

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



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.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Tackling crime

A crime reduction environment week (CREW) was being held in South Ward in early July.

Local Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard, both members of the team, said police were conducting regular patrols in the Highfield Avenue, Longfield Avenue and St Michael's Grove areas to offer residents advice.

Officers were running a session about anti social behaviour and meeting the local Neighbourhood Watch group to discuss community safety.

Gemütlichkeit

Councillor Trevor Howard joined 48 residents on the 20th anniversary exchange visit with Fareham's German twin town, Pulheim, on June 16.

Visitors were given a warm reception by host families.

The visit will be reciprocated on October 6.

Contact Jan Almond, 105 Melville Road, Gosport PO12 4QY for information about the Fareham-Pulheim Association.

Social club

Negotiations are still in progress to try to save the former Cams Alders Social Club building.

Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard have been trying to get it refurbished and reopened for community use.

But there has been very little public interest in the use and administration of the premises.

Contact Dennis or Trevor if you are interested.

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.

Dennis is at last on pathway to partial success in Mill Road saga

PARTIAL success with problems in Mill Road has been achieved by local councillors.

Reconstruction work on the footpath on the odd numbered side has been completed after Councillor Dennis Steadman and County Councillor Ray Ellis put pressure on Hampshire

Highways to carry out badly needed repairs.

It is the first major work carried out on footpaths in this street for many years.

Councillors are now pursuing Hampshire Highways to do the even numbered side.

Meanwhile, Dennis Steadman is continuing consultations with the County to try to get the footpath widened at the Mill Road-Gosport Road junction, which is dangerously narrow.

"At the moment, it is an accident waiting



Odd ones out: The south side of Mill Road has a new path; even numbers opposite are still waiting.



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

John will continue to act as a Fareham Borough 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.



Dennis and Fareham MP Mark Hoban discuss local issues.

to happen.

"A traffic device was installed to monitor the traffic volumes in and out of Mill Road and I am still awaiting the results of the study.

"I can assure you that after fighting for some 10 years for a solution to this dangerous situation that is in existence I shall not give up," said Dennis.

Long wait is over for new bus shelter

IT'S TAKEN four years.

But at last the bus shelter for Butser Walk and Bishopsfield Road area was due to be replaced during the week June 27.

Councillor Dennis Steadman thanked Mrs D Wild and Mrs I Bedford for information which helped him with his initial application for the replacement in 2001.

"It's been a long wait," said Councillor Steadman.

"I hope the new shelter will alleviate some of the discomfort caused by the old one, and that it is not vandalised."

Wally scores a hit with his solution to parking problem

A RESIDENT'S plan to ease a parking problem was a hit with Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils.

Tenants in Endofield Close and Blenheim House asked Councillor Dennis Steadman to find a solution to the lack of parking spaces near their homes.

After detailed discussions with tenants' spokesman Wally Wallbridge, Wally devised a plan which was submitted to the Borough Council and then passed to the County Council, who accepted it after making some minor modifications.

Cash was made available and, after eight months, the work was completed earlier this year.

Councillor Steadman said: "I give my thanks to Wally for his suggestion and help to get this much needed project started.

"Sadly, Wally's wife, Pat, who helped and encouraged him with the task, died a few weeks before completion, but will be remembered for her contribution to it."

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.

Use new litter bins or face a fine

TWO new rubbish bins have been installed along the Gosport Road, thanks to Councillor Dennis Steadman's efforts.

"I do hope that this will encourage people to use them for that purpose possibly saving them from the ignominy of a public fine," he said.

**Gosport Road hostel staff praised
 THE hostel at 101 Gosport Road seems to be well under control.**

"I have not had any complaints or problems associated with it since my last *In Touch* and I must commend the staff for the excellent work they continue put in," said Councillor Dennis 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

.....

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 shows 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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