

Tory leader tackles the Premier over development

FAREHAM Council's Conservative Leader Seán Woodward seized the chance to demand proper infrastructure when he met the Prime Minister.

The occasion was the recent signing of three new Multi-Area Agreements (MAA) at 10 Downing Street.

Elected members and officers from the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) attended the event, which was witnessed by Gordon Brown and ministers.



Seán Woodward (right) and County Council Leader Ken Thornber at 10 Downing Street.

As chairman of PUSH, Councillor Woodward said MAAs gave opportunity for groups of councillors to secure Government support and investment for their areas, working across boundaries to tackle economic issues.

He said: "As the only MAA area in the South East, it was important to attend the signing and to talk to the Prime Minister and senior officials

"It gave us opportunity to reiterate the need for infrastructure investment and Government support for South Hampshire."

No excuse for lack of infrastructure before building starts

'Get it right now' is message to Government ahead of new town

A NEW town that the Government has ordered Fareham to build west of the A32 must be properly planned.

The Borough Council and neighbouring authorities are adamant the vision is not blurred by the absence of the infrastructure before the building of up to 10,000 homes starts.

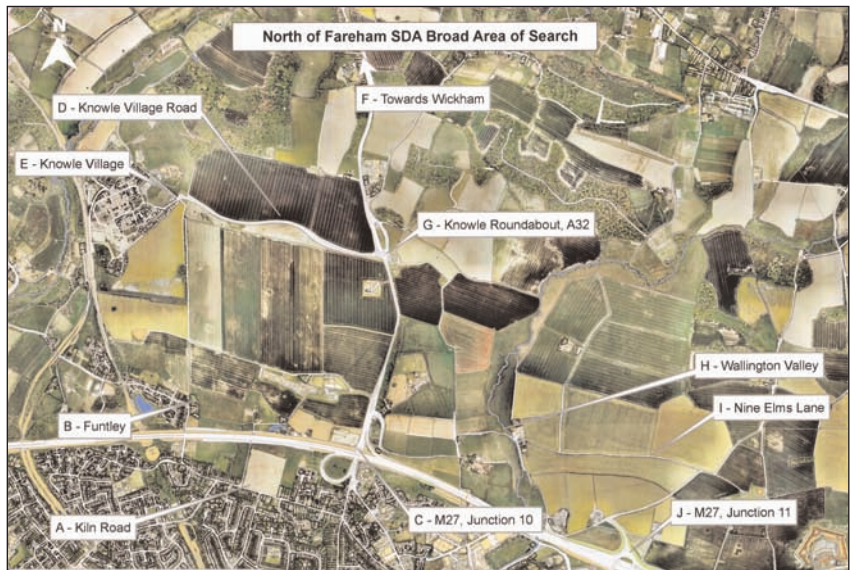
"We have to get the vision right because we want this place to be somewhere we can be proud of," said Councillor David Swanbrow, chairman of the newly-formed Strategic Development Steering Group.

The new town, whose exact location has yet to be decided, must be built as part of the South East Plan. It could house up to 25,000 people.

Building should begin around 2016 and will take at least 10 years to complete, but this schedule could be disrupted or diluted by the recession.

Nevertheless, the planning process has already started and councillors, led by Councillor Swanbrow as Fareham's Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, have been working for some time to produce the Local Development Framework that will replace the Borough Local Plan Review.

He said: "Developing a completely new settlement, however,



Vanishing countryside: This aerial view of green fields and farmland will be changed for ever when development starts on a new town north of the M27.

needs thoughts and ideas from a broad range of people and organisations from outside the council and perhaps the most important thing to get right early on in the planning process is a vision of what sort of a place it should be."

To that end, the Borough Council ran the first of several visioning events at Ferneham Hall at the end of March.

About 50 participants attended, representing organisations from Fareham and neighbouring districts, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and other government bodies.

Councillor Swanbrow said: "Some very strong messages

came out of this first workshop, including the need for infrastructure to be in place early with good public transport links to Fareham and Portsmouth and beyond.

"It should also be a place that feels safe and comfortable to live in and have a varied mix of housing, plenty of green space and good employment facilities."

Unlike the Western Wards, where infrastructure had to be added piecemeal to what already existed, the new town site is undeveloped countryside.

He added: "The Government promised the infrastructure, so there's no excuse for it not being there before the development starts."

Too many heavy sacks result in changes to green waste collections

CHANGES to the green waste collection were necessary for Health and Safety reasons.

