



Tory leader tackles the Premier over development

FAREHAM Council's Conservative Leader Seán Woodward seized the chance to demand proper infrastructure when he met the Prime Minister.

The occasion was the recent signing of three new Multi-Area Agreements (MAA) at 10 Downing Street.

Elected members and officers from the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) attended the event, which was witnessed by Gordon Brown and ministers.



Seán Woodward (right) and County Council Leader Ken Thornber at 10 Downing Street.

As chairman of PUSH, Councillor Woodward said MAAs gave opportunity for groups of councils to secure Government support and investment for their areas, working across boundaries to tackle economic issues.

He said: "As the only MAA area in the South East, it was important to attend the signing and to talk to the Prime Minister and senior officials

"It gave us opportunity to reiterate the need for infrastructure investment and Government support for South Hampshire."

No excuse for lack of infrastructure before building starts

'Get it right now' is message to Government ahead of new town

A NEW town that the Government has ordered Fareham to build west of the A32 must be properly planned.

The Borough Council and neighbouring authorities are adamant the vision is not blurred by the absence of the infrastructure before the building of up to 10,000 homes starts.

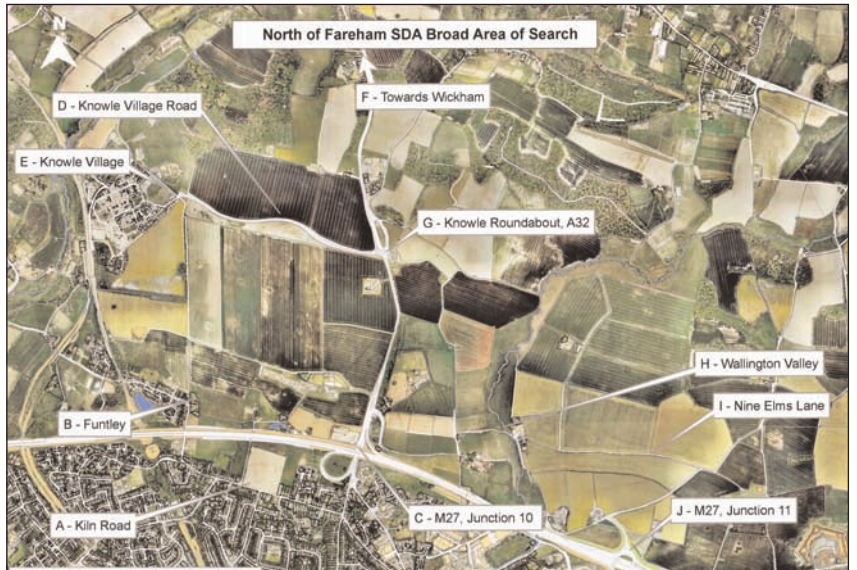
"We have to get the vision right because we want this place to be somewhere we can be proud of," said Councillor David Swanbrow, chairman of the newly-formed Statigic Development Steering Group.

The new town, whose exact location has yet to be decided, must be built as part of the South East Plan. It could house up to 25,000 people.

Building should begin around 2016 and will take at least 10 years to complete, but this schedule could be disrupted or diluted by the recession.

Nevertheless, the planning process has already started and councillors, led by Councillor Swanbrow as Fareham's Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, have been working for some time to produce the Local Development Framework that will replace the Borough Local Plan Review.

He said: "Developing a completely new settlement, however,



Vanishing countryside: This aerial view of green fields and farmland will be changed for ever when development starts on a new town north of the M27.

needs thoughts and ideas from a broad range of people and organisations from outside the council and perhaps the most important thing to get right early on in the planning process is a vision of what sort of a place it should be."

To that end, the Borough Council ran the first of several visioning events at Ferneham Hall at the end of March.

About 50 participants attended, representing organisations from Fareham and neighbouring districts, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and other government bodies.

Councillor Swanbrow said: "Some very strong messages

came out of this first workshop, including the need for infrastructure to be in place early with good public transport links to Fareham and Portsmouth and beyond.

"It should also be a place that feels safe and comfortable to live in and have a varied mix of housing, plenty of green space and good employment facilities."

