

Very little from Tesco isn't helping to remove eyesore

Council searching for alternative prestige food superstore site

EVERY little helps, boast Tesco in their famous TV slogan.

Fareham Council could do with a little of that help from the food store colossus to develop the derelict foundry site in Quay Street.

Tesco have owned the land for a year and it has become a blot on the landscape against the nearby showpiece Market Quay centre.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said Tesco appeared to have bought the site to keep out rival chainstores, but were now dragging their feet.

But he warned the council's patience was running out with the giant, which made a profit of £1.6 billion last year, and alternative sites were being explored.

"Development of the foundry site, which is an appalling eyesore in an otherwise high quality town centre redevelopment, is high priority.

"The council has now widened its search for a suitable site due to the imperceptible progress being made with Tesco.

"It has been a long-held ambition of the Conservative administration of Fareham Borough Council, having achieved the



Eyesore: Seán Woodward surveys the foundry site in Quay Street where the council hopes Tesco will build a top class food superstore.

superb Market Quay shopping and leisure development, to get a quality food superstore into the town centre with the foundry site highlighted as the favoured location," he said.

Tesco have submitted a planning application for a superstore and housing, but it has not been registered because the company must submit requested details

regarding highway and environmental impact of their retail and residential scheme.

He believes an application for a car park on the site, which the council rejected, was part of the delaying tactic.

"At the end of the day, they can afford to sit on the site indefinitely," added Councillor Woodward.

Minister refuses to refer local NHS crisis to independent review panel

HEALTH Minister Lord Warner has refused to refer the provision of health in Southeast Hampshire to the Independent Health Review Panel.

Fareham has had no hospital facilities since St Christopher's Hospital and Blackbrook Birthing Unit closed.

County Councillor Dr Ray Ellis, chairman of Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), told the Minister this contradicted Labour's intention of making the

NHS respond to local needs.

Why, he asked, set up expensive consultation and scrutiny arrangements if the Minister ignored the statutory referral request for independent review, especially after such a long delay? Is the Government worried about the outcome?

The joint Southeast Hampshire OSC was making every effort to progress the development of community hospitals.

Fareham's hospital, including an accident treatment centre

and a new midwife-led maternity unit, has been over 20 years in the waiting room.

The local NHS is in financial crisis, but the hospital needs of Fareham's 110,000 population should be top priority. Failure to do so will mean that some services are not available and others will only be available at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth or Gosport.

National policy on maternity is to give expectant mothers a choice, so all first pregnancies

are dealt with at a major unit and second and third confinements (provided there have been no complications) should be carried out in a unit such as a new Blackbrook unit in the community hospital or at home.

A new Blackbrook within a community hospital with significantly improved facilities would give expectant mothers an even better delivery environment.

Meantime, it is necessary to have some provision locally for midwife-led delivery.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Apollo lift off

July was an important month for Fareham with the opening of the new luxury Apollo Cinema and a selection of shops, restaurants and leisure facilities.

Council Leader Seán Woodward, who opened the complex, said: "Market Quay has brought a new vibrancy to the town centre. The cinema is already breaking all records for its owners and providing a much-needed facility."

Glass bank site

Trafalgar Court residents have asked for a glass recycling bin to be sited locally and it is now on the list of requests under review.

Tell us

Please tell us if you have a human interest story to tell.

"In Touch aims to avoid stuffy party politics by reflecting local issues raised by local people.

"We care at grassroots level, regardless of which party you support," said Councillor Dennis Steadman.

Fort Fareham

Residents have complained about the filthy state of the nearby woods, which they say are used for fly tipping.

"Clean up the woods, stop bikes and motor bikes being ridden through, repair the fort or pull it down," they have demanded.

The moat is dangerous to children and must be cleaned.

Councillor Trevor Howard is awaiting answers from council officers.



Jean's award for nine years' devoted care

JEAN BARNINGHAM is a very special person whose devoted care for her frail next door neighbour has been rewarded with the Good Neighbour Award.

Jean, of Mill Road, pictured with John Borthwick who is in his 90s, has looked after him for the past nine years since he gradually became unable to care for himself.

She has given much of her time unpaid as a carer, ensuring he is always clean and tidy, doing his washing, ironing and housework and tidying his garden.

John's visiting carers recommended Jean for the award which was presented to her by Hampshire County Council Leader Councillor Ken Thorber.

