



In Touch

with our community

LOCKS HEATH & WARSASH – 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 (PCT) 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 locally, a range of diagnostic and treatment facilities



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.

ities 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 care.

Meanwhile, another act in the blockbuster reached its climax with the sale of land at Coldeast Hospital by English Partnerships to Miller Homes after 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 consent for up to 250 houses on land containing most of the old hospital buildings, apart from the mansion.

The hall currently used by Scouts will be refurbished as a community centre with the field at its rear being given to the Council for public use.

The PCT owns 25 acres earmarked for the hospital and 100 acres are countryside owned by English Partnerships.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said:

"We are approaching the final chapter and if we can come to an agreement with the owners in the community's favour I shall be delighted."



Outrageous survey puts Fareham bottom of 'des res' league

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 stated.

Councillor Woodward produced facts from the Office of

National Statistics which put Cheltenham's jobless 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.

He 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.

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



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Warsash motors



Buildings on the old Warsash Motors site have been demolished by the County Council to avoid injury to anyone who might break into the site, thus making the Council liable.

The County Council is still promising that the link between Warsash Road and Dibles Road will be complete by the summer of 2008.

Hook Park Bridge

The County Council is gradually accepting that it owns the bridge and the adjacent road, despite having received copies of the relevant transfer documents from Councillor Keith Evans.

He said: "I persuaded them to agree to take over maintenance responsibility and they have now fully re-installed the bridge parapets using hardwood."

Population rise

Hampshire's population is predicted to rise by 6% by 2026 – less than over the last 20 years.

The number of households is expected to rise by 17% as housing caters for more single persons.

Fareham is expected to see the biggest increase in population while Gosport's is expected to fall.

People aged 65-84 will increase by 39% and the number over 85 by 68%.

Major scheme to ease traffic nightmare at Segensworth

Expect more chaos when work starts in summer 2007

TRAFFIC nightmares drivers face daily at Segensworth Roundabout are about to be eased.

Plans are being finalised to start work on improvements in late May 2007.

It will cause major disruption as it progresses and could last for 20 weeks.

After that, traffic should flow much better with more lanes and a new system of access and exit on to the roundabout.

These are the aims:

- To close the exit from Barnes Wallis Road on to the roundabout and route outgoing vehicles from Segensworth East/North via a new one-way west-bound link along Witherbed Lane to a traffic signal controlled junction on to Segensworth Road.
- The Segensworth Road junction with the roundabout will have traffic signals and the exit from the roundabout into Segensworth Road will be closed.
- A fourth lane will be added to the M27 link road approach to the roundabout from Junction 9.
- Sections of the central island of the roundabout will be cut away to widen the circulatory carriageway.

The proposals will provide:

- Two southbound through lanes from the M27 link on to the A27 towards Fareham.
- Two through lanes from the M27 link on to the A27 towards Park Gate.
- A left turn lane from the M27 link into Barnes Wallis Road for Segensworth East/North inbound traffic.
- A signal controlled exit from Segensworth Road on to the roundabout.



Wider: A fourth lane will be added to the link road from the M27 Junction 9 approach to the roundabout (above).

Harbour authority takes charging review on board

RECOMMENDATIONS to review charges on the River Hamble have been accepted by the Harbour Authority.

The Harbour Dues Working Group examined alternatives to the supervision charges currently applied to certain vessels moored in the river and harbour dues and concluded:

- 1 Supervision charges should be subsumed into a single system of harbour dues.
- 2 The appropriate amount of harbour dues should be set by type of mooring.
- 3 There should be no system of discounts and no named supervision activities.
- 4 Existing and new harbour dues should continue to apply, but vessels without engines or sails that are being rowed or paddled should be exempt.
- 5 Current exemptions should continue.

Group chairman County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "There was widespread concern that the Harbour Authority was not consulting the users of the river. We have listened and recommended significant changes which the Authority has agreed to implement."

Stone Pier owners to fight planners' piles decision



STONE Pier Yard is appealing against Fareham Council's refusal to allow them to extract 9 piles, install 18 piles with a floating pontoon, nine-finger pontoons and to re-locate the fuel barge.

The Council says it will jeopardise navigation in the secondary channel.

A public inquiry will start at 10.00 on January 9 at the Civic Offices.

Peace is in the air over Hook

THE SOUND of silence has returned to the sky above Hook village.

Noisy model aircraft that had been shattering villagers' peace have been grounded for good.

Fareham Council banned all flying of internal combustion engine planes after a meeting between ward councillors, officers, residents and model flyers.

In future, models taking off from the recreation ground will be powered by electricity or elastic.

The onslaught by the planes, some capable of high speeds, brought a protests from residents after several crashed on to properties.

Ashley Davis, representing the model flyers, promised to set up a new silent flying club to promote a safe, socially acceptable hobby.

Flying will be allowed 10.00 to noon and 18.00 to 20.00 every day except Sundays for a three-month trial period.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said residents would log breaches of the ban and where possible action would be taken against culprits.

He added: "Hopefully this can be seen as a positive way forward.

A further meeting will be held in three months' time to assess any concerns and issues."

Resources will be strained by County bid to cash in on surplus land

YET more development is earmarked for Locks Heath.

This time, it is Hampshire County Council which is trying to cash in on land it no longer wants.

"This is a fairly dense development and it will throw even more pressure on the local infrastructure – roads, doctors and dentists," said County Councillor Keith Evans.

The plan is to use 2.5 hectares of land bounding Centre Way and behind properties in Maytree Close, Heath Road, Ilex Crescent and Hedera Road which has been declared surplus for educational purposes by Hampshire County Council.

The County is to seek planning consent on the land for residential development.

A draft scheme has been produced comprising about 80 new homes with most having a maximum of two bedrooms and 40% of the total being available for affordable homes.

Consultation with local residents is planned within next two months and a planning application is likely around the end of the year.

An open invitation to meet your MP Mark Hoban

WARSASH Branch Committee has organised a 'Meet your Local MP' evening at the Victory Hall, Warsash.

Mark Hoban, who represents Fareham Constituency in Parliament, will be there to answer your questions on Friday, November 10 at 8pm.

This is an open meeting to ALL residents, regardless of the political party you support, so all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.



Toon Cup awarded to Fireflies Netball Club

FAREHAM Borough Council Executive decided in October the Toon Cup, with a £250 grant, should be awarded to Fareham Fireflies Netball Club based at Brookfield School.

This cup and grant is awarded annually to a local sports club in recognition of its commitment to sports development, particularly for young people in the Borough.

It was set up in memory of former Mayor Councillor Jock Toon.

Scheme to improve Hook sewerage outfall

SOUTHERN Water is planning a scheme to improve the existing sewerage system in the catchment area of Hook Pumping Station.

This will improve the quality of the storm water that goes through the outfall pipe at the end of Workman's Lane.

The company's contractors will be carrying out a survey during October which will look at the condition of the sea outfall.

Work is due to start during the summer of 2007.

Locks Heath councillor's major new job

MIKE Godrich has been appointed chairman of the Audit Committee.

This committee is concerned with corporate governance and watching over the council's finances and activities. Core functions include risk management, internal and external audits, anti-fraud and corruption policies, scrutiny and council conduct.

Skittles social MEMBERS of Locks Heath Conservatives are planning another supper and skittles evening in early 2007.

Other branches also have social activities, so if you are interested in supporting our programme you are welcome.

Phone the Association office on Fareham 01329 822646 for details.

LOCKS HEATH & WARSASH 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.

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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 Othen.

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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