Fareham Council had to employ more staff to

reduce the amount each worker had to carry.

The Council is saving no money; any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste col-

lection service and trial schemes.

It is not a statutory service and Fareham is the only council providing the collection of one green

sack as an extra free service.

Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and up to £1 for each emptying.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Train passengers

Train journey statistics released by Hampshire County Council for 2007/08 show that journeys to and from Fareham train station exceeded those from Southampton Parkway by 29,011.

Statistics for Fareham Borough train stations: Fareham – 1,418,993 Parkway – 1,389,982 Swanwick – 463,280 Portchester – 278,332

New surfaces

Footway resurfacing in Boxwood Close will be started in May.

Resurfacing in the Hillway is underway and will be completed in early May.

New drains

The Highways Agency will be renovating the drainage in Downend Road, also starting in May.

Children's plan

Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-2012 has now been issued and can be downloaded on the internet, hants.gov.uk/childrens-services.

It is a wide-ranging plan giving visions and priorities and how it will be made to happen.

Party time

Fareham Conservative Association's social committee has organized a summer party on June 12 at Quob Park.

Guest speaker will be David Willetts, MP for Havant and a member of the Shadow Cabinet.

Ruth Cartwright can provide further information and reserve tickets. Call her on 01489 578519.

Yellow + blue = green is the old directory recycling formula

OLD EDITIONS of Yellow Pages telephone directory can now be recycled in the blue top kerbside bins and paper banks.

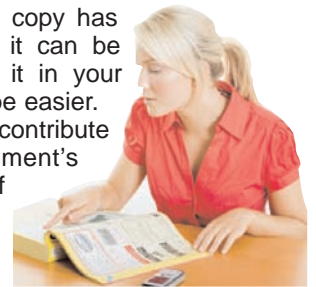
Previously, there were several reasons why the directory could not be recycled, but Project Integra has resolved these issues

Executive Member for Streetscene Councillor Brian Bayford said:

"This is excellent news. It has always seemed such a shame to have to throw out the old yellow

pages when the new copy has been delivered, now it can be recycled and putting it in your blue top bin couldn't be easier.

"It will also help to contribute towards the government's tight target for 50% of all household waste to be recycled by 2010."



Residents face 2 more years of foul odours from Downend site

OBNOXIOUS odours from the Downend composting site are still getting up people's noses.

But there is an end in sight as operators, Veolia, said they were "extremely unlikely" to apply to renew their licence when it expires on June 30, 2011.

And County Council officials said the same operation that was permitted in 1999 would not be allowed today.

The news came at the March meeting of the Liaison Panel held at Portchester Community Centre, which was well attended.

Representatives from Lancaster Close, Northfield Park, The Spinney, and Downend Road – all areas affected by the smells – were invited to join the panel which has standing members from the Thicket and Tudor Close.

Environment Agency officers reported that they had received 106 complaints of odour from December to March, made three site visits and substantiated odour on two occasions, but no breaches of the permit had been found.

The Agency is now in a position to act immediately if required as it has a public telephone line and would prefer to receive complaints directly, although all complaints through the Council would receive the same attention.

Fareham Council said it was important to continue the monitoring by form as evidence if a future application for continuation of the licence was made.

It was then that the operators stated it was extremely.

The meeting was very constructive and all residents were able to make their reasoned observations on the distasteful odour and the effect on their homes.

The next panel meeting will be on June 16 and anyone wishing to attend future meetings should contact Rosemary Box, panel secretary, at the County Council on 01962 846746.

The Environment Agency telephone is 0800 807060 and Fareham Borough Council can be reached on 01329 236100 or 0800 374485 after working hours.

Mayor opens refurbished Citizens' Advice Bureau

FAREHAM'S Citizens' Advice Bureau has been refurbished and reopened by the Mayor, Councillor Ernest Crouch.

The CAB, which is on the top floor of the County Library, was helped by grants from the County and the Borough and by volunteers who organised several fund-raising events.

Staff and volunteers now enjoy a

splendid office with all the amenities to ensure the comfort and confidentiality of the people they are there to help.

The CAB originated in 1939 to keep the populace informed of how and where to get help with wartime problems.

The need to continue giving advice to the public in the postwar years was vital and is just as important today.

Downend 'No Waiting' order comes into force

DOUBLE yellow lines are to be painted on sections of Downend Road and The Thicket after Fareham Council's Executive agreed to make a 'No Waiting' order.

