improvements to shops, removal of street clutter.

- Enhancing settings for historic buildings and street planting.

- Better access to open space.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said: "The budget for this work has to be established and there may be limitations on the options to modify highways."

A new pedestrian crossing will be installed soon before the regeneration scheme on the corner of High Street.

County gravel grab plan bites the dust

MASSIVE opposition to proposals to extract 8m tons of sand and gravel from 740 acres of countryside bordering The Solent ended in victory for the campaigners.

The sites were rejected on the basis of appraisal issues, ie protection of existing uses such as agricultural, recreation, strategic undeveloped and open coastal landscape and the amount needed.

The proposals met a storm of protest, borne out by a huge turnout of residents at a public meeting and the number of responses to the County Council's consultation.

County Councillor Ray Ellis, who visited the sites at Chilling and Brownwich with cabinet members, was pleased all

Fareham sites had been removed from the list to go for public consultation before being submitted to the Government.

He said: "Due to changes in housing construction methods the amount of gravel needed is less than that used in former building techniques.

"Thus the proposed amount of gravel identified for extraction has been reduced, enabling the target to be met without any contribution from Fareham.

"However, the recent report from the Government housing policy review group advocating a new build of 50,000 houses per year until 2020 in SE England – if it is achievable – will require more building materials and additional infrastructure."

New challenge for Ray after county cabinet reshuffle

A RESHUFFLE of Hampshire County Council's ruling cabinet has cut its size from 10 to 9.

Ray Ellis (Fareham Town) joins the cabinet as Executive Member for Efficiency, Performance and Rural Policy, responsible for establishing even better cost effective services and keeping local taxes as low as possible.

He said: "I am sorry to be giving up responsibility for Health Scrutiny for the people of Hampshire and the chairmanship

of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for South Central England.

"During the last six years, I feel these committees have achieved improvement in health service provision in our area. However, I feel the overall performance of the County Council is now a more important role.

"It is a considerable challenge as HCC is already achieving excellent status in Audit Commission reports.

Allowances increased in bid to recruit foster carers

THE CAMPAIGN to find new foster carers is being supported by Wave 105 radio station and other organisations are being sought by Hampshire County Council.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said: "Being a foster carer is probably one of the most rewarding jobs you can do, as you help vulnerable children at a time of need and relieve the stress on them and their families and provide them with a safe and secure home."

To support carers, HCC has recently increased foster care allowances and skill training opportunities in recognition of the important job they do.

If you feel that you can help in any way with fostering, whether it is short or long-term or even providing respite for other carers, please contact the Foster Care Line 0845 6035620 or visit the web site at www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk.

Carers are needed from a wide range of cultural, religious, ethnic and social backgrounds.

"Another challenge will be to meet the new requirement of the Commission, as HCC will no longer be assessed on its own performance, but on those of all partners in service provision.

"I will do my very best to serve the electorate by ensuring a better service to you all at lower cost."

He relinquished chairmanship of the River Hamble Management Committee and Fareham and Gosport Hampshire Action Team, but remains Vice-Chairman.

Fareham 'a healthy place to live' says survey

A RECENT survey by Department of Health shows Fareham has better health indicators than the England average.

It has low levels of deprivation, crime and child poverty.

Male and female life expectancy is high and early deaths from heart disease and cancer are less than the England average and are improving further.

Fareham does have some deprived areas, mostly in North West and South Wards, but even here it is only present in the third pentile of the most nationally deprived areas.

Fareham East and Portchester have some parts in the second pentile of deprivation.

Fareham's remaining wards show least deprivation and here life expectancy for men is 81 years and 85 years for women, whereas in the most deprived it is 76 and 82 respectively.

Of adults who smoke (17%), the death rate is low, at about 170 annually.

The number of children classified as obese compares with the national average.

Keith keeps an eye on St Christopher's plan



ST CHRISTOPHER'S Hospital is closed and the remaining staff still working on the site are being transferred to Fareham Health Centre until the new Community Hospital is opened in 2011.

Keith Barton writes: "The site is programmed for housing development and planning approval was granted in September 2007.

"Planning permission required the main façade of the 1860s building to

be retained and it will be interesting to see what future planning applications propose."

The site is now on the market and a developer is expected to complete a sale before Christmas.

Keith Barton added: "I intend to ensure that full consultation is undertaken before any detailed permission is granted."

Further information will be provided when available.

Chairman's

corner



by Keith Barton

I WOULD very much like to thank everybody who supported me in this year's election.

It was a very close run result. I polled 1,063 votes and lost to the Mayor only by 80 votes after a recount.

My share of the vote was 45.3% against the winner's 48.7%.

I'm sure with a bit more effort it will be a victory next time round.

Meantime, I will still be working hard in the ward over the next two years.

Meet the ancestors at new time travel site

Hampshire County Council has established a new web site 'Access Hampshire Heritage'.

It will enable you to search on line for your

ancestors or the history of the house in which you live.

You can have a peek into the past at old parish registers and wills dating back to 1600 or before.

To access this site visit www.hants.gov.uk/archives/ahh.

It is also possible to visit Hampshire's Military History at www.defence-oftherealm.co.uk.

