

## Very little from Tesco isn't helping to remove eyesore

### Council searching for alternative prestige food superstore site

**EVERY little helps, boast Tesco in their famous TV slogan.**

Fareham Council could do with a little of that help from the food store colossus to develop the derelict foundry site in Quay Street.

Tesco have owned the land for a year and it has become a blot on the landscape against the nearby showpiece Market Quay centre.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said Tesco appeared to have bought the site to keep out rival chainstores, but were now dragging their feet.

But he warned the council's patience was running out with the giant, which made a profit of £1.6 billion last year, and alternative sites were being explored.

"Development of the foundry site, which is an appalling eyesore in an otherwise high quality town centre redevelopment, is high priority.

"The council has now widened its search for a suitable site due to the imperceptible progress being made with Tesco.

"It has been a long-held ambition of the Conservative administration of Fareham Borough Council, having achieved the



**Eyesore:** Seán Woodward surveys the foundry site in Quay Street where the council hopes Tesco will build a top class food superstore.

superb Market Quay shopping and leisure development, to get a quality food superstore into the town centre with the foundry site highlighted as the favoured location," he said.

Tesco have submitted a planning application for a superstore and housing, but it has not been registered because the company must submit requested details

regarding highway and environmental impact of their retail and residential scheme.

He believes an application for a car park on the site, which the council rejected, was part of the delaying tactic.

"At the end of the day, they can afford to sit on the site indefinitely," added Councillor Woodward.

## Minister refuses to refer local NHS crisis to independent review panel

### HEALTH Minister Lord Warner has refused to refer the provision of health in Southeast Hampshire to the Independent Health Review Panel.

Fareham has had no hospital facilities since St Christopher's Hospital and Blackbrook Birthing Unit closed.

County Councillor Dr Ray Ellis, chairman of Hampshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), told the Minister this contradicted Labour's intention of making the

NHS respond to local needs.

Why, he asked, set up expensive consultation and scrutiny arrangements if the Minister ignored the statutory referral request for independent review, especially after such a long delay? Is the Government worried about the outcome?

The joint Southeast Hampshire OSC was making every effort to progress the development of community hospitals.

Fareham's hospital, including an accident treatment centre

and a new midwife-led maternity unit, has been over 20 years in the waiting room.

The local NHS is in financial crisis, but the hospital needs of Fareham's 110,000 population should be top priority. Failure to do so will mean that some services are not available and others will only be available at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth or Gosport.

National policy on maternity is to give expectant mothers a choice, so all first pregnancies

are dealt with at a major unit and second and third confinements (provided there have been no complications) should be carried out in a unit such as a new Blackbrook unit in the community hospital or at home.

A new Blackbrook within a community hospital with significantly improved facilities would give expectant mothers an even better delivery environment.

Meantime, it is necessary to have some provision locally for midwife-led delivery.



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Cycle lane fears

A revised strategy for Portchester Road cycle lanes has been drawn up after consultation with interested parties.

Brenda Clapperton, Chairman of the Fareham Society, feared combined pedestrian and cycle paths caused problems and would inevitably lead to accidents.

Advice on using shared paths will be included in a leaflet showing a simplified diagram of existing and proposed routes.

### No post haste

Birdwood Grove residents complain that post-boxes are not emptied daily now.

Royal Mail apologised for collection times on some boxes being out of date by up to three days.

Councillor Ernest Crouch was assured that an electronic recording system monitors collections from all boxes and ensures they are emptied daily. Royal Mail had to amend its services to be cost effective, but recognises it has a duty to provide a reliable and efficient service.

### Flasher warning

Cams Hill School head David Wilmot warned parents that two girls were approached by a man exposing himself in the Linden Lea area.

He urges them to tell their children about the importance of walking with friends and be aware of what to do in such circumstances.

If a vehicle is used, note the registration number, colour, make and model if possible.

# Drinks panel clips The Seagull's wings



**FAREHAM Borough Council, as the new licensing authority, granted an application to extend a Portchester pub's premises, but not its opening hours.**

There were protests from residents fearing late night disturbance when The Seagull applied to increase its hours.

One protester successfully argued that the statutory notices displayed at the premises were not clearly visible from the road.

The Licensing Panel adjourned the application which was due to be reheard on November 4.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said residents shared the concerns of people

across the country who believed that any benefit derived from later hours for pub closures, implicit in the "freedom" envisaged by the government, would be far outweighed by the damage to their quality of life.