Ward Councillor Dennis Steadman commented: "Jean deserves a really loud round of applause for her services to an elderly neighbour. It shows the old spirit of neighbourliness still stirs in certain special people."

Jobs and probationers reveal two faces of Fareham's youth

WHILE jobs have been making residents' lives hell on a Fareham estate, young offenders on probation have been keen to repay their debt to society in a neighbouring area.

The cul-de-sac end of Beaconsfield Road has been so badly plagued by louts it has now been designated as the 'Hot Spot' for police presence and steps are being considered to deal with offenders.

Some may end up doing community service like those who took part in Crime Reduction Environment Week (CREW) – a new scheme to help improve the safety and cleanliness of a set area framed by Highfield Avenue, Longfield Avenue, Bishopsfield Road and St Michael's Grove.

Councillor Dennis Steadman, who has been involved in both issues, was delighted with the outcome of CREW, in which the

Borough Council, police, fire service, youth organisations, probation service, neighbourhood watch, local schools, businesses and others took part during July.

Designated areas were subject to cleansing, painting (Broadlaw Walk), litter picking by probation groups, rubbish collection, perimeter fencing replacement (where dangerous), advice on fire and health matters and from police and other advisory services.

He said: "I spent the whole week helping with litter picking with the probation service offenders and I was surprised how hard they worked at their tasks.

"I listened to their problems and was surprised that they made no excuses, only blaming themselves for their present predicament. It was a worthwhile effort and I enjoyed it immensely."

However, the on-going problems in Beaconsfield Road show job

culture at its worst.

He said: "Due to the high level of job behaviour, litter, noise and general nuisance, I have contacted senior local police officers, Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Highways regarding the problems residents have to tolerate from this faction of society who feel that the only thing in life is booze, bad language and other nauseating activities."

He suggested that the flower bed and walls on each side of the road are removed and the floor area paved with a very uncomfortable surface with only high bollards in place.

"This idea seems to be in much favour. The area could then be used for extra parking, alleviating some of the parking problems in Beaconsfield Road."

He warned: "We should never give in to this element and we are claiming our road back."

Traffic lights phasing changes have little effect on Delme jams



Jammed: Daily scene near the Delme roundabout

RUSH HOUR jams at the Delme roundabout are wasting fuel and could be building up pollution.

County Councillor John Bryant said if traffic from Wallington Way and Junction 11 were simultaneously stopped for 30 seconds, it might ease the problem.

The highways engineer said changes had been made, but there was too much traffic to make a real improvement. He would reassess the situation.

It is the council's duty to monitor air quality in strategic places and reports showed Gosport Road/Earls Road area had consistently high levels of sulphur dioxide. Hartlands Road and Osborn Road were also areas for concern and monitors would show whether remedial action was needed.

Free checks for electric blankets

SNUGGLING into a nice cosy bed in winter is a luxury.

But if you use an electric blanket to warm it, beware the danger.

Hampshire Trading Standards Service advises people to book their blankets for an MOT before the winter.

44% of blankets failed annual safety checks in 2004, many of them old with damaged cables, faulty plugs and wrong fuses.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue and most district councils will arrange free checks.

Call 01329 316183 or email electric.blanket@hants.gov.uk to book an appointment.

Wendy's determination wins the battle to save the family home

A WOMAN'S battle to keep her family home ended in success thanks to her determination and help from her local councillor.

When her father died in March, Wendy Harrison faced losing the council house in Alexander Grove where she had lived for 37 years.

This was due to the laws of succession under tenancy regulations whereby the tenancy can only be passed once between family members.

Wendy approached Councillor Dennis Steadman, who has known the family since they were children, to help in the fight to save their home.

Councillor Steadman said: "Wendy has been a real



Wendy's house: Wendy Harrison (second left) and family celebrate with Dennis Steadman (back)

leader of the family group and with my help she took over the difficult task of formulating all the data necessary to present the case – quite a mammoth task."

After three months of negotiation with the family and senior council officials, an agreement was reached which gave Wendy and her family a standard 12-month introductory contract of tenancy with a view to a permanent position.

"The honours go to Wendy and her family for determination and thanks to the Executive Member for Housing, Councillor Ernest Crouch, and the senior officials of the housing department who assisted all the way through," said Councillor Steadman.

FAREHAM SOUTH & EAST 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.