£1m extra for roads

HAMPSHIRE County Council has approved spending £1m on road repairs.

This is a response to a residents' survey which put road maintenance as a top priority.

A further £500,000 has been allocated for temporary repairs to highways. This will enable many potholes to be filled and general road conditions improved.

Dial-a-ride contract

A TEMPORARY single contract has been given to Fareham Community Action until March 31, 2009 while competitive tendering for dial-a ride services is completed.

The services operated under this scheme are available to all bona fide voluntary and community groups in Fareham. Some services will be targeted to individual members of the community who are disadvantaged.

While out and about knocking doors – apart from the regular issues such as parking, local developments etc – parents told me there was not much in the area for their children to do.

At some stage, I will do a survey notifying parents on what there is to do and asking the children what sort of things they would like to happen.

If you wish to talk to me sooner or to air your views, then please call me on 01329 286396 or email: chairman@fareham-east-conservatives.org.uk.

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

I AM DELIGHTED that, following pressure from local people, the County Council has decided to save Brownwich and Chilling and drop it from the list of proposed sites for gravel extraction.

It was a great result and was the consequence of local people coming out in force to protest, coupled with robust logical arguments.

What impressed me about the campaign was that it was a real team effort. It was kick-started by CAMELSolent, a group of local residents who came together to make sure that people were aware of the plans. They set up the public meeting at Brookfield School where hundreds turned up to hear about the plans and voice their concerns.

This led to the County Council being deluged with responses to its consultation. I was sent copies of 300 responses out of a total of nearly 2,000 and I was struck by the strength of the arguments.

There was a real sense of passion as people wanted to safeguard one of the last undeveloped stretches of Solent coastline. In making these representations, residents had the support of their Borough and County councillors as well as mine. By working as a team, we persuaded the County Council to change its mind.

This was a genuine consultation and the County Council did not go into this with its mind made up.

For those who are cynical about consultations, dropping Brownwich and Chilling as well as Pickwell Farm shows what can happen. Hampshire, like any council, gets its fair share of brickbats so for this decision it deserves a bouquet!

Thank you to all those who made their voice known. Your hard work and commitment secured this haven for generations to come.

**•You may contact Mark via his office
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN.
Telephone: 01329 233573
email: mail@markhoban.com**

He's full of beans...



Tucking in: James Harrison (11) makes short work of breakfast while his mum, Louise, ensures the empty tins go into the blue-top recycling bin.

BEANZ meanz energy.

Baked beans on toast will provide you with calories; the tin they came in will save enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours if you recycle it.

Recycling paper, tin, glass, aluminium and plastics saves 60% to 70% energy.

Fareham remains at the top of the Hampshire league for recycling with the most recent percentage at 44.3%.

An advisory campaign to

provide extra information to residents who are still unsure of what to recycle, started earlier in the year.

National newspapers have printed 'scare stories' about rats, plastic bags and recycling material going to India or China where it is buried.

This may be the situation in other parts of the country, but not in Fareham, where there has been no increase in vermin infestation.

Fareham collects only material for which there is a UK recycling market.

All other waste goes to the SE Hampshire incinerator to produce energy to heat and light 30,000 houses a year and none goes to landfill.

A major campaign is being promoted by Project Integra (a consortium of 14 Councils in Hampshire) to recycle tins.

If in doubt ring the Council 01329 236100.

Recycling bin's full of tins



Oh Gord, now it's a Brown bin tax

GORDON BROWN'S failing Government is trying to lure Conservative-controlled councils into introducing a bin tax.

Even Labour's optimistic assessment admits it would cost at least £72 a year and add to the misery of families already struggling to meet soaring living costs.

But despite repeated Downing Street briefings that such a tax would make the Government even more unpopular, Labour is pushing ahead with the plan.

Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "It's just another cynical Labour attempt to tax families more by stealth, but with a thick coat of greenwash."

Initially, five pilot schemes will adopt these new taxes; the Government predicts that the taxes will be extended to two out of three homes.

Ministers have written to every council inviting them to take part in such schemes.

Councillor Woodward responded: "This is a trap to attempt to entice Conservative councils into supporting the Government's deeply unpopular plans."

Ministers maintain such schemes could be 'revenue neutral', but councils across the country warned the Government's figures do not add up, due to the administration, collection and enforcement costs of a new tax, as well as the need for lockable bins.

The Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management warns that with overall council tax bills remaining the same, either householders who recycle will pay a proportionally larger slice – in the Irish Republic costs of 300-400 Euros (£240-£320) are not uncommon for waste collection – or other services might have to be reduced.

Bin taxes will lead to a surge of fly-tipping and back-



Browned off: Maybe it's time to recycle him

yard burning and will give perverse incentives to people to dump their rubbish, stuff it in neighbours' bins or contaminate recycling bins.

In the Irish Republic, 4 in 10 households now burn their rubbish, causing 73% of all dioxin emissions.

Under Labour's plans, civil amenity sites will have to remain free for household waste, so more people will drive to the local tip to avoid the tax, increasing carbon emissions and congestion.

Councillor Woodward added: "The Government should be working instead with councils to extend recycling collections and make it easier for all households to go green."

"There is certainly a role for incentives, but not for taxes or charges."