Unlike the Western Wards, where infrastructure had to be added piecemeal to what already existed, the new town site is undeveloped countryside.

He added: "The Government promised the infrastructure, so there's no excuse for it not being there before the development starts."

Too many heavy sacks result in changes to green waste collections

CHANGES to the green waste collection were necessary for Health and Safety reasons.

Fareham Council had to employ more staff to

reduce the amount each worker had to carry.

The Council is saving no money; any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste col-

lection service and trial schemes.

It is not a statutory service and Fareham is the only council providing the collection of one green

sack as an extra free service.

Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and up to £1 for each emptying.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Adult courses

Fancy a new hobby? Need to update your CV? Want some leisure time for yourself?

A variety of daytime, evening and Saturday Adult Education classes are offered at Neville Lovett Community School, St Anne's Grove.

Facilities to hire, holiday activities, clubs, quiz evenings and much more are also on offer.

Places are still available on summer courses so why not email comm.office@nevillelovett.hants.sch.uk or call 01329 823471.

Recycled seat

The long running saga to replace the bench seat at the junction of Elhurst Road and Gosport Road should be resolved soon.

An almost new metal replacement has been saved from the scrapyard.

It will come from the Broadlaw Walk Shopping Precinct, thanks to Portsmouth Housing Association, when the work starts on demolition very shortly.

"Good thinking," remarked Councillor Dennis Steadman who said it would save taxpayers' money.

Yellow + blue = green

When the new edition of 'Yellow Pages' arrives shortly you will be able to recycle the old ones in the blue top bins.

Previously, there were several reasons why the directory could not be recycled, but Project Integra has resolved these issues

Dennis acts to quell 'messy' gas mains work concerns

COMPLAINTS about Southern Gas contractors making a mess of streets have been resolved.

They came from residents in Coniston Walk, Cannock Walk, St Anne's Grove and Fairfield Avenue where new mains were being laid.

One household, Mr Reg Davis, complained to Fareham South Councillor Dennis Steadman, who immediately arranged for Highways Transport South to visit.

Fareham Street Works Coordinator Zoe Hembury inspected the area, then wrote to Mr Davis.

She found the site safe and tidy, but she went on: "I spoke to the gang regarding your concerns about the dumper truck driver and asked them to take more care when moving plant around the site.

"I have also asked them to ensure they leave the site tidy at the end of the working day.

"I requested that they employ a sweeper if the site becomes excessively muddy again, as this causes a slipping hazard.

"As a result of your query I will be stepping up my inspections.

"Let me assure you that the site will be top soiled and seeded at the end of the job, and



Fairfield Avenue



Cotswold Walk

any excavations in the footway will be of a high standard."

She thanked residents for their patience during essential mains renewal works, which would ensure a safe and reliable gas supply.

Councillor Steadman added: "My thanks to Mr Davis for highlighting the problems being experienced in his area. If any similar situations arise, please contact me so I can take appropriate action."

Work was due for completion by the end of April.



Fairfield Avenue

Hang on! Dennis Steadman tries to avoid a big black hole.

Broadlaw Walk revamp starts in blaze of colour

A SPLASH of colour brightened up the drab surroundings as the Broadlaw Walk project began.

It proved there's a lot of talent around as a week-long painting of two spectacularly designed murals marked the start of work to modernise Fareham's most run-down estate.

Design and painting of these hoardings was carried out by local children and residents, some in their 80s.

Helped by more experienced artists, they created a bit of history as this was the first such venture by

the Portsmouth Housing Association.

The murals will be displayed at Broadlaw Walk Precinct during the period of demolition and rebuilding which should take about two years.

Over the next few months residents will see more meaningful work starting, key dates being:

May-June: Southern Gas will complete the mains to Mitre Court, PHA contractors start stripping out the north block in preparation for demolition; the hoarding will be erected and murals put up.

June-July: PHA and

Lloyds Pharmacy will complete the shop fitting of their new chemist's shop at the base of Mitre Court.

July-August: PHA contractor Roc Builders will demolish north block.

