



'No more homes call' as traffic hits peak

TRAFFIC using Botley Road, Park Gate has reached its peak and further development must be banned.

The call came from Councillor Marian Ellerton, who has submitted a strong request to Hampshire Highways for a traffic survey along the route.

She said the area faced the prospect of severe congestion due to the increase in traffic from new homes exiting on to Botley Road.

"It's clear the area has reached its capacity," she stated.

Council bans public boozing

A BAN on drinking alcohol in designated public places comes into force in Fareham on March 1, 2005.

"The aim is to control consumption of alcohol in public places and tackle alcohol-related crime, disorder and nuisance, as well as problems of under-age drinking," said Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward.

Anyone caught drinking in public in a designated area who refuses to stop can be arrested by police, who can also seize and dispose of any alcohol containers found in offenders' possession.

YES! 2009 DATE FOR FAREHAM HOSPITAL

Council makes pledge to fight Haslar sacrifice

DECADES of languishing on the waiting list are almost over and Fareham will get its community hospital at Coldeast.

But the borough will have to spend another four years in the hospital waiting room before it is ready.

And it comes at a sacrificial cost. Community hospitals at Fareham and Gosport War Memorial will mean withdrawing community services from Haslar Hospital, unless campaigners can overturn the decision.

Fareham Council came out strongly against the Haslar closure at its December meeting.

Members agreed to challenge the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust PFI (Private Finance Initiative) bid to place all acute and elective services at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The council has written to Hampshire County Council's Health Review Committee, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and The Save Haslar Task Force urging them to work to restore Haslar to traditional hospital status.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward said community hospitals at Coldeast and Gosport War Memorial would provide best value for the area.

"However, we believe Haslar should be transformed into a traditional NHS secondary care hospital.

"We will be lobbying the County's Health Review Panel in



Council leader Seán Woodward (left) and Fareham MP Mark Hoban pictured at the site for the new hospital at Coldeast.

January to challenge the Queen Alexandra PFI bid, which should enable services to be shared between QA and Haslar, thus providing the best value and combination of services for the whole area.

"The QA site cannot cope with all services, whereas a two-site solution could work well."

for emergency medical care for Portsmouth and East Hampshire and Haslar should be fully used as an elective surgical or medical centre, so all admissions booked from out-patient clinics and waiting lists would be treated there.

Haslar had all the investigative facilities needed for such work and an intensive care unit, although it was currently closed due to staff shortages.

"All the facilities are at present at Haslar and no money needs to be spent on building or upgrading."

The argument for putting everything into one site on staff efficiency grounds was costly and problems of scheduling consultants' work between QA and Haslar sites could be overcome.

"Clearly £1 billion over 30 years is rather a lot to spend so that all in-patient facilities are on one site. What we are doing is mortgaging the future for something that is completely unnecessary," added Dr Ashton.

OPERATIONAL BY 2009

Fareham's hospital will be operational to match the opening of the new, extended QA Hospital by April 2009. Phase 1 will offer:

- An enhanced maternity unit with birthing pool
- Beds and day care centre for the elderly
- Consultant out-patient suites providing approximately 25,000 appointments a year
- On-call facilities for GPs
- Physio/occupational therapy and speech therapy
- Diagnostic services including X-Ray

A later phase is confidently expected to 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.

Dr Richard Ashton, consultant dermatologist at Haslar for the past 20 years, backed the council. He said QA should be the centre



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Lollipops

There's a vacancy for a crossing patrol at Sarisbury Infant School.

It's an ideal job for a mum who takes her child to and from school as it will not take much more of her time – and she will be paid.

There may be other vacancies. Call Ernie Sage at Hampshire County Council on 01962 846886 or email ernie.sage@hants.gov.uk

Energy grants

Home owners aged over 60, who are claiming pensions, can apply for grants up to £900 towards installing home insulation and a new boiler.

The council has committed £50,000 towards a scheme to be run by Scottish Power.

