



**Conservatives**

# In Touch

*with our community*

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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.



## Safety measures to be carried out at Mill Road danger junction

**SAFETY** measures are in hand to protect pedestrians at the Mill Road-Gosport Road roundabout.

It follows a serious accident at the danger spot in September when a vehicle crashed through a barrier, crossed the footpath and ended up severely damaging a garden fence at the home

of Mr and Mrs Vadis.

"It was a miracle that due to the inclement weather that morning the footpath was clear and nobody was hurt," said Councillor Dennis Steadman, who is treating the dangerous junction as his top priority.

The accident strengthened his case when he met the Head of

Engineering and Transportation to discuss the viability of installing barriers.

"After a long discussion it was decided the most appropriate course would be to paint white hatched lines at the kerb nib to direct vehicles away from the pavement and allow a greater safety margin," he said.

A bollard could be installed at that point, depending on the position of utilities, but barriers were ruled out because they must be a minimum of 18 inches from the kerb which would narrow the footpath and offer no protection from vehicles.

It is expected work will be carried out this November.

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

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Broadlaw Walk**

At present there are no indications from Portsmouth Housing Association about its plans for Broadlaw Walk.

"We are all keen to have this settled as soon as possible," said Councillor Trevor Howard.

**Thanks to cleaners**

Residents who have helped to clean up parts of South Ward have been praised.

"I am now appealing to all residents help keep a clean ward.

"Just picking up rubbish around your area, tidying your back and front gardens and cleaning out sheds will make the ward so much better to live in," said Councillor Trevor Howard.

Call him on 281510 if you need help.

**Leaflets help needed**

Your Conservative councillors will be grateful for help in delivering 200 leaflets about four times a year.

If you can help or are interested in joining us, call your ward councillors.

**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.



**DISMASTED**

**Mobile giant's plans to ruin frontage of Lady Hamilton's home are scuppered**

**HORATIO NELSON would have hailed it as a 'great and glorious victory'.**

A bid to erect a 50ft mobile phone mast outside historic Town Quay House where the admiral's paramour Emma Hamilton once lived has been scuppered.

It was dismantled after angry residents and councillors fired broadsides at the company for trying to ruin the aspect of the mansion built in 1720.

Councillor Dennis Steadman and Town Quay House owner Paul Holland led the vanguard into battle at Fareham

Planning Committee, who sided with the protesters by rejecting the application 7-1.

"Besides the imposition of ultra modern technology being forced upon the residents of the surrounding area, if not the whole of Fareham South, there is always the fear of radiation emitted from these base stations.

"There are three schools and a nursery nearby and pedestrians would have no choice but to walk past the base station some with intrepidation," said Councillor Steadman.

The Government's chief advisor on mobile safety, Sir William Stewart, stated in his report that councils should adopt a precautionary approach and has warned of a genuine radiation risk to young brains.



**Horrific:** O2 wanted a 50ft mobile phone mast in front of Lady Hamilton's historic Fareham home. PHOTO: Jonathan King

The committee's refusal was based on the concerns of the Council's arborist and conservation officer, who stated that the mast would harm the setting of the house and the amenity value of the trees would be ruined.

"We really must fight against the imposition of having our heritage snatched away in the interests of big business which does it for profit, not the public," added Councillor Steadman.

However, there could be trouble just over the horizon and the wind may have been only temporarily taken from O2's sails. They will counter attack with an appeal.

"We must muster all hands to fight them," said Councillor Steadman.

Let's hope the Nelson Touch prevails.

**The integral partners in handling and recycling waste**

**PROJECT Integra is a unique partnership between councils in Hampshire and Hampshire Waste Services, part of the Onyx Environmental Group.**

The integrated man-

agement strategy handles waste in a four-pronged approach: minimilisation, recycling (including composting), energy recovery and as a last resort, landfill.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said he was

impressed when he toured Alton Materials Recycling Facility, Little Bushey Warren and Chineham near Basingstoke where all our recyclable waste is sorted and turned into usable products.

**Fareham in Bloom: 17 awards for ward's gardeners**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Fareham South residents who entered the prestigious Fareham in Bloom Competition 2006.**

We were successful in many categories and won 17 awards in all against competition from all over the Borough.

"They deserve our heartfelt thanks," stated Councillors Trevor Howard and Dennis Steadman.

Councillor Steadman said: "It was wonderful to hear about and to see residents who find time to enhance their gardens and the ward itself,

"We owe a lot to these and other civic minded people.

"Even the Liberal Democrats, who usually complain about the running of the borough, have commented that 'Fareham is a beautiful place to live, thanks to the Borough Council'."

**Category Awards**  
**St Michael's Grove:** Mr and Mrs Blandford (3 awards).

**Upper St Michael's Grove:** Mrs Wallis (2 awards).

**Mill Road:** Mrs Sharp (2 awards).

**Wallisdean Avenue:** P Tribe (2 awards).

**Redlands Lane:** Mrs James (3 awards).

**Paxton Road:** Jaqui Bruster (1 award).

**Briarwood Close:** Mrs Pape (2 awards).

**Holmfield Avenue:** Mrs Reade (1 award).

**Coombe Farm Avenue** Mrs Stevenson (1award)

## Road repairs pressure bears fruit

REPAIR and reconstruction work was carried out during August to Redlands Lane footpath and the road surface in Fairfield Avenue.

This is the result of approaches made to the Hampshire Highways as road and footpath surfaces had become badly worn and posed a threat to safety.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "We have been waiting for this and other work to be carried out for a long time, but our hard work is coming to fruition.

"There are many areas of the ward that still need attention and I will pursue our needs with the Highways Department."

Portsmouth Water was carrying out mains renewal at the same time.

"It is a messy and difficult situation at any time but the ultimate benefits outweigh the inconvenience," he added.

## ACTION: Trevor doesn't sit on the fence, he gets one built



Before



After

RESIDENTS who approached Councillor Trevor Howard about vandals exploiting a gap in a fence didn't have to wait long for action.

"Over the last three years vandals have thrown stones and broken into garages," he said.

He immediately got the

Borough Council to plug the offending gap between St Margaret's Road and Wallisdean Avenue with a new section of fence.

## Outrage at slur on town's 'des res' status

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 said.

Councillor Woodward produced facts from the Office of National Statistics which put Cheltenham's job-

less 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.

Councillor Woodward 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.

## Jubilee Court footpath repairs

URGENT reconstruction was started during October on footpaths at Jubilee Court by Hampshire Highways, Fareham.

Councillor Dennis Steadman commented: "This is a part of an ongoing programme that you can see happening in the Fareham South Ward and other areas and will continue to be a very necessary part of the system that is being continually monitored by your ward Councillors".

# FAREHAM SOUTH 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.

•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 Other.

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.

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