



In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – SUMMER 2008

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

Keith says thanks

Keith Evans thanks all those who voted to re-elect him to Fareham Borough Council.

He stated: "I have really enjoyed the last four years and look forward to this next period."

"I assure you that I will represent all of the resident."

"I will respond to telephone calls and reply to letters as promptly as I can – as I have done for the last four years."

"I will also ensure that residents' views are represented to the Council, even if I may not fully agree with them myself."

Keith had a majority of 78 in a fiercely fought contest and took 50.5% of the poll.

RESULT

K Evans (Con)	1022
S Englefield (LD)	944
A Mooney (Lab)	59

Can you help?

Help is needed to deliver our leaflets in the following areas:- Occupation Lane and Brownwich.

Wiltshire Square/Park Cottage Drive/Orpine Close.

Gardenia Drive/Poinsettia Close/Mimosa Close.

Report bad parking

The Council now has responsibility for enforcing laws concerning indiscriminate parking.

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

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



Safe: Had the gravel extraction plan gone ahead, it would have come within yards of the Solent shoreline.

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.

Titchfield County Councillor Geoff Hockley, who played a key role in lobbying the County Council, said he was delighted Brownwich and Chilling had been taken off the proposed list.

He addressed an audience of 800 protestors and answered 400 individual emails from residents opposing the plan.

However, Titchfield Common Councillor 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).

Councillor 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.

"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 Titchfield Common and Locks Heath, and even Titchfield village and Warsash, that would accompany any extraction," added Councillor Evans.

Bid to turn devastated woodland into wetland

A LAND OWNER who allowed an area of ancient woodland to be felled is to be asked if he wants to sell or give it to Fareham Council.

The Sylvan Glade, beside the A27 opposite MFI, was devastated by dozens of men, women and children with chainsaws and bulldozers in March 2006.

Every tree, sapling and bush was hacked to the ground and its future as valuable open space now rests on conversion to a wetland habitat.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said Sylvan Glade was

known as 'the green lung' and was a Site of Nature Conservation.

He said: "Thirty months later and having successfully presented the facts to the Ombudsman, I and Mr Reg Rose, whose property backs onto Sylvan Glade, presented two deputations to the June meeting of Fareham Borough Council.

"These called for the Borough Council to buy the land from the current owner and to effect the transformation of the site into a wetland habitat."

Council officers will shortly approach the

land owner to ask whether he would be willing to sell or donate the land.

They will also approach Hampshire County Council who have already indicated to Councillor Hockley their willingness to assist with the conversion of the land to a wetland habitat.

He added: "It has taken a long time to reach this stage and has clearly shown the benefits of residents and councillors working together to reach a conclusion of benefit to all residents. Thank you to everyone concerned,"

'Everybody's councillor' thanks her electors



TIFFANY HARPER, who was elected to Fareham Council on May 1, has told Titchfield people:

"Whatever your politics, please remember that once elected I am everyone's councillor in the ward for your problems and gripes, while in the wider context working for the best interests of everyone in the Borough."

Thanking the 1,599 who voted for her and helpers who did the legwork, she added: "I am at your service. If I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch"

"We are very lucky to live in such a delightful part of the Borough, and I will listen to all your views and work on your behalf for the future of Titchfield and the wider Fareham community."

Her majority was 1,281 and she polled just over 72% vote in a four-way contest.

Owners bow to pressure to retain clock tower

A FRESH application has been submitted to Fareham planners to redevelop Lockwood Shopping Centre.

The original proposal was to demolish the clock tower, extend the shops and build a KFC restaurant and drive-through takeaway.

Councillor Keith Evans said the plans were fiercely debated with the developers, Stockland Halladale, at a public meeting arranged by Fareham Council, which subsequently refused the application.

It was excellent news that the owners had listened, then submitted revised plans that retain the clock tower, are sympathetic to the centre design and postponed the fast food restaurant.

Residents urged to fight BT's plan to axe payphones

THE PAYPHONE in Catisfield Lane is one of six across the Borough that BT wants to close because it says it is losing money.

BT has written to Fareham Council announcing plans to remove this one and others located at Stubbington, Lower Swanwick, Sarisbury and Whiteley.

BT states that 99% of UK homes now have a phone and 90% have a mobile phone. There are currently 61,792 public payphones in Britain and 60% no longer cover their costs.

Titchfield Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley said: "Removing these public payphones would



Under threat: Catisfield Lane kiosk

be a great loss to the community.

"Not everyone has a mobile phone and although they may not be used very often, public payphones provide an important service.

"In an emergency, having a payphone nearby could literally

mean the difference between life and death.

"That's why it's very important that Fareham residents provide us with the information we need to save these phones.

"We hope as many people as possible will comment and give us specific reasons why each payphone should stay."

Comments should be in by August 22 and will be passed on to BT.

Responses can be made via www.fareham.gov.uk click on 'Have your Say' or in writing to: Head of Democratic Services, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ.

Call Geoff to splash the cash for good causes

FOR THE second year running Hampshire County Council has allocated each county councillor a budget of £10,000 towards worthy causes within their electoral divisions.

Councillor Geoff Hockley shared last year's allocation among nine local organisations and so far this year he has paid out £2,000, with a commitment for a similar amount.

Residents who would like to suggest an organisation which would benefit from a cash injection should contact Geoff on (01329) 287365 or by email to geoff.hockley@hants.gov.uk

"All applications will be sympathetically considered and the budget will be spent," he said.

TITCHFIELD 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.

WARD COUNCILLORS

Titchfield

Connie Hockley
 27 Heath Lawns
 Catisfield PO15 5QB
 Tel: 01329 287365
 email: chockley@fareham.gov.uk



Titchfield

Tiffany Harper
 20 Hampton Grove
 Catisfield
 Fareham PO16 5NL
 Tel: 01329 844074
 email: tharper@fareham.gov.uk



Titchfield Common

Keith Evans
 94 Abshot Road
 Fareham PO14 4NH
 Tel: 01489 582450
 email: kevans@fareham.gov.uk



COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Fareham Titchfield

Geoff Hockley
 27 Heath Lawns
 Catisfield
 Fareham PO15 5QB
 Tel: 01329 287365





Your 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 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN. Telephone: 01329 233573 email: mail@markhoban.com

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 backyard



Browned off: Maybe it's time to recycle him

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."