For information, call 0800 027 04477.

Composter success

Residents have been praised for recycling garden waste.

In 2004, the council was allocated 6,000 home composters by the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

It has been so successful that the council has been given another 1,000 units.

The council sells them at discounted prices – £5 (300 litre) and £10 (420 litre).

"We hope to continue this success by answering queries and giving hints," said Councillor Brian Bayford, executive member for health and environment.

Fears of 15 more years of nuisance down at the farm

Tory members oppose landfill site extension

PROPOSALS for a 15-year extension of operations at the Rookery Farm landfill site at Swanwick are being opposed by Sarisbury and Park Gate councillors.

"We believe we have put up with this site for long enough and it is time another area of Hampshire took some of the pain," they stated.

The current 9-year consent has expired and the County Council has received a planning application for recycling and processing of demolition and construction material to continue until 2020.

It would be followed by a landfill operation to complete and restore the site, which has been used since consent was granted on appeal 20 years ago.

The operators want to bring 200,000 tons of waste a year to Rookery Farm, with 85% leaving again.

It would involve 240 lorry movements, which



Rookery Farm Only the mounds of waste grow here.

councillors fear would create noise and dust nuisance.

"Even if recycling operations cease today, there are still several years' worth of landfill and restoration to take us into the next decade," say the ward councillors.

Fareham Council has supported the councillors' objections and the County Council's Regulatory Committee visited the site in December.

A decision is likely on February 16 after further studies into noise.

Probationers help to improve Fareham's environment

FOR the past three years the council's Woodland and Countryside Ranger Service has been working with Hampshire's Probation Service to improve the parks, woodlands and countryside.

The scheme is showing a significant benefit for the borough's green spaces and the communities that use them.

Council Executive Leader and Chairman of the Vandalism Task Force, Councillor Seán

Woodward, said:

"Each week the Service organises two work parties who, under the supervision of Probation Service leaders and countryside rangers, undertake a wide range of work at council-owned sites across the borough.

"Work ranges from repairing vandalised fences and removing graffiti to constructing fences and boardwalks, maintaining habitats and creating new ones."

It helps the Probation Service,

as individuals gain useful skills and experience, and the objectives of the Ranger Service to improve wildlife, landscape and access within the areas they manage.

Places to benefit include Holly Hill Woodland Park, pond and meadows restoration at Warsash Common, opening up new areas of chalk downland at Portchester Common and removing rubbish and clearing a section of moat at Fort Fareham.

It's time, ladies and gentlemen, to buy a share of your local

FANCY spending every evening at your local?

You'll soon be able to, but it will cost you a lot more than a couple of pints.

After several false starts, developers

Kings Oak obtained planning consent for a scheme to convert The Sarisbury pub into homes.

It comprises 5 flats in the pub building and several 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes – a

total of 13 dwellings.

The result will be a courtyard with features from the pub incorporated in the house designs.

It took a long time to reach an acceptable plan, thanks to local

consultation and negotiation between Kings Oak, the Borough Council and ward councillors.

The result will be in keeping with the Sarisbury Green conservation area



WHITELEY *Matters*

Winter 2005

BT broadband break-through for Whiteley

AFTER a poor roll-out of wireless broadband within Whiteley with few takers we have persuaded British Telecom to provide the community with a Broadband service, which should be available to ALL residents in April 2005.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Broadband is essential to a community like Whiteley where many people would like the opportunity to be able to work from home, at least for part of the day, enabling them to avoid the worst of the traffic."

SCHOOL CRISIS ERUPTS



Whiteley parents meet ward members David Swanbrow and Seán Woodward and Fareham MP Mark Hoban.

ANGRY parents are demanding a solution to the on-going crisis which is denying children places in schools of their choice at Whiteley and Sarisbury.

They blame the county education authority for failing to foresee that more school places would be needed to cope with hundreds of new homes – despite repeated warnings by Fareham Council – and the Government for blocking a vital funding channel.

