



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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.

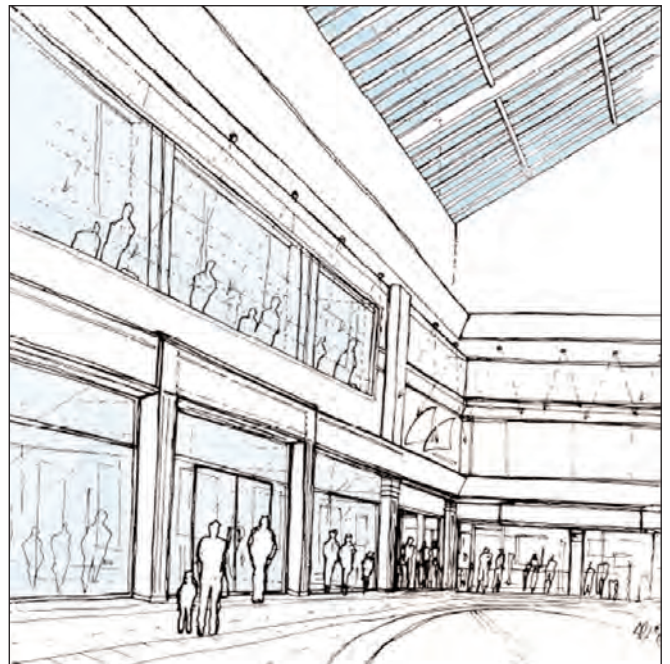
The Debenhams window reopens on February 1.

"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,



by Fareham Borough Social Services.

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



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Better roads

There will be minor traffic works to improve bus reliability in South and East Wards in July.

Councillor Trevor Howard said that some time this year there would be full reconstruction of Holmfield Avenue and Eastfield Avenue.

"It's been on the cards for at least two years," he said.

Footpaths will also be resurfaced in Westley Grove and Longfield Avenue. Alexander Grove carriageway will be resurfaced from Mill Road entrance to Coombe Farm Avenue.

Police numbers

Emergency 999; non-emergency 08450 45 45; anti-social behaviour 101.

The police mobile is 07757 13706.

For parking problems, call the Council on 01329 236100.

Priorities are fair

A rolling programme of road and footpath repairs and reconstitution is provided by the County Council's Highways Department.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said there were roads and paths across the borough needing attention and he was always adding other areas of Fareham South to the list.

"I would love to get more done but the procedure of prioritising is fair. If your road or footpath needs an upgrade please let me know and I will have it assessed by Hampshire County Council Highways for their opinion," he said.

Trevor says 'thank you' to voters for re-electing him

TREVOR HOWARD has thanked the residents of South Ward who re-elected him to Fareham Borough Council for another four years.

Trevor polled 1,015 votes, giving him a majority of 724 over Fareham Labour Party chairman James Carr in a three-cornered contest in what used to be a solid Labour seat.

It gave him a 64% share of the poll.

"It has been a pleasure to do all I can for residents. I may not do things as you would like all the time, but I do try to carry out

my promises.

"Dennis Steadman and I work as a partnership for the good of all and South Ward is a better place – and in some areas a cleaner place – due to us working together," he said.

He mentioned some residents who have problems, but do not wish to be named.

"That's OK by me, provided I have the name and phone number so I can contact you.

"I have received many letters over the past few years regarding your problems.

"Keep them coming. I deal with most within 48 hours, but I'm

sorry if I don't deal with all of them straight away. Some take time to be followed up.

"Sometimes we get lucky, eg with the lights in Paxton Road and the roads in Eastfield Avenue and Holmfield Avenue, and they are seen to much more quickly."

He stressed that the Borough Council was not responsible for everything; often that fell to the Government, County Council, police and others.

"If it is a matter for the Government, then our MP, Mark Hoban, will if necessary follow it up," he added.

Broadlaw Walk: Work to eliminate Fareham crime blackspot begins

WORK has started on the redevelopment of the crime-ridden Broadlaw Walk precinct.

