

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

Rest easy

Snuggling into a cosy bed in winter is a luxury.

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

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

Large numbers of blankets fail annual safety checks – 44% in 2004.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue and most district councils will arrange free checks.

Call 01329 316183 or email electric.blanket@hants.gov.uk to book an appointment.

Apollo 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 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."

Views sought

Residents' views on where new housebuilding should take place over the next 20 years are needed by the County Council.

Hampshire's target has been set at 6,100 new houses a year.

The SE Regional Assembly has asked the County and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils to advise on spreading the burden.

Ragweed chokes progress on missing distributor road link

ONE of the world's most invasive plants is holding up completion of the missing link in Fareham's Western Wards distributor road system.

Japanese ragweed is also one of the most difficult to get rid of and can cause serious allergies and infections such as conjunctivitis.

It has taken over the former Warsash Motors site which has been bought by Hampshire County Council to complete the link between Warsash Road and Dibbles Road.

It means the site will have to be purged of the weed and it will now be three years before the road is open.

County Councillor Keith Evans, who welcomed completion of the purchase, commented:

"I am very disappointed at the news at this late stage of a further delay until the summer of 2008.

"This delay is caused by the 'sudden' discovery of Japanese ragweed and the need to eradicate before development work can commence.

"Because of the difficult ecological nature of the site, excavation



Choked: The former Warsash Motors site has to be cleared and cleansed of Japanese ragweed which can grow up to 15ft.

methods would cost about £35,000 compared to £5,000 for chemical treatment which will take three years."

Councillor Evans expressed dismay at the delay at a recent Fareham/County Road Transport meeting and fervently hoped that there would not be any serious injuries or worse during this time.

He confirmed that the £1.45m funds for the project were secured within the delayed timescale.

Proposals for the Western Wards

distributor road were agreed in 1992. It will entail:

- A 7.3 metre carriageway to connect Warsash Road to Dibbles Road at its junction with Schooner Way.

- A new roundabout on Warsash Road at the junction with the link road and Lockswood Road.

- Closure of Cutter Avenue at its junction with Warsash Road – an extremely dangerous stretch with regular near misses and occasional accidents.

Titchfield's plea for a 20 mph limit

WARD Councillors Connie and Geoff Hockley have called on villagers to back a call for a 20mph limit in Titchfield.

"Speed cameras identify two million motorists a year who drive too fast, yet Titchfield with its ancient buildings and narrow streets is considered safe at 30mph.

"Speed limits can and do get changed in many other villages, so why not Titchfield?" they said.

You can support Connie and Geoff by calling them on 01329 287365.

300 more homes raise worries over access

DEVELOPMENT plans for the area to the left of the southern end of Hunts Pond Road could see up to 300 new homes built there.

This is a large area behind the existing properties which extends to the tree line beside Warsash Road towards the roundabout.

The land has been earmarked for development for several years and has recently been released to enable the application to be prepared.

Details are awaited, but it is expected a development of between 250 and 300 dwellings, a mixture of 3 and 4 bed houses and flats, with about 40% of the properties being offered as affordable housing.

Councillor Keith Evans said the main issue at this stage was the apparent intention to have two access points into the site on to Hunts Pond Road, whereas in the original Fareham Borough plan it recommended that access should be on to Warsash Road.

He said: "Hunts Pond Road is already very crowded and suffers from speeding traffic.

"There should be walk-throughs on to Hunts Pond Road but vehicle access to and from the site should be via Warsash Road, maybe using a roundabout which could even have an added benefit to slow traffic on the Warsash Road."

CCTV would deter centre hooligans

ANTI SOCIAL behaviour in the car park at Titchfield Community Centre has increased in recent months.

Fareham Council has re-installed the 'Private' sign and repaired near-by street lighting.

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme is to be set up for the Kelsey Close area which, based on evidence from elsewhere, should help to deter and provide good links between residents and the authorities.

Councillor Keith Evans has asked the council to consider CCTV coverage of the Community Centre area which would help to deter and identify offenders.

Fragrant Fareham woos judges with flower power

FOR THE second year running Fareham has scooped the prestigious award of overall winner for the Large Town/Small City category for the South and South East in Bloom, run by The Royal Horticultural Society.

Results in other categories were: Best park – Fareham Sensory Garden; Best countryside park – Holly Hill Woodland Park; Best display on the public highway community involvement award – Friends of Holly Hill Park.

As a result of last year's success, the town was invited to enter the Britain in Bloom contest and came third in the Large Town/Small City Award and was awarded a silver.

A discretionary award went to Portchester Memorial Gardens in the Best Commercial initiative section.

Seven Fareham in Bloom winning gardens opened to the public in July and raised £1262, which will be shared between the Mayor's Charity and the Studley Trust.

Thanking all who made it possible, Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley said: "The whole team worked tirelessly to ensure our success in these competitions – an outstanding achievement."

A £2m improvement scheme for that nightmare Segensworth roundabout



A £2million scheme to improve traffic flows at the notorious Segensworth roundabout is to get underway next year.

This will involve providing an extra lane around and traffic lights on the

roundabout and making two of the exits (Barnes Wallis Road and Segensworth Road) one-way.

Half the cost will be paid by developers of Solent Business Park phase 2 in Whiteley.

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON 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



Francis Devonshire

Posbrooke House
 Titchfield PO14 4EZ
 Tel: 01329 847676
 email: fdevonshire@fareham.gov.uk



Titchfield Common

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



COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Fareham Titchfield Geoff Hockley

27 Heath Lawns
 Catisfield
 Fareham PO15 5QB
 Tel: 01329 287365
 email: geoff.hockley@hants.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 £1billion 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.

In Touch is published by Titchfield & Titchfield Common Conservatives, 27 Heath Lawns, Catisfield PO15 5QB and printed by Tollwood, Unit 2, Lysses Court, High Street, Fareham PO16 7BE