September onwards: Foundations will be dug and the work on the sub-structure will begin.

Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard said: "The idea and the way of involving local residents in the project is highly commendable. Portsmouth Housing Association have shown their interpretation of Care in the Community."

Council tax: Tories are proud to be rated 'lowest of the low'

THERE'S more good news for council taxpayers in Hampshire.

Following the Conservative-run council's minimal 1.9% increase for the next two years, the County Council has been awarded the maximum score possible for the quality of its services and its value for money.

The Audit Commission delivered its official verdict – Hampshire is now the top-performing County Council in Britain.

County Councillor John Bryant (Fareham Town) said:

"In a recession, with higher public expectations and increasing demand for help, it's a tough job for councils to earn the coveted four star position, let alone proving strong improvement.

"Whether serving the community for a few hours a week, helping children cross the road, working full-time in our schools, care homes, libraries, or trading standards or on our roads, staff can be justly proud of the contribution they make to ensuring Hampshire is one of the best places to live, and raising our scores to the top of the county councils' league table.

"I take some pride in the fact we have done all this with the lowest council tax for any county in the South East.

"And now we have the lowest council tax increase in 40 years, despite the lowest Government grant of all county councils."

Brian defeats stone-throwing hooligans

YOBS who terrorised a neighbourhood have been thwarted thanks to a local man's idea.

Residents asked Councillor Dennis Steadman how to stop hooligans picking up loose stones from the footpath leading into Cams Alders and throwing them at windows.

Brian Didymus, whose Redlands Lane home was targeted, suggested clearing away the stones and tarmacing the path.

This was done and the yobs deprived of their ammo. It's also made the footpath safer.

Dennis Steadman (pictured below) said: "Thank you to Brian for sparing time to do something for the community."



Historic house mast battle lost as 02 has planners over a barrel

LORD Nelson might have said that 02 had Fareham planners over a gun barrel.

Outcome of the long-running battle to stop the mobile phone giant erecting a mast near one of Fareham's historic houses was a foregone conclusion due to government regulations.

The monstrosity will be sited outside Town Quay House on Gosport Road.

The Grade 2 listed building was reputedly home to Admiral Lord Nelson's paramour, Lady Hamilton.

Fareham planning committee voted 4-2 in favour, with 3 abstentions.

Councillor Dennis Steadman, who fiercely contested previous planning submissions, said: "If the abstainers were unsure then they should have voted against."

"Planning committees have a difficult task and, to be fair, they are to a certain extent bound by government guidelines which are at times difficult

to interpret."

Mobile phone operators can erect masts up to 15 metres (41ft) without planning permission.

However, they have to submit a Prior Approval Notification to the council, which has the opportunity to consider the siting and appearance of the mast.

If a council has concerns, it can state that prior approval is required and go on to refuse the application – as they did on the previous occasion – in which case operators can appeal.

Councillor Steadman added: "A mast can only be refused on siting grounds and the concern regarding health and safety with the electromagnetic fall-out does not enter the equation as the government states that local councils are unable to make that decision,

"It is total madness and time will tell whether they are right or wrong."



Listed: Town Quay House

Dial 101 for police if it's not an emergency

FROM April 1, the 101 number has been for police only non-emergencies in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

People should use 101 in the same way as 0845 0454545, whichever is easier.

County Councillor John Bryant, a member of the Police Authority, says: "It is important to note that both 101 and 0845 0454545 calls are handled by the switchboard at the Police Force Inquiry Centre and all issues are dealt with directly."

A call to 101 costs 10p irrespective of duration or whether made from landlines or mobile phones, whereas 0845 0454545 can be a lot more expensive.

Residents begin move into housing on former pub site

THE LONG awaited occupation of Royal Oak Court on the former Redlands Inn site has begun and some residents have already moved in.

There was a delay due to internal alterations which were needed to bring the accommodation up to the standard required by Hermitage Housing.

All the internal and external work should be completed by the end of April.

The property comprises 13 two-bedroom flats and six one-bedroom flats, with priority given to wheelchair users in three ground floor units.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said the flats had been empty

for a long time during which the property had moved from one organisation to another, and finally into the hands of Hermitage Housing, a very reputable organisation.