The County Council rejected the obvious solution – a new school for Whiteley.

Other ideas such as turning Sarisbury Infant School and Sarisbury C of E Junior School into primary schools and adding another form entry to both schools have also been dismissed.

"Whiteley is expanding, but the number of primary school places is not.

"This situation will cause worry to parents and uncertainty to schools around the area," said Sarisbury Councillor David Swanbrow.

His remarks came after Whiteley Primary School rejected children for reception classes in September because there were 117 chasing 90 places.

And he warned the situation was likely to be exacerbated by planning applications for hundreds of flats at Park Gate

and development at Coldeast.

The crisis first surfaced in 2001 and affected the 2002 intake.

Then, 30 children's parents, supported by Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, fought and lost an appeal.

They were forced reluctantly to send their children to schools in Sarisbury and Park Gate, but the problem simmered on like an active volcano, which erupted again in 2004.

"Parents are concerned that even if they now send their children to one of the other schools, what chance do they stand

'It could and should have been solved by now' – says Council Leader

of their brothers or sisters getting in in later years?" said Councillor Woodward.

He proposed a one-form entry infant or primary to be built in conjunction with the new church near Tesco, after the owners agreed to make the land needed available.

"This idea had a very real prospect of becoming reality until summer 2004 when the Government closed the Church of

England's funding route, which removed any chance of a new school in Whiteley," he stated.

After meeting leaders of Fareham Borough and Winchester City Councils, the County Council was due to start discussions with Whiteley residents and local schools.

Several options were on the agenda, including a joint catchment area for Whiteley and Sarisbury schools, and it was hoped a way forward would be found by May.

Councillor Woodward said: "This problem was certainly seen coming. It could and should have been solved by now.

"I will continue to work closely with the education authority to ensure that at least Whiteley children receive additional priority for admission to other schools and for a more local solution to secondary education in Whiteley."

Councillor Swanbrow added: "Sarisbury Infant School is the alternative choice for many parents. It is a very well-run school.

"But not all children who cannot join Whiteley Primary School will be able to get in there."

•If you are one of the parents affected, use the feedback form on Page 3 to tell your Conservative councillors.



WHITELEY *Matters*

Winter 2005

Whiteley shanty town's days are numbered



THE ARRAY of shabby Portacabins in Yew Tree Drive will hopefully be a thing of the past soon.

They have occupied land owned by the Borough Council for seven years and house the doctors' surgery, Whiteley's post office, chemist's and convenience store.

The lease has just been renewed for what councillors hope will be the final year.

During this time, the surgery and possibly a dentist should move into permanent buildings in the area.

Meanwhile, shops and a replacement convenience store are being built at Gull Coppice, next door to Whiteley Community Centre.

Get your skates on, parish urged

WE ARE still trying to find suitable sites for a skatepark for Whiteley for which Fareham Council has allocated £46,000.

This is proving very difficult and the obvious site remains that next to the Meadowside Leisure Centre which is under the control of Winchester City Council who allowed their parish council to veto the scheme in September.

Following a significant change of personnel we have suggested that the parish council should revisit the issue so that this much needed facility can be put in place for the summer.



Radar crackdown to nab speeders

DRASTIC action to catch speeding drivers in a Whiteley residential area has led to police setting up regular radar traps.

It follows demands from Councillor Seán Woodward for new lollipop crossings and other safety measures on Yew Tree Drive in the wake of a bad accident in October.

Road safety engineers, who carried out a vehicle/pedestrian count to find out whether criteria for a pelican or puffin crossing were met, also monitored vehicle speeds around the clock for five days.

"The results make horrifying reading," said Councillor Woodward.

The survey revealed 85% of southbound traffic was doing 37mph, with the northbound figure at 43mph.

Numbers of cars speeding daily were 1,700 northbound (entering the residential area) and 1,000 southbound (leaving the area).

