



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST – AUTUMN 2006

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.

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 local-



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.

ly, 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 reached its climax with the sale of land at Coldeast Hospital by English Partnerships to Miller Homes.

It follows years of planning applications for hundreds of houses, all of which were refused by Fareham Council, until John Prescott granted the current development on appeal.

Miller Homes have planning consent for up to 250 houses and the land contains most of the old hospital buildings with the exception of the mansion.



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.

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



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

Phase 2 of improvements proposed will involve surfacing of Lower Quay and old Gosport roads and the public footpath from Lower Quay to Eastern Parade.

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.

Christmas is coming

Festivities in Fareham town centre will start on Thursday, November 16 when shops will be open until 8pm.

Charity Christmas cards will be on sale at The Podium and also at the Tourist Information Centre in Westbury Manor Museum.

On Sunday, November 19 Santa arrives at The Grotto in the Shopping Centre and the Christmas lights will be switched on at 4.30pm.

There will be a special farmers' market on Sunday, December 20.

Labour's plan for 132,000 houses will need £2bn for infrastructure

GOVERNMENT plans to flood South Hampshire with 132,000 new homes will need over £2 billion for infrastructure to support them.

It is the latest estimate by Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Councils, based on information received by utilities and other infrastructure providers.

Transport improvements would account for most of the money, but the total includes new water supplies and sewerage as well as the education, health and community facilities which will be needed to serve the development proposed in the draft South East Plan.

Councillor John Bryant says most of the proposed new housing is to cater for the trend towards smaller households, which will increase demand for

water, electricity and gas, and will require new infrastructure such as a reservoir.

All three councils are adamant that development must be accompanied by the full range of infrastructure and facilities. However, they are still awaiting assurances from the Government that the necessary funding will be forthcoming.

Originally, 80,000 new houses were planned for SE Hampshire, but two days before the official deadline for public comment on the SE Plan, John Prescott moved the goalposts and increased the number by 50%.

His intention is to raise the annual number of houses built from 4,000 to 6,571 over the next 20 years – the equivalent of one new Whiteley every year.

Tourist office is in line for award

CONGRATULATIONS to Fareham Tourist Information Centre.

It has been short-listed for the prestigious Tourism Excellence Awards 2006.

There are just three other centres in the Tourism South East region (Portsmouth , Whitstable and Gravesend) to have been chosen.

These awards recognise high customer service standards and all entrants are assessed by a team of expert judges.

Fareham Tourist Information Centre, which has limited facilities within Westbury Manor Museum, produced an entry portfolio, was visited by a mystery shopper, received an email and phone call to assess service levels.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "Congratulations should go to all the staff at Fareham Tourist Information Centre for getting this far in a very competitive field.

"It is a wonderful achievement and shows how useful this service is to Fareham."

Resurfacing for M27 fourth lane may reduce traffic 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.

Winter changes to household recycling centre times

SHORTER days will bring a change to the opening hours of the household waste recycling centre at Segensworth.

Most Hampshire HWRCs are open until 7pm during the summer, but from October 1 they reverted to their winter closing time of 4pm.

Hampshire's 24 HWRCs receive over 4,000,000 visitors a year,

bringing in 250,000 tonnes of rubbish for recycling or disposal.

Earlier closing times during the winter months are implemented due to health and safety risks associated with moving and depositing bulky items in the dark.

County Councillor John Bryant said: "Household waste recycling centres are one of the most popular services that the County

Council provides.

"When the darker evenings arrive, the safety of our customers and staff must be our paramount concern."

All sites will continue to be open seven days a week for people to recycle their bulky rubbish (except December 25 and 26 and January 1), and will be open until 7pm once more from April 1.

HATS off to a good start

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

Fareham and Gosport HAT was due to meet at Titchfield Haven on October 27.

County Councillor John Bryant said HATs aimed to bring together in one forum all the area's county councillors, so that they could 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.

Mayoral congratulations to Fareham in Bloom winners

FAREHAM'S Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors John and Pam Bryant, presented certificates to many residents of North and North West Wards at the Fareham in Bloom awards ceremony in Ferneham Hall.

Among the individual winners were Jan Purnell, Julie Armstrong, Brenda and Colin Parker, Maurice Bird, Mr & Mrs Bowles, Mrs Huggins, Tamara Collins, Mr L. Peach and Nan Brooks, all from North Ward.

Pauline Knight, Frankie Lane, Sheila Wassell and Eve Munro were winners from North West Ward.

In the Sheltered Residential category Acacia Lodge won the Gold Award, with Faregrove Court receiving a Bronze Award at their first attempt.

In the Local Authority Sheltered Residential category once again Collingwood House received a Bronze award.

Councillor Bryant congratulated all who entered on their splendid efforts.

"While gardening is a hobby for so many residents the high standard of horticulture in the Borough is a real credit to everyone," he said.

Better than national average

THE PERCENTAGE of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A to C in Fareham schools shows 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% and the national average this year is 62.4%.

Tory councils 'best value for your 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 John Bryant, "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 Bryant.

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

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST 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 ward 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.

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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.

September 6

"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.