

Council chiefs are livid at decades of broken promises

Hospital may be axed

Closures leave Fareham's 110,000 population with just two small clinics

HEALTH bosses who promised Fareham would have its community hospital at Coldeast by 2009 are now saying the plan may be scrapped.

Hampshire & IoW Strategic Health Authority forecasts a £3m shortfall in funding in 2007-09 and suggests either a further delay or pulling the plug.

Savings will be made by closing the remaining day care facilities at St Christopher's Hospital and Coldeast.

Blackbrook Maternity Home has closed and is unlikely to reopen.

Replacement of the 30-year-old Fareham Health Centre is also at risk because of the shortfall.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive member for health and environment, said: "This leaves Fareham, one of the largest boroughs in Hampshire, with only the small clinic at Highlands Road and the temporary Sylvan Clinic at Coldeast."

Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward and Councillor Bayford said it was unacceptable and would mean

Fareham people having to travel to Gosport or St Mary's in Portsmouth for health services that should be provided locally.

Changes to Gosport's War Memorial Community Hospital and improvements to St Mary's Hospital and the new Havant Community Hospital will be unaffected.

The Government has let a contract to a private American-funded health care company for orthopaedic and ophthalmology surgery, 'walk in' centre, accident treatment centre and other services at St Mary's Hospital, plus some out-patient clinics at Havant.

These projects must continue as Government priority is to be given to the private company, causing further financial problems for Portsmouth Hospitals.

Councillor Woodward has written in the strongest terms to the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hants Strategic Health Authority and Secretary of State for Health advising that any proposal to delay or abandon Fareham's community hospital will not be accepted by the residents of the Borough.

Similar letters have been sent to County Health Scrutiny Committee Chairman Councillor Ray Ellis, who is supporting us, and Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Bayford attended the Strategic Health Authority and F & G Primary Care Trust meetings and argued that the



CLOSED: St Christopher's

community hospital must be progressed in the interests of Fareham residents and those in Winchester-Whiteley and border areas.

Later this month, Fareham MP Mark Hoban is meeting the Primary Care Trust to renew his call for the hospital.

He said: "Local people will be let down if the new hospital does not go ahead. I am convinced that it is necessary."

WHAT THEY PROMISED AND NOW THEY CAN'T DELIVER

Fareham's hospital would be operational to match the opening of the new, extended QA Hospital by April 2009. Phase 1 would offer:

- Enhanced maternity unit with birthing pool
- Beds and day care centre for the elderly
- Consultant out-patient suites providing about 25,000 appointments a year
- On-call facilities for GPs
- Physio/occupational and speech therapy
- Diagnostic services including X-Ray

The Health Authority was confident a later phase would provide an accident treatment centre to serve the Western Wards of Fareham, Whiteley, Bursledon, Lowford and Hedge End. The 25-acre site has room for expansion.



CLOSED: Blackbrook



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Yellow lines

Recent proposals to implement waiting restrictions at the junction of Funtley Road and The Waters have been advertised.

This is to improve the site line for traffic exiting The Waters.

As a result of objections from residents and following discussions between Councillor John Bryant and highways officers, the length of yellow line along Funtley Road will be reduced.

Knightsbridge

A planning inspector has overruled Fareham Development Control Committee and allowed 1 and 1a Arundel Drive to be used in Association with Knightsbridge House.

Mayoral family

Councillor Leslie Keeble was elected as Fareham's new Mayor at the council's agm in May. His wife, Christine, is Mayoress.

Fareham North residents will be pleased to learn that Councillor John Bryant was elected Deputy Mayor, with his wife, Councillor Pamela Bryant, as Deputy Mayoress.

Pam was Mayor in 2002-03 when John, who was last year's County Council chairman, was her consort.

Laundry

Several developers are showing an interest in the old laundry site in Gudge Heath Lane.

Councillors John and Pam Bryant are being kept informed by council officers and will try to keep you updated of positive developments.

John and Ray promise value for money at County Hall

NEWLY elected County Councillors John Bryant and Ray Ellis have promised council taxpayers they will get a good return for their money.

