

## All's well that ends well as revamp hits snag

**WORK** on Fareham's multi-million Shopping Centre revamp was 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 Christmas period.

"Building control records did not show the existence of several large wells. These had to be bridged and, although this has now been 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."

Fareham Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "It is unfortunate that the wells were found but I am delighted that Debenhams remain committed to Fareham."

Community Hospital scheduled to start in January 2009, but...

## NHS under fire for failure to provide beds in Phase 1



**Rub your eyes:** Soon it won't be just an artist's sketch, but bricks and mortar.

**FAILURE to provide maternity and in-patient beds when Fareham's long-awaited community hospital opens in 2011 has sparked criticism.**

Local councillors, shortly due to consider granting planning consent for building to start at the Coldeast site in January 2009, are trying to get a change of heart.

The criticism follows recent public consultation by the NHS which, although mostly well received, showed disappointment with the omissions in Phase 1.

The NHS argues that adequate provision exists at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, where extra facilities costing £6.3m are being provided.

### Rumours scotched

Meantime, rumours that Hampshire Primary Care Trust would be charging the sick to park at the new hospital have been refuted.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Fareham's PCT representative, was assured that bona fide patients would get 3 hours' free parking.

The rumours arose because the PCT thought commuters using Swanwick Station would leave their cars at Coldeast.

Councillor Bayford said that was nonsense as the station was at least a mile from the hospital.

"It is considered 3 hours' free parking is adequate as it is most unlikely patients will be waiting more than an hour to be seen," he said.

If there was any chance of exceeding the limit, they would be given tokens and have nothing to fear from the company that would be running the car park.

### First phase provisions

- Large out-patient department with 6 consulting suites for visiting consultants and two suites for ante-natal clinics.
- Rehabilitation department with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles, replacing current services at Highlands Road Clinic (Frosthole Close).
- Two general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and two ultrasound units.
- Elderly assessment and treat-

ment centre, including treatment area and two consulting suites.

- Older persons' mental health day hospital with 2 consulting suites and treatment room, large sitting room, two activity rooms.

- Minor procedures service by GPs that will save residents having to visit Gosport or Southampton to see a GP after hours and at weekends.

With the existing facilities on the site, Fareham will have the initial elements of a comprehensive health service campus by 2011.

### No maternity beds

Twelve maternity beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook Maternity Home, will not be provided, 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.

Discussions are being held with the NHS to review the entrance from Brook Lane and relocate to the south past Hawthorns and the Meadows by the junction of Brook Lane and Lockwood Road.



# WARD NEWS BRIEFS

## Catch the speeders

If you see speeding in your area report it to the Police or to Councillor Ruth Godrich, chairman of the Road Safety Council.

"I will pass it on to the Police. Apart from the fact that drivers are breaking the law, they are endangering the lives of vulnerable people, especially young children, mums with buggies and the elderly," she said.

## Report bad parking

The Council now has the responsibility to enforce the laws concerning indiscriminate parking.

This could be parking on footpaths, grassed areas on double yellow lines, residents' drives and at road junctions obstructing sightlines.

The telephone number to report any of these to the Council is 01329 236100. Ask for Parking Enforcement, where an officer will deal with the matter.

## Road progress

Excellent progress is being made on the distributor road between Dibles Road and Warsash Road.

It is currently on schedule and should be completed at the end of the summer.

## Good compost

Pro-Gro compost is very reasonable and proved to be useful for bedding, shrubs and top dressing. It is available at the household waste recycling centres. If you need a large quantity and home delivery, call 0845 678 995.

## Don't pass them by, drop in your recyclables

SEVERAL on-street bins are being provided by Fareham Council to make it easier to recycle.

One of these units, comprising three small bins, has been sited in Centre Way, Locks Heath and many people including pupils on their way to school can use it.

Locks Heath Councillor Mike Godrich said: "It is hoped that this will encourage those who pass them, and perhaps save a longer walk to the



**Bin parade:** Mike Godrich encourages people to use these on-street recycling bins in Centre Way.

larger bin site.

"Recycling is an ongoing topic as we are all

being encouraged to improve and help the environment."

## Campaigners win fight to save countryside as...

# Plan to gouge out 8m tons of gravel bites the dust

**MASSIVE opposition to proposals to extract 8m tons of sand and gravel from 740 acres of countryside bordering The Solent ended in victory for the campaigners.**

County Councillor Keith Evans and Councillors Mike and Ruth Godrich, who played a prominent role in lobbying the County Council, said they were delighted Brownwich and Chilling had been taken off the proposed list.

However, Keith Evans warned the Government still had to accept the recommendation and its reaction would come later this year. Further public consultation would follow.

The sites were rejected on the basis of appraisal issues, ie protection of existing uses such as agricultural, recreation and strategic undeveloped and open coastal landscape.

The proposals were met with a storm of protest, which was borne out by the huge turnout of residents at a public meeting held in Brookfield School, and also by the number of responses to the County Council's consultation.

Residents formed an action group - Campaign Against Mineral Extraction and Landfill (CAMEL).

Keith Evans said: "Without the work of Camel, who made sure all residents knew about the plans, none of this would have happened."

Local councillors will continue to oppose the use of these sites.

He added: "Our objective is to retain this beautiful countryside and coastal area for people to enjoy for years to come and to prevent the disruption on roads through the Western Wards that would accompany any extraction."