"This will certainly help in the Council's commitment to provide good quality housing to its residents," he added.

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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Our man in Westminster



**Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

I am very proud of the young people in Fareham. Too often, young people get a bad press because of the actions of a tiny minority at the expense of the tremendous contribution that the majority makes to the wider community.

It creates a barrier between the generations. We need to redress the balance and emphasise the positive.

I am lucky that I get to see so much of what our young people are able to do. In the last few weeks, groups from Orchard Lea Junior School, Neville Lovett and Henry Cort have been to Westminster and I was struck by the range of questions they asked, demonstrating a keen interest in their community, nation and the wider world.

A few weeks ago I listened to young people at Portchester Community School set out their ideas on how we can improve facilities for them.

Their ideas were well thought through and demonstrated an understanding of conflicting pressures that councils face when allocating resources. What they said and did ran counter to the media stereotypes. Stereotypes dog every generation and group and where there are tensions between different groups these can be self-reinforcing.

We are too ready to be critical and we should be more willing to listen and recognise the qualities and talents of our young people. The only way to bridge the gap between the generations is to accept that the good outweighs the bad.

Young and old need to value each other more, and understanding each other's contribution to the community is a good starting point.

**•You may contact Mark via his office:
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Valuable work praised at opening of new Community Action offices

COMMUNITY Action Fareham has moved into new offices opposite Trinity Church at 163 West Street .

The independent charity supports voluntary organisations and provides a Home Help scheme and Advocacy project for people with mental health issues.

Other services include community transport and Dial A Ride for the elderly.

Shophmobility is also run by Community Action, giving disabled people access to town centre shops.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward officially handed over the keys onj March 31 to the Chairman of Community Action

Fareham, George Ringrow, at the new building where a plaque was revealed as a tribute to the special occasion.

Councillor Woodward said: "It was an honour and a pleasure to hand over the keys to this valuable organisation.

"These brand new offices, will offer Community Action Fareham further support to continue their important work within the Borough".

The Council invested £528,000 to provide the specially designed offices in a prominent position in the town centre, which are a big



Fresh start: Seán Woodward (left) and George Ringrow outside the new offices.

improvement on the former dilapidated premises in Osborn Road South.

Foiling the Borough's midnight rubbish tippers

THEY sneak down the lanes after dark to dump their rubbish in the woods.

It saves them the fee for legally disposing of industrial waste at a council tip.

The culprits are often rogue builders who add to their profits by billing their unsuspecting clients.

They have made countryside around Sarisbury a disgrace.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "As fast as the Council and landowners clear the fly tipping, more vehicles arrive under cover of darkness to dump more waste."

But it won't be



happening in future. The Council has made a prohibition order which will prevent vehicles enter-

ing the footpath and bridleway network from Sarisbury Green (Glen Road and behind the

He thought he'd got away with it

Fly-tipper Ivor James (45) suffered a double whammy when he dumped his rubbish in Glen Road.

Fareham Council officers were delighted to find his name and address on mail in one of the bags. James denied involvement.

But he couldn't wriggle out of evidence from a public spirited resident who caught him in the act on camera and noted his vehicle registration number.

James, of Addison Road, Sarisbury admitted the offence and was sentenced to 100 hours' community service by the town's magistrates and ordered to pay the Council £645.76.

shops), Oslands Lane and Glen Road, Swanwick.

Signs and physical barriers will be in place, including lockable bollards for which keys will only be issued by Hampshire County Council to people with right of access.

Councillor Woodward added: "The order combined with the bollards will prevent this filthy practice. I'm hopeful the problem will be eliminated.

"Traders who charge people to remove this waste will now have to pay to dump it at the tip rather than on other people's property."

Fareham honour for Dee's daring deeds



DEE CAFFARI, first woman to sail solo non-stop around the globe in both directions, will be presented with the Citizens of Honour Special Achievement badge by the Mayor Ernest Crouch at a special tea in the Mayor's Parlour on May 5.

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