In April, Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils set record low levels of council tax.

"We are pledged to maintain the council tax in the lowest quartile of all county councils and this will be the over-riding consideration against which all policy decisions, innovations and initiatives will be judged," said the members for the new Fareham Town Division.

John Bryant and Ray Ellis would like to thank all those who supported them at the County Council elections on May 5 and all who took the trouble to vote.

John and Ray were very pleased and honoured to be re-elected as the two County Councillors representing the new Fareham Town Division.

The new division with two members covers the Fareham Borough wards of North, North West, West, South, and East.

RESULTS

Bryant (Con)	7,585	Ellis (Con)	6722
Dunn (Lib Dem)	4900	Murray (Lib Dem)	4685
Carr (Lab)	3,546	Rose (Lab)	2682
		Harrison (Green)	1289

It was very helpful and interesting to meet fellow residents while canvassing to discuss local issues.

Unfortunately with the division having approximately 27,000 voters they were unable to meet everyone.

John will continue to act as a Fareham Borough

Methodists' lifeline to centre users

A CHURCH has offered to provide a venue for users of Fareham Community Centre when the run-down building is closed next year.

Fareham Methodist Church, which is opposite, wants to extend community use of its building.

It will need some internal changes to accommodate new groups.

After these alterations, it is hoped the Trinity Pre-school will be able to re-locate there, as well as Mencap Friday Club and several monthly meeting groups and afternoon badminton sessions.



Happy returns: Ray Ellis (left) and John Bryant promise electors value for money at Winchester.

Councillor believing that the two roles complement each other. John has been appointed Chairman of the County Council Standards Committee and will be serving on the Regulatory, Environmental, Policy and Resources Committees as well as a Vice Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board.

Ray has retained his role as Chairman of the Health Review Committee and is a member of Recreation and Heritage and Policy and Resources Committees.

He is also Chairman of the River Hamble Management Committee.

Car park barrier a success



THE barrier at the entrance to the car park has solved many of the problems associated with the Leisure Centre.

However, complaints have been received by Councillor Pam Bryant (pictured) regarding the car park being used as a race track, particularly late at night.

Council officers have been asked to look at redesigning the car park layout and making adjustments which should stop these activities.

Funding still has to be finalized for this project.

Rowdy pub loses late night licence

A PUB'S late night licence has been withdrawn after jobs made residents' lives hell.

Moda, formerly The Royal Oak on the corner of West Street and Trinity Street, lost its extended hours licence after a second three-month trial.

After a string of complaints, the Licensing Panel decided the management failed to set up required monthly liaison meetings with residents, police and council representatives.

Moda has lodged an appeal which will be heard by the town's magistrates.

Residents' ideas aid shopping precinct improvement scheme

A PLAN to spruce up the Highlands Road shopping precinct has been welcomed by locals.

Residents were consulted by Fareham Borough Council as part of the Environmental Improvement Programme.

Some of their suggestions were incorporated into the shopping area and £65,000 was allocated for the scheme.

Among the improvements under way are railings, more pedestrian access points, a better pavement in front of the shops, easier access to parking



Pleased: Councillor John Bryant surveys progress.

spaces, new spaces for disabled users and tree planting.

Measures to improve pedestrian road crossing and traffic flow at

the junction of Gudge Heath Lane and Highlands Road have led to a pelican crossing being included in the programme.

Better roads, paths in pipeline

SEVERAL areas are earmarked for improvements to roads and footpaths in Fareham Town in Hampshire County Council's 2005-06 programme.

- Westbury Road:** Better lighting, resurfacing and vegetation clearance.
- Park Lane:** Traffic management scheme.
- Knowle village to Funtley:** Footpaths.
- Fontley Road:** Footpath.
- Salterns Lane:** Traffic calming.
- A27 corridor:** Traffic management, pedestrian crossings and funding for decriminalising parking.

Having a ball to remember Nelson

FAREHAM Conservatives' main social event this year will be a "Trafalgar Ball" to be held in Ferneham Hall on Friday, September 9.