"Whatever the good intentions of the pub management, nearby residents – and some not so close – will inevitably have to suffer more noise, traffic, anti-social behaviour and obscenities into the early hours of the morning.

"Sadly, the government has transferred the duty of licensing from magistrates to councils, but has then ridden roughshod over their power, with penalties if they fail to observe new guidelines," said Councillor Crouch.

## Fareham's planning record is recognised

**FAREHAM Planning Development Control Committee chairman Councillor Nick Walker was a guest speaker at a Westminster planning conference.**

He was invited in recognition of the significant improvement the Conservative-controlled council has made towards its performance in planning development in the last five years.

The 'Transforming Planning, Transforming Places' Conference addressed the theme of cultural change in delivering planning services and Councillor Walker's speech was suitably titled 'Delivering Excellent Development Control Services.'

He said: "This was a wonderful opportunity to share with others the success Fareham Borough Council has had with the improvement of our development control services. I enjoyed meeting many planning officials attending the event."

The conference also featured keynote speaker Baroness Andrews, Parliamentary under Secretary of State at the office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

## Get your electric blanket checked free

**SNUGGLING into a nice cosy bed in winter is a luxury.**

But if you use an electric blanket to warm it, beware the danger.

Hampshire Trading Standards Service advises people to book their blankets in for an MOT before switching on.

Large numbers of blankets fail annu-

al safety checks – 44% in 2004.

Old blankets with damaged cables, faulty plugs and wrong fuses are all too common.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue and most district councils will arrange free checks. An elderly relative or neighbour might benefit.

Call 01329 316183 or email

## Traffic lights phasing changes have little effect on Delme jams



**Jammed:** Daily scene near the Delme roundabout

**RUSH HOUR jams at the Delme roundabout are wasting fuel and could be building up pollution.**

County Councillor John Bryant said if traffic from Wallington Way and Junction 11 were simultaneously stopped for 30 seconds, it might ease the problem.

The highways engineer said changes had been made, but there was too much traffic to make a real improvement. He would reassess the situation.

It is the council's duty to monitor air quality in strategic places and reports showed Gosport Road/Earls Road area had consistently high levels of sulphur dioxide. Hartlands Road and Osborn Road were also areas for concern and monitors would show whether remedial action was needed.

# Shocking rise in damage crimes in Portchester area

**PORTCHESTER has the highest rise in damage in Fareham Borough, but is the only area which shows a decrease in non-dwelling burglary.**

The shocking figures were published at the time Fareham Council's Executive met to adopt new council housing anti-social behaviour policy.

Used correctly, the policies are designed to tackle anti-social behaviour which will enhance the lives of those left to suffer annoyance, disturbance or nuisance in and around their homes.

The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 provided new powers and gave new responsibilities for social landlords to tackle anti-social behaviour. Part 2 of the Act focuses on social housing,

A key part of tackling anti-social

behaviour is to ensure that tenants know exactly what their landlord will do about it when it occurs.

Tenants may be unaware of exactly what options are acceptable either to them or the landlord.

The duty on social landlords to publish their policies and procedures will enable everyone to see what commitments the landlord is making and provides a starting point towards taking effective action.

Anti Social Behaviour covers excessive noise, verbal abuse, damage to property, criminal damage,

age, alcohol and solvent misuse, drugs, harassment, criminal behaviour, nuisance from vehicles, pets and animals, gardens, nuisance from business use, rubbish and misuse of communal areas.

PORTCHESTER CRIMES	
May 1-August 31 2005 (comparable period 2004 in brackets)	
Dwelling burglary	15 (+7)
Non-dwelling burglary	15 (-8)
Vehicle crime	32 (+3)
Damage	174 (+117)

## Apollo, we have lift off



**JULY was an important month for Fareham with the opening of the new luxury Apollo Cinema shops, restaurants and leisure facilities.**

Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward, who opened the development, said: "Market Quay has brought a new vibrancy to the town centre.

"The new cinema is already breaking all records for its owners and providing a much-needed facility."

## Church helps to clean up beach

**COUNTRYSIDE Rangers from Fareham Council helped over 200 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-Day-Saints to clean up Portchester's shoreline in support of 'National Helping Hands Day'.**

Portchester Councillor Nick Walker said: "We were delighted to support this wonderful project organised by the church."

# 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 ward councillors.

### ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name .....  
Address .....  
..... Postcode.....  
Tel ..... Email .....