"Significant numbers of vehicles are travelling at over 50mph and, as Yew Tree Drive is not a through road, then these people must almost all live in Whiteley," he said.

He had also asked for parking restrictions in Yew Tree Drive, railings on the school side to ensure just one crossing point, more traffic calming and a 20mph limit because of its proximity to the school, and flashing lights on school signs.

After meeting road safety engineers, flashing school signs were installed covering both directions, an anti-skid surface was applied to the road near Gull Coppice crossing and it was agreed to put an extra lollipop crossing at the Yew Tree Drive/Sweethills Crescent junction.



Sign up Seán Woodward's efforts for road safety were rewarded.

Statistics emerging from the vehicle/pedestrian count revealed that a pedestrian crossing was justified in Whiteley Way, near Tesco.

Councillor Woodward's efforts were further rewarded when the County Council approved manning the crossings at Gull Coppice and near the roundabout at Yew Tree Drive-Sweethills Crescent.

Council's rapid response to hall blaze praised

FAREHAM Council was praised for its rapid response to a fire which damaged Whiteley Community Centre in December.

Staff quickly evacuated the building, but the kitchen and plant room were left unusable.

Community Association chairman

James Tyler said:

"After an excellent, swift response from Fareham Borough Council in getting surveyors and temporary heating to the site, also the prompt action of the centre manager and staff in clearing the damaged area, Buttercups Nursery

opened as usual the following day.

"Most other groups continued to use the centre as normal.

"The way this has been handled, not only after the fire but during the incident, is a credit to staff, local councillors and the council's officers."

Bin it or face a £50 fine

DROP a fag end or a chocolate wrapper in a Fareham street and you'll face a £50 fine.

The council has been targeting litter louts by employing uniformed enforcement officers since the fixed penalty notice came into effect.

It follows the 2003 residents' survey when 92% of respondents backed plans to deal with litter.

Officers liaise with police and other council departments and will report on any other problems they identify.

The team will concentrate on five high-profile areas, including Locks Heath Shopping Centre

Swimming pool comes several strokes closer

FAREHAM Council has taken the plunge to provide a swimming pool and gymnasium for the Western Wards.

It has agreed to consider putting up extra cash to speed up the plan, which could see a positive step forward in the first half of 2005.

Consultants and architects have prepared an outline scheme for a 25-metre pool, small learner pool and 70-station gymnasium.

Ancillary accommodation and car parking would be provided.

The site earmarked for the scheme is on council-owned land next to Locks Heath Shopping Centre and would be landscaped.

Titchfield Common Councillor Keith Evans, who has played a central role in trying to move the plan forward, said the first report by the council's consult-

ants confirmed a clear demand by local people for the leisure facilities.

He said: "The consultants' report raises some concerns about finances, but believes it will be commercially viable with a few changes."

He said the council remained committed to establishing a facility in the Western Wards and had asked the consultants formally to advertise this opportunity to develop it at the Locks Heath Centre site.

Councillor Evans, who initiated the evaluation of the need for Western Wards swimming and leisure facilities a few years ago, added:

"The current status and the council's commitment is excellent news and there is now a very good chance that an agreement can be reached in the first half of 2005."

Remember this one?

It won't be the first swimming pool to be built in Locks Heath.

Older residents may recall the mammoth community effort when parents and teachers raised nearly £5,700 in three and a half years.

They put in thousands of hours' work to build a 55ft x 25ft indoor pool which opened at Locks Heath Junior and Infant School in 1971.

SARISBURY & PARK GATE 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.

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Your man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

RESTORING school discipline is one of my top priorities as Shadow Schools Minister.

In a recent poll, over 70% of respondents thought it was getting worse.

Poor discipline lowers teachers' morale and disrupts learning. The Government has failed our schools by being too soft.

Parents need to play their role in restoring standards. We should have home-school contracts, whereby parents and pupils sign up to a school's rules and it is clearly stated that a breach of contract could lead to a child being excluded.