A prohibition order ban-

ning waiting at any time on both sides of The Thicket for 25 metres from its junction with Downend Road.

On the east side of Downend Road, the ban will extend in a northerly direction 47m from the

junction and 11m in a southerly direction.

On the west side of Downend Road at a point 5m south of the junction with The Causeway, there will be no waiting for about 54m.

Litter louts can be fined up to £2,500

TWO NEW mobile signs have been produced warning of 'litter hot spots'.

They will be displayed in targeted areas where there is a persistent problem to remind the public it is an offence to drop litter.

Anyone over 16 caught dropping litter in Fareham, including cigarette ends and chewing gum, can be given a £75 fixed notice penalty.

Refusal to pay will result in prosecution and a fine up to £2,500.

The enforcement team operates across the borough and responds to tip-offs and complaints.

Councillor Pamela Bryant, Chairman of Streetscene, said:

"Educating people about the offence of dropping litter and possible fining is an important part of the process.

"Litter is a big and costly problem for the taxpayer and makes our town look untidy and unsightly."

Tories tops in value for money

THERE'S more good news for council taxpayers in Hampshire.

After the Tory-run council's minimal 1.9% increase for the next two years, the County Council has been awarded the maximum score possible for the quality of its services and its value for money.



Conclusion nears on precinct work

THE ON-GOING saga with Portchester Precinct is reaching a conclusion.

Fareham Council's Community Engagement Officer, Graham Ellwood, said he had spoke to the project manager who was liaising with contractors Scandor Landscapes.

Mr Ellwood said: "It appears that we are finally moving forward with the precinct.

"The painting of the columns and clock is scheduled to commence the week beginning April 12.

"New brackets for the hanging baskets are also on order. I am awaiting final confirmation that the licence has been granted to commence the works to install the seating."

It will no longer be an excuse

THE County Council is working with bus companies to make 'sorry the bus was late' less than a feeble excuse.

The Transport Plan (2006-22) aims to have 90% of services arriving on time by 2011.

Bus punctuality partnerships have been set up to tackle the causes of delay and are focusing on traffic management and resources.

Councils wary of Government's 50% reduction in rent increases

FAREHAM Council tenants have been told their average rent increase in 2009-10 will be halved from 6.2% to 3.1%

The Government promised it will compensate local housing authorities through the subsidy arrangements, but so far has not said how it will be achieved.

Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "The reduction in rent will have an impact on the income received by local housing authorities and their plans for the future management and maintenance of the housing stock.

"Fareham Borough Council is committed to helping our tenants in these difficult financial times and plans to reduce the average rent increase to 3.1% as soon as practicable and subject to the Council being compensated by the Government for the lost income and administrative burden.

"Officers will be preparing a report for the Executive which will be considered as soon as the amendment order and details of the compensation arrangements are in place."

Meanwhile, all tenants are advised to continue to pay their rent in accordance with the recent rent notification letters they received.

The Council will write to all tenants advising them of any changes in their rent and will make the appropriate adjustments once the Government has approved the amendment order and the Executive has sanctioned the reductions.

The Government is urging councils to get on and implement the change, but finance officers attending a recent national seminar were advised not to implement until the detail had been provided.

"As we understand things, the Government is required to consult on its proposals and plan to do this in April, and then approve an amendment order in late May, which will authorise the changes and provide the detail," added Councillor Woodward.

Officers hope to bring a report to June or July Executive setting out the proposed revisions to rent levels and the subsidy implications for the Council.

New Community Centre still some way off

REPLACEMENT of Portchester's tatty Community Centre may be a few years off.

Meantime, the trustees and management go from strength to strength.

Regular meetings of the trustees with ward councillors and officers are held to find a way forward.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said: "A new building will undoubtedly be provided to serve Portchester's community in the same way that PCA

has done so remarkably well.

"Any project to replace the present structure will be costly and beyond the Council's present resources, but various opportunities to capitalise on our assets are being investigated.

"By the summer, reports will be ready as the basis of further consultation



Checking: Councillor Nick Walker visits the run-down centre.

with community representatives leading to firm plans to ensure a replacement well before the lease of the present building expires in 2011."

Portchester play project wins £2,000

A PLAY based on reminiscences of local people will be staged at Portchester Community School – thanks to a £2,000 grant from Fareham Council.

Fareham and Portchester Community Play project – D Day, Disco and Download – is coordinating the play written by young people from Portchester about people's lives in the 1940s to the present.

The group was awarded a Community Grant award towards the cost of costumes, make-up, stage props, lighting hire and printing programmes.