She always keeps a wary eye on what's going on as she does the shopping.

## Thanks to her voters, Ruth is now in line to be Fareham's Mayor in 2009

**RUTH GODRICH thanks all who supported her on election day, ensuring that she retained her seat on Fareham Council with a majority of 874 in a four-cornered contest.**

As a result, she was selected as Deputy Mayor for this municipal year. Her duty is to support the Mayor, Councillor Ernest Crouch, by deputising for him at functions that he is unable to attend and to support in all aspects of the mayoral year.

Her other commitments are vice-chairman of the Community Review Panel, deputy of the Scrutiny Board, member Planning and Transportation Licensing Regulatory Committee and chairman of the Road Safety Council.

Membership of outside bodies includes The Genesis Youth Project and the Western Wards Community Campus Committee.

## Council still pursuing Western Wards pool

**THE COUNCIL is still pursuing the provision of a swimming pool in the Western Wards.**

Selection and agreement for the site is an ongoing issue. One option is adjoining the Lockswood Shopping Centre, but officers are discussing various covenants and other matters with the owners.

An alternative option is a site at Coldeast, although the disadvantage there is that the Council does not own the site.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "Rest assured the provision of a pool in the Western Wards is a Council priority."

## Popular youth theatre's 10th birthday

**SARISBURY Youth Theatre Company celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special birthday performance in June.**

The group, started in June 1998 helped by a grant from the Borough Council, performs at Sarisbury Community Centre.

The 10th anniversary programme included material performed over the last ten years.

The YTC welcomes new members aged 11-21 and meets on Sundays at the Community Centre 3.30 to 5.30pm.

Details can be found at the web site [www.dramagroup.co.uk](http://www.dramagroup.co.uk) or you can write to STC or SYTC, c/o Sarisbury Green Community Centre, The Green, Sarisbury, SO31 7AA, or phone 02392 375249 or 07940 161747.

## Don't leave an open invitation to thieves

**STATISTICS** from the Safe Neighbourhood Police Team for the Western Wards reveal several burglaries occurred because windows and doors were left open.

Councillor Ruth Godrich said: "This may be due to thinking it will not happen to us or because we are in the garden and out of sight of the doors.

"So when you are in the garden or pop out for a few minutes, lock your doors.

"There are opportunist thieves about, and I suffered this experience twice in a week a few years ago."

Police also warn that women's handbags are a prime target.

"Don't leave your handbag in a locked car, take it with you. It may be inconvenient, but it's safe. They could well be watching you and see you hide a bag under a seat."

If you feel vulnerable in a house alone have a chain fitted to the door and use it so callers can't force their way in.

# Fresh plans submitted for Lockwood Shopping Centre



**Waiting:** Mike Godrich views the car park scheduled to be reinstated. On the right is where the developers want to build five new shops. Photos: Juliet Gregory

## A FRESH application has been submitted to Fareham planners for the redevelopment of the Lockwood Shopping Centre.

Owners Stockland Halladale lodged an appeal against the Development Control Committee's refusal because they had planning approval for a fast food outlet, although the application for a KFC outlet was turned down.

Their new bid is for development of a shopping parade on the eastern end of the existing Cooperative building.

Stockland Halladale held a public exhibition of their new plans in the Shopping Centre on June 19, with artists' impressions of how the proposed development would look.

They want to build 5 new units beside the eastern elevation of the Coop

store; these are brick and tile elevations which would seem to be in keeping with the existing development.

The clock tower and existing disabled car parking bays remain, but the proposal for the drive-thru restaurant has been dropped and there is a new application to restore that area to a car park as well as reconfiguration of the existing parking.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "The display seemed to gain approval of some of the shoppers who visited it."

The date for the revised application to go before the committee has not been published yet, but when it is, residents can apply to speak to the committee and give their views by telephoning Fareham 01329 236100 and asking to make an appointment.

## Comments wanted on payphones removal

### RESIDENTS are asked to comment on British Telecom's proposal to remove six public payphones in the borough because they are under-used.

As part of a formal consultation process, BT has written to the Council

announcing its plans to remove the payphones at JCT Marks Road / Gosport Road, Stubbington; Catisfield Lane, Fareham; Bridge Road and Barnes Lane, Sarisbury Green; Old Swanwick Lane, Lower Swanwick; Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley

## Local issues discussed at well-attended CAT meeting

**THE FOURTH** Community Action Team meeting, held in St John's Church Hall, Locks Heath on June 9, was well attended.

Local issues, including speeding traffic, street parking and progress of Segensworth roundabout, were discussed in the open session.

An update on crime and disorder in the area and traffic officer's report were given by the police team.

The audience was briefed on Fareham Town parking strategy, Tesco's development at Quay Street and the refurbishment of Burridge Village Hall.

Graham Elwood gave an update on CAT bids for local projects. Successful bids thus far have been a replacement signpost in Sarisbury, a replacement tree bench in Middle Road and a grant for work on the Solent Way Broadwalk.

The next CAT meeting is on October 2 at Sarisbury Social Club, Bridge Road at 7pm.

# LOCKS HEATH 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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**Our man in Westminster**

By  
**Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

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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**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.

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.

**Recycling bin's full of tins**



**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."

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