Decisions to exclude pupils are second guessed by appeals panels, who can reverse a decision which the head teacher thinks is right. We will scrap them.

The Government recently announced plans to force schools to admit disruptive children excluded from other schools. We will stop this.

Pupils who are excluded need support, too, and we will introduce Turnaround Schools to replace Pupil Referral Units. Unlike Pupil Referral Units, Turnaround Schools will be full-time, focus on behaviour and learning the basics, and follow an established curriculum. Attendance and performance will be monitored.

Finally, teachers deserve protection from false, malicious claims against them. Only about 5% of allegations against teachers prove to be true. Too many careers and lives are destroyed by false accusations. Conservatives will give teachers anonymity until they are charged with an offence.

By being soft on school discipline, we are harming the chances of children who want to learn. Disruptive pupils can stop others from learning and teachers' time is spent tackling their behaviour rather than helping those who want to get on. Let's give every child a chance by restoring school discipline.

**•You may contact Mark via his office
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County Hall savings needed to cushion council tax rise

Whitehall's 4.9% grant not enough

HAMPSHIRE County Council should get 4.9% more from the Government towards providing services next year – still not enough to cover costs.

So the council is already looking at ways of cushioning council tax rises by cutting expenditure through increased efficiency.

"While it's too early to say what the impact of the settlement will be on the budget, it is clear that the extra funding is to keep council tax as low as possible, rather than spending more money on services," commented County Council Chairman John Bryant (Fareham NW).

"While the Government has given us a 4.9% increase in grant, we will still need to find 40% of our budget from council tax."

Pressures on the budget were huge. Spending on social care must increase to cope with increasing numbers of frail elderly people and vulnerable children.

Government has also told Hampshire to increase school spending by 4.9%. Waste disposal is another burden.

Councillor Bryant said the extra Government cash would not meet the rising costs, so departments have been asked to look for savings up to 17% (about £9m).

"Over the last three years we've made efficiency improvements of £12m, but at the same time we have lost a massive £29m in



John Bryant: 'Government has manipulated the figures'

Government grant."

The Government had based its grant on 1991 census data for the second year running, but it had itself admitted that Hampshire lost around £7.5m a year through the out-of-date figures – equal to 2% on council tax.

Planning changes forced on council

GOVERNMENT changes to planning law are forcing Fareham Council to increase housing densities and making it harder to refuse developers without risking costly appeals.

And 90% of planning applications will shortly have to be decided by planning officers and not the elected councillors.

Whitehall says residential development should provide 30-50 dwellings per hectare (12-20 per acre) and the council will need good grounds to refuse.

Most decisions are already made by the officers when there are no objections, but to meet the 90% target some will be decided by officers regardless of objections.

To safeguard democracy, Fareham Council has agreed a system to allow the Planning Development Control Committee to decide before the publicity period expires.

If you have a serious objection, you should not only write to the Planning Department, but make sure you send copies to **both** ward councillors.

However, they may not ask for a committee hearing unless there are solid planning reasons for objecting.

The Council is now very careful about refusing applications because it could land taxpayers with a big bill and kill any chance of impos-

ing conditions if the developer wins an appeal.

It is possible the size and design are out of keeping with the area and could be refused, but if that is not the case and people still do not want the development, it leaves the committee with three choices.

- 1 Approve the application as it stands
- 2 Approve but impose conditions
- 3 Reject it

If they opt for the third choice and there are insufficient grounds for refusal, the developer will certainly appeal and he can choose the format:

- A 'paper' appeal – done with an exchange of correspondence with an inspector
- Informal inquiry – both parties sit down at a table and thrash it out with an inspector
- Full hearing – developer knows he has a strong case and will call in legal experts

Losing a full planning inquiry will mean the council has to pay the developer's legal expenses and court costs, which could total £20,000 – equal to 0.5% on the council tax.

So the committee may have to disregard public opinion and allow an unpopular application, but at least members can impose conditions which mitigate some objections.

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