Plans submitted by Portsmouth Housing Association for demolition of the precinct and its replacement with 8 new shop units, plus 56 flats and other amenities were passed by the Council.

Councillor Trevor Howard said work had started on Mitre Court to house the pharmacy.

"If all goes well, demolition on the existing pharmacy side will start early in 2009," he said.

Broadlaw Walk has been plagued by yobs, vandals, drunken youths and drugs

pushers and residents have waited years for action to rid the area of criminals.

"Their time is at an end," said

Councillor Howard, who promised to keep residents updated on progress of the development.



Fresh start: An artist's sketch of what the new Broadlaw Walk will look like.

Time to weed out who's responsible for this eyesore



Bush man: Dennis Steadman up to his waist in overgrown shrubs and weeds.

RESIDENTS are fed up looking at an overgrown shrub bed outside St John's Church on the corner of Redlands Lane and St Michael's Grove.

It is full of weeds, a dumping place for litter and obstructs drivers' vision.

Fareham Council, the County Council and the church are unsure who is responsible.

Three years ago, the congregation raised £200 to buy

plants after Fareham Council prepared the soil.

Many of the new plants were stolen then replaced, but in the end the weeds took over.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "One idea is to have the bed laid with turf, with regular cutting by Fareham Council under contract to the County Council.

"This is a good idea; the area must remain 'soft' due to essential services lurking below."



Good fortune in pipeline speeds Redlands resurfacing

RESURFACING of the road around Redlands Lane bridge was delayed so Highways and Portsmouth Water could get their act together.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said It was decided to delay the full-scale resurfacing until Portsmouth Water had replaced the pipe system beneath that stretch of road, so both operations would be completed simultaneously.

Work began on April 7 and was expected to take 6 weeks.

"Due to a stroke of good fortune, a large-bore old water pipe was discovered passing under the bridge and was used as a channel through which the new piping was inserted.

"This enabled the work to be completed by April 29, thereby keeping disruption to residents and motorists to a minimum."

Problems outweigh solutions in bid to make the cage safer

A REQUEST for alterations to the 'cage' at the Neville Lovett school to prevent the possibility of injury to passing pedestrians was put to the community for assessment.

The results showed the cage is in relatively good condition but minor repairs would be necessary.

Two panels need attention at a cost of £500 to £1000 and the court would benefit from being cleaned and re-marked.

It is not considered practical to install a net over the top of the cage as suggested as this could lead to additional health and safety problems.

A net would provide a flat 'roof' with subsequent problems, eg balls getting stuck and youngsters risking injury by trying to retrieve them and rubbish being thrown on top .

To install a net would require supporting structure within the cage and would have a negative impact on the function of the court. It would create more safety problems, eg young people running into it.

It may be possible to install a



Rattled: Dennis Steadman says he's still trying to find a practical solution to making the cage safer.

pitched roof effect to contain netting, but this would cost over £10,000, require planning permission and be an unsightly intrusion for residents.

Councillor Dennis Steadman commented, "It is rather sad that what could be thought of as a practical solution to a situation brings its own problems.

"It also has the maintenance aspect which would be ongoing and would greatly outweigh any possible advantages not as yet determined."

He said both ward councillors would continue to investigate ways of improving the cage and surrounding area.

New bus shelters ordered for Gosport Road

TWO NEW bus shelters have been ordered and will be installed in Fareham South in the financial year 2008/2009.

These will be on the A32 Gosport Road outside Youngbridge Court and outside number 194.

The cost will be met by the Quality Bus Partnerships (QBP) through Hampshire County Council and work was expected to begin in June/July 2008.

They will come via the provisions of the Bus Shelter Programme

Councillor Dennis Steadman commented:

"There is a great need for bus shelters all over the Fareham Borough and I am extremely happy that the needs in this area have been recognised and acted upon.

"it will be a great help to senior residents and young families"

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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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
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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.

Recycling bin's full of tins



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.

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."