We are delighted that David Cameron MP (a potential candidate for Leader of the Conservatives) is our speaker, and music will be provided by "Nite Shift" (back by popular demand from last year).

There will be a drinks reception followed by a three course dinner supplied by award winning Royal Marine chefs.

Tickets are available at £45.00 each. Please telephone 01329 822 646.

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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

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Your man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

Can I first of all thank you for your support at the General Election. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability in Westminster and Fareham. There has been no let up in my work for you since the election.

In Westminster, I continue to battle on behalf of local people so that your voice will be heard by the Government. Since the election, I have questioned the Government on the plans to build an extra 80,000 houses in South East Hampshire over a 20-year period. I have been pressing them on the need for better infrastructure. Because of the work that I have done, ministers are aware of your concerns about the local health service.

The tragic events of Thursday 7th July are a reminder that Parliament, as well as tackling the needs of local communities, needs also to focus upon maintaining the security of our nation.

Whilst I am sure that there are lessons to be learnt from the attacks on London, we need to be clear about one thing, we should never give in to terrorists.

Not only should we not give in to their political demands, but we should continue to get on with our lives.

People planning to visit London during the summer holidays should go ahead.

Those in our community who work in London should continue to do so. Terrorists try to force us to change so standing firm in the face of their threat sends them a message that we will not be defeated.

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

Celebrate a glorious day for Fareham

WRITE Saturday July 30 in your diary in red ink.

It's the day Fareham is planning a feast of celebrations to mark this momentous year for the borough and Britain.

It will be a day of rejoicing, commemoration, festivities, music and lots of fun. And fireworks.

So what are we celebrating?

Firstly, two national anniversaries – Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the end of World War 2 in 1945.

Appropriately, it's the 30th anniversary of the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough on HMS Collingwood, named after Vice Admiral Lord Collingwood, who took command of the British fleet when Nelson died.

Secondly, it is also the day when the prestigious Market Quay complex with its splendid new cinema will be officially opened, Cremer Mall, Vannes Parade and Pulheim Parade will be named and a cannon from the Trafalgar era loaned by Fort Nelson will be unveiled in West Street.

The day begins on a serious note, when Fareham Mayor Councillor Leslie Keeble and Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward will join Hampshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan, in the formal commemorations.

Representatives from Vannes and Pulheim will attend and be particularly honoured later when they inaugurate the parades named after Fareham's twin towns in France and Germany.



Contrast in styles: The new Apollo and (inset) the former Embassy.



At 10 am, led by the Royal Marines Band, sailors from HMS Collingwood will exercise their right to march through the town with drums beating, colours aloft and bayonets fixed.

Then, the town centre will erupt into a cavalcade of fun all the way through the afternoon and evening, starting with the launch of 200 balloons.

There will be a balloon race, fairground rides, stilt walkers, jugglers, musicians and competitions provided by Ocean FM.

A French market will be in the precinct from July 28 - 30, offering the delights of cuisine from across the Channel.

During the day, collections will be taken to support local charity The Rainbow Centre, which is raising money for its new premises at Cams Alders and has also organised events for children.

And owners of the new Apollo Cinema have promised a special preview to mark its opening.

A firework display will bring down the curtain on what promises to be, in the words of Seán Woodward, "a glorious day for the town".

New law will trim causes of hedge rows

SHARPEN your shears and trim that hedge.

High hedges that block views and steal the light have been the cause of numerous rows between neighbours.

Not any longer. Thanks to new legislation that came into force on June 1, if neighbourly attempts to solve problems are unsuccessful it is now possible to apply to the Council for enforcement action.

Residents will need to show evidence that several attempts have been made to resolve the problem and on payment of a small fee (not applicable to pensioners and those on benefits) an order can be served requiring action to reduce the offending hedges to a maximum of 2 metres (just over 6 ft).

A penalty of £1,000 and direct action by the Council to reduce the hedge(s) is possible if action is not taken.

There have been several problems recently in the area that have now been amicably resolved between neighbours when details of the new law were advised.

If you have a hedge problem contact your local councillor who will be pleased to advise.

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