WARD COUNCILLORS

Fareham South

Dennis Steadman
77 Mill Road
Fareham PO16 0TP
Tel: 01329 285667
email: dsteadman@fareham.gov.uk



Trevor Howard

44 Southampton Road
Fareham PO16 7DY
Tel: 01329 281510
email: thoward@fareham.gov.uk



COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Fareham Town

Raymond Ellis
20 Cams Hill
Fareham PO16 8RB
Tel: 01329 236127
email: raymond.ellis@hants.gov.uk



John Bryant

14 Highlands Road
Fareham PO16 7XL
Tel: 01329 281427
email: john.bryant@hants.gov.uk



Your man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

Whatever your views about the desirability of the 80,000 new homes planned for South Hampshire, we all agree better services are needed to meet the needs of those already living here.

Closure of the Blackbrook Birthing Centre and the question mark hanging over the long promised community hospital tells me there must be something wrong with our health service when we also hear about record amounts of taxpayers' money being spent on the NHS.

Our road network is under pressure from the existing volume of traffic and the Government says the answer is to use public transport, but it has not given the County Council the resources to maintain the bus network and it has been unable to decide about the South Hampshire Rapid Transit Scheme, despite its own advisers saying that it is a "must do" scheme.

I get fed up hearing the Chancellor talking about new school buildings, yet there are many children in Hampshire, including some in this constituency, being educated in temporary classrooms put up over ten years ago.

Labour has spent over £1 billion trying to tackle truancy and bad behaviour in schools but both are getting worse.

With this backdrop, people are rightly concerned about the plans to build so many new houses in South Hampshire. If we cannot meet the needs of the existing population, how can we meet the needs of so many extra households?

I have been in politics long enough to be sceptical when I hear people say the Government will fund the infrastructure. We have only to look around to see that the Government does not always meet its promises. We should not fall for the argument that whilst there is no jam today there will be jam tomorrow. If we build houses today, the jam we can look forward to is the one on our roads!

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



All the signs for the future look good

FAREHAM'S boundary has been marked with new signs replacing the tatty ones some entrances to the Borough have had for several years.

They show the Borough crest, the union flag and cross of St George, as well as the crests of our twin towns, Vannes in France and Pulheim in Germany.

Struggle to maintain subsidised bus routes

THE MOST widely used bus services in Hampshire have been safeguarded for next year following a review of the County Council's subsidy budget.

The County Council spends £8.5m a year to subsidise 28 per cent of services countywide (excluding Portsmouth and Southampton).

Journeys costing the council £2.50 or less per passenger in subsidy are retained.

Consultations with neighbouring councils and operators ensured the future of more bus services than would be provided commercially, but has limited the cost of subsidising underused routes.

Hampshire had increased its subsidy budget by more than £1m per annum above inflation during the last three years at a time when the government had reduced our funding by £41m, said Executive Member for

Environment (South) Councillor Tim Knight.

"Fuel prices, insurance and drivers' wages are being passed on to the County Council in the form of increased tender prices."

Several services had thus become uneconomic for the operators, putting escalating pressures on the subsidy budget and forcing the County Council to reassess where the money was being spent.

It was agreed to maintain weekday services requiring a maximum subsidy of £2.50 per passenger journey and to keep the better performing Sunday and evening services, which need a subsidy of £2 or less. School specials that fail the £2.50 criterion are unaffected.

The measures will ensure the County Council uses council taxpayers' money wisely, while subsidising those services that would otherwise cease for many residents.

What would Ted have done today without his faithful sidekick Dusty Bin....?



The composter that looks like a Dalek minus gun and eye stalk is available for £5, but the rest of those on parade in the picture are free.

There's a smart 240 litre green top to replace your 140 litre model if necessary and households with six or more people can upgrade to the giant 360 litre range.

You could go for two 240 litre blue tops if you have masses of recyclables and don't forget the smart accessory - the green bag for the garden.

The council isn't saving money from the new fortnightly collections. It's ploughing it back into the free green

waste collection.

But it must meet the current target of recycling 30%, which is likely to rise to 40% and even 65% in the future.

If Fareham Council fails to meet its targets, it's likely to face a Government fine.

No prizes for guessing who'll have to foot the bill in the long run.



HE WOULD probably have flipped his lid!

Dusty bins, like the booby prizes with which failed contestants walked away from the 1980s Ted Rogers TV game show, are consigned to the archives.

Today, the right answer to the question of disposing of your household waste will win you a super selection of bins from Fareham Council.

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