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

### WARD COUNCILLORS

#### Portchester West

**Ernest Crouch**  
8 East Cams Close  
Fareham PO16 8RP  
Tel: 01329 232995  
email:  
ecrouch@fareham.gov.uk



**Nick Walker**  
Old Mill House  
Hospital Lane  
Portchester  
Fareham PO16 9LT  
Tel: 023 9238 4943  
email:  
nwalker@fareham.gov.uk





## Your man in Westminster



By  
Mark Hoban  
MP for Fareham

Whatever your views about the desirability of the 80,000 new homes planned for South Hampshire, we all agree better services are needed to meet the needs of those already living here.

Closure of the Blackbrook Birthing Centre and the question mark hanging over the long promised community hospital tells me there must be something wrong with our health service when we also hear about record amounts of taxpayers' money being spent on the NHS.

Our road network is under pressure from the existing volume of traffic and the Government says the answer is to use public transport, but it has not given the County Council the resources to maintain the bus network and it has been unable to decide about the South Hampshire Rapid Transit Scheme, despite its own advisers saying that it is a "must do" scheme.

I get fed up hearing the Chancellor talking about new school buildings, yet there are many children in Hampshire, including some in this constituency, being educated in temporary classrooms put up over ten years ago.

Labour has spent over £1 billion trying to tackle truancy and bad behaviour in schools but both are getting worse.

With this backdrop, people are rightly concerned about the plans to build so many new houses in South Hampshire. If we cannot meet the needs of the existing population, how can we meet the needs of so many extra households?

I have been in politics long enough to be sceptical when I hear people say the Government will fund the infrastructure. We have only to look around to see that the Government does not always meet its promises. We should not fall for the argument that whilst there is no jam today there will be jam tomorrow. If we build houses today, the jam we can look forward to is the one on our roads!

•You may contact Mark via his office  
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN.  
Telephone: 01329 233573  
email: mail@markhoban.com



## All the signs for the future look good

FAREHAM'S boundary has been marked with new signs replacing the tatty ones some entrances to the Borough have had for several years.

They show the Borough crest, the union flag and cross of St George, as well as the crests of our twin towns, Vannes in France and Pulheim in Germany.

# Struggle to maintain subsidised bus routes

**THE MOST widely used bus services in Hampshire have been safeguarded for next year following a review of the County Council's subsidy budget.**

The County Council spends £8.5m a year to subsidise 28 per cent of services countywide (excluding Portsmouth and Southampton).

Journeys costing the council £2.50 or less per passenger in subsidy are retained.

Consultations with neighbouring councils and operators ensured the future of more bus services than would be provided commercially, but has limited the cost of subsidising underused routes.

Hampshire had increased its subsidy budget by more than £1m per annum above inflation during the last three years at a time when the government had reduced our funding by £41m, said Executive Member for

Environment (South) Councillor Tim Knight.

"Fuel prices, insurance and drivers' wages are being passed on to the County Council in the form of increased tender prices."

Several services had thus become uneconomic for the operators, putting escalating pressures on the subsidy budget and forcing the County Council to reassess where the money was being spent.

It was agreed to maintain weekday services requiring a maximum subsidy of £2.50 per passenger journey and to keep the better performing Sunday and evening services, which need a subsidy of £2 or less. School specials that fail the £2.50 criterion are unaffected.

The measures will ensure the County Council uses council taxpayers' money wisely, while subsidising those services that would otherwise cease for many residents.

## What would Ted have done today without his faithful sidekick Dusty Bin....?



The composter that looks like a Dalek minus gun and eye stalk is available for £5, but the rest of those on parade in the picture are free.

There's a smart 240 litre green top to replace your 140 litre model if necessary and households with six or more people can upgrade to the giant 360 litre range.

You could go for two 240 litre blue tops if you have masses of recyclables and don't forget the smart accessory - the green bag for the garden.

The council isn't saving money from the new fortnightly collections. It's ploughing it back into the

free green waste collection.

But it must meet the current target of recycling 30%, which is likely to rise to 40% and even 65% in the future.

If Fareham Council fails to meet its targets, it's likely to face a Government fine.

No prizes for guessing who'll have to foot the bill in the long run.



### HE WOULD probably have flipped his lid!

Dusty bins, like the booby prizes with which failed contestants walked away from the 1980s Ted Rogers TV game show, are consigned to the archives.

Today, the right answer to the question of disposing of your household waste will win you a super selection of bins from Fareham Council.

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