

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



CLOSED: St Christopher's

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.



CLOSED: Blackbrook



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Annual survey

This year's annual residents' survey has recently been issued by the Council to give residents the chance to have their say about local services.

It is a key part of the Council's decision-making as it helps to inform them of residents' views on important issues.

Warsash committee

A busy year so far with both the County and General Elections in May.

A BBQ was held in June and was very well supported by 50 people. A joint event with Locks Heath is planned for October 29 comprising a dinner and speakers. Venue is St John's Church Hall, Locks Heath. Contact Councillors Mike Godrich or Trevor Cartwright for information.

Remember Nelson

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.

Keith prevents county plan to fence public open space at Hook

HAMPSHIRE County Council plans to fully enclose about 7 hectares (17.2 acres) of land at Hook with Warsash have been modified following representations from local residents and County Councillor Keith Evans.

This area of land has been used for grazing for some 20 to 30 years but with allowed public access, including the siting of styles that effectively recognised a diagonal pathway across the area.

As part of a consideration for maintenance work to the existing fences, Hampshire was proposing to complete the enclosure of the area with a wire fence that would have excluded the public – leaving a narrow pathway to provide a walk link to adjacent field areas.

These proposals were published by Hampshire asking for comments.

Resident response, from Warsash, Locks Heath, Sarisbury etc, was immense, pointing out the widespread use of this area for walking and general recreation and the very considerable historic usage by several generations.

Keith Evans commented: "The



Keith Evans: 'A good outcome all round'

level of resident representation with very reasoned arguments has been excellent and the willingness of Hampshire County Council officers to listen and respond positively has been welcomed.

"The amended plans maintain public access and provide some improvements for walkers to gain entry into adjacent field areas – a good outcome all round"

Barratt's plan for 54 homes on Polybond site branded as 'worst ever application'



FAREHAM planners described Barratt's application to build 54 homes at the former Polybond site as "the worst we've even seen".

At their May meeting, committee members said the proposals were far from in-keeping with adjoining properties.

Barratt's plans, which resulted in demolition of the old Polybond buildings leaving the eyesore of rubbish

pictured above, brought a flood of protests from residents.

The site also had to be cleared of contamination.

Barratt's submitted a revised application for 49 units on June 20.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "I have been invited to discuss this application with Barratt's and, once again, would be pleased to hear views from residents."

Warsash road plan reaches final stage in autumn

FINAL stage of the Shore Road-Passage Lane improvements is due to start in September and will take 12 weeks.

It mainly affects Shore Road and the corner by the Rising Sun.

Borough Councillors Mary Nadolski and Trevor Cartwright and County Councillor Keith Evans recently met Hampshire's environment architect to review progress on this major improvement.

The road round the Rising Sun will have a new smooth granite setts surface with Shore Road receiving a new natural stone dressing to the existing tarmac surfaces. The gully / pathway beside the cottages will have a new raised and slightly extended surface.

This, plus a slight widening of the grass verge, is planned to accentuate the village character and encourage pedestrians to use the side by the cottages and move traffic away from the cottages.

Comparisons between traffic flows in 1998 and 2004 indicate that the traffic flow change introduced as part of the earlier phase of work is reducing the volume of traffic using Shore Road.

Local councillors will ask the County for a further traffic survey once all the improvements are completed and settled.

'Scuttle this silly berthing plan' demand river users

FAREHAM Council has run into deep water with the yachting fraternity over proposals to remove pontoons and mud berths near Stone Pier Yard, Warsash.

The council wants to replace them in deeper water clear of the low watermark with new floating and finger pontoons and also to move the existing fuel barge.

Warsash Sailing Club and Warsash Residents' Association want to scuttle the idea and 109 letters of objection have been received by the planners.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "This re-positioning into deeper

water would mean that the existing secondary channel would be obstructed, which would result in river users having to go straight into the main channel.

"The new proposal should have gone to the Planning Committee in June, but the planning officers decided to withdraw it from the agenda and re-consult with the Harbour Authority in light of the risk assessment report prepared by Warsash Sailing Club.

"At the time of writing we are still awaiting a decision, but, as a river user, I remain very much opposed to this application."



Trevor Cartwright: 'Very much opposed.'

Huge election support for Tories
TURNOUT in Warsash/Locks Heath for the County Council election in May was very high at 69.7%.

Keith Evans, who gained 55.4% of the vote, commented: "I am very pleased to be elected as councillor for this division with such an excellent majority."

Applicant has twice lost the plot
A SECOND application went to the Planning Committee in June.

This was for outline planning permission to demolish the existing dwelling at 34 Thornton Avenue, Warsash and form two building plots.

This was also rejected.

Action needed against vandals
VANDALISM is still a problem in the community, upsetting residents and costing money for council taxpayers.

Locks Heath Councillor Mrs Ruth Godrich advises: "If you see or hear any vandalism, please report it to the council and the police."

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.

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.

If you do not require a reply, please tick the box

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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 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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