The play will be staged from July 13-15, with the production split into six scenes, using the written testimonials of local people recorded by the Portchester Civic Society.

101 is easier to remember

FROM April 1, the 101 number has been run as a police only non-emergency number in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The public should use 101 in the same way as 0845 0454545 – whichever number you find easier to remember.

PORTCHESTER 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 councillors.

WARD COUNCILLORS – Portchester West

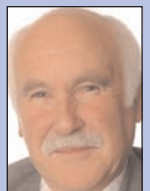
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Your man in Westminster



By Mark Hoban MP for Fareham

I am very proud of the young people in Fareham. Too often, young people get a bad press because of the actions of a tiny minority at the expense of the tremendous contribution that the majority makes to the wider community.

It creates a barrier between the generations. We need to redress the balance and emphasise the positive.

I am lucky that I get to see so much of what our young people are able to do. In the last few weeks, groups from Orchard Lea Junior School, Neville Lovett and Henry Cort have been to Westminster and I was struck by the range of questions they asked, demonstrating a keen interest in their community, nation and the wider world.

A few weeks ago I listened to young people at Portchester Community School set out their ideas on how we can improve facilities for them.

Their ideas were well thought through and demonstrated an understanding of conflicting pressures that councils face when allocating resources. What they said and did ran counter to the media stereotypes. Stereotypes dog every generation and group and where there are tensions between different groups these can be self-reinforcing.

We are too ready to be critical and we should be more willing to listen and recognise the qualities and talents of our young people. The only way to bridge the gap between the generations is to accept that the good outweighs the bad.

Young and old need to value each other more, and understanding each other's contribution to the community is a good starting point.

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Valuable work praised at opening of new Community Action offices

COMMUNITY Action Fareham has moved into new offices opposite Trinity Church at 163 West Street.

The independent charity supports voluntary organisations and provides a Home Help scheme and Advocacy project for people with mental health issues.

Other services include community transport and Dial A Ride for the elderly.

Shophmobility is also run by Community Action, giving disabled people access to town centre shops.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward officially handed over the keys on March 31 to the Chairman of Community Action Fareham,

George Ringrow, at the new building where a plaque was revealed as a tribute to the special occasion.

Councillor Woodward said: "It was an honour and a pleasure to hand over the keys to this valuable organisation.

"These brand new offices, will offer Community Action Fareham further support to continue their important work within the Borough".

The Council invested £528,000 to provide the specially designed offices in



Fresh start: Seán Woodward (left), Fareham Mayor and Mayoress Ernest and Enid Crouch and George Ringrow cut the ceremonial cake.

a prominent position in the town centre, which are a big improvement on the former dilapidated premises in Osborn Road South.

Foiling the Borough's midnight rubbish tippers

THEY sneak down the lanes after dark to dump their rubbish in the woods.

It saves them the fee for legally disposing of industrial waste at a council tip.

The culprits are often rogue builders who add to their profits by billing their unsuspecting clients.

They have made countryside around Sarisbury a disgrace.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "As fast as the Council and landowners clear the fly tipping, more vehicles arrive under cover of darkness to dump more waste."

But it won't be



happening in future. The Council has made a prohibition order which will prevent vehicles enter-

ing the footpath and bridleway network from Sarisbury Green (Glen Road and behind the

He thought he'd got away with it

Fly-tipper Ivor James (45) suffered a double whammy when he dumped his rubbish in Glen Road.

Fareham Council officers were delighted to find his name and address on mail in one of the bags. James denied involvement.

But he couldn't wriggle out of evidence from a public spirited resident who caught him in the act on camera and noted his vehicle registration number.

James, of Addison Road, Sarisbury admitted the offence and was sentenced to 100 hours' community service by the town's magistrates and ordered to pay the Council £645.76.

shops), Oslands Lane and Glen Road, Swanwick.

Signs and physical barriers will be in place, including lockable bollards for which keys will only be issued by Hampshire County Council to people with right of access.

Councillor Woodward added: "The order combined with the bollards will prevent this filthy practice. I'm hopeful the problem will be eliminated.

"Traders who charge people to remove this waste will now have to pay to dump it at the tip rather than on other people's property."



Fareham honour for Dee's daring deeds

DEE CAFFARI, first woman to sail solo non-stop around the globe in both directions, will be presented with the Citizens of Honour Special Achievement badge by the Mayor Ernest Crouch at a special tea in the Mayor's Parlour on May 5.

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