

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.



LOCAL NEWS ROUND

Payphones face axe

Residents are being urged to comment to British Telecom's proposal to axe payphones in Fareham Borough because it says they under-used.

BT has written to the Council announcing its plans to remove six, including those located at Barnes Lane and Bridge Road Sarisbury Green, Old Swanwick Lane, Lower Swanwick and Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley.

Deadline for comments is August 22. 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. These comments will be passed on to BT.

10th anniversary

Sarisbury Youth Theatre Company celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special birthday performance in June.

The group, started with help from a Borough Council grant, performs at Sarisbury Community Centre.

New members aged 11-21 are welcome. Meetings are on Sundays at the Community Centre 3.30 to 5.30pm.

Details are on the web site www.drama-group.co.uk or you can write to STC or SYTC, c/o Sarisbury Green Community Centre, The Green, Sarisbury, SO31 7AA, or phone 02392 375249 or 07940 161747.

Warsash distributor road progresses



EXCELLENT progress is being made on the distributor road between Dibles Road and Warsash Road.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "This is currently on schedule and should be completed at the end of the summer."

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.

Councillors Mary Nadolski, Trevor Cartwright and Keith Evans, who played a prominent role in lobbying the County Council, said they were delighted Brownwich and Chilling had been taken off the proposed list.

However, Councillor 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 Cartwright 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.

Wild flowers bloom again by the roadside



Where have all the flowers gone, the locals were asking?

The wild flowers were not plucked by young maidens, as the ballad relates, but inadvertently pulled up earlier in the year and then subsequently re-planted.

Now, they're in full bloom again, thanks to Councillor Mrs Mary Nadolski, local volunteers and Warsash Residents' Association who have been working to make it a truly lovely wild flower display.

Planners prepare Coldeast draft brief

FAREHAM Council's planning team is preparing a draft development brief for Coldeast.

It follows public consultation on issues and options relating to the future development of the site which took place at the end of 2007.

Many residents attended the exhibitions at Brookfield School, and the Council received a wide range of views on what people would like to see happen on the site.

The key issues raised were:

- Concern over traffic and road safety.
- Need to improve roads and services.
- Importance of protecting the open landscape and wildlife on the site.

From this consultation and working with the owners of the site, the planning team began work on the draft development brief.

There will be exhibitions and a further period of consultation on this document.

For the latest information on the Coldeast site, including dates and locations for future exhibitions on the draft brief, please visit www.fareham.gov.uk

Top soil is tops

BAGS of Pro-Grow peat-free soil conditioner are available at the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

This excellent compost is very reasonable and proved to be useful for bedding, shrubs as well as a good top dressing.

If you need a large quantity delivered call 0845 678 995.

Crime victim figures show dramatic fall

CRIME showed a dramatic fall in Fareham last year.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership in Fareham, was delighted that there were 900 fewer victims of crime in 2007.

Fareham had a crime detection rate of 28.5% – second best borough in the force.

Calls from the public to police were 7,650 fewer (down 55%) and neighbourhood priorities are really being tackled, particularly parking, anti social behaviour, speeding and littering.

Blue sky above for election victory lunch

COUNCILLOR Mrs Mary Nadolski was re-elected at the May Borough Council elections for Warsash Ward, taking 81% of the total vote to give her a majority of 1,578 votes.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted with this result and would like to thank all the residents who voted for me.

"My main priority will be to continue working with Councillor Trevor Cartwright to secure increasing benefits for people of Warsash."

Mary and Trevor held a "Thank you" lunch for their helpers in early June.

"We were blessed with superb weather which enabled us to enjoy eating outside in my garden.

"Trevor and I would like to thank everyone for their help, not only at the

election but throughout the year," said Mary.

Help with delivering *In Touch* is always needed; some of the existing



Thanks: Conservative helpers enjoy the al fresco buffet in Mary Nadolski's garden.

deliverers have very large rounds, so if anyone could spare a few hours to spread the load, it would be very much appreciated."

Mary's and Trevor's contact details are shown on this page below.

CAT support brings cash rewards

THE FOURTH round of CAT meetings were well attended, reports Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

Projects within the five Fareham CAT areas can get cash support.

Warsash residents have applied for funding for trees in Newtown Road, 4 benches for the Warsash side of the River Hamble, a new lamp standard for the roundabout in Warsash centre and improvement to 200 metres of the footpath beside the strawberry fields, which could receive extra funding from the County Council.

Never a dull moment for Hamble harbourmaster and his crew



CAPSIZED dinghies, collisions and yachts running aground....it's all in a day's work for Hamble harbourmaster and his staff this time of the year.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Fareham Council's member on the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee, reports:

"At the last meeting it was evident that the harbourmaster and his staff are already having a very busy time.

"They have now moved onto summer timings, which mean the river is patrolled from 06.00 until 22.00,

Monday to Friday and until 23.00 at weekends."

In June alone, they dealt with 14 instances. As part of their duties, they have been recording and taking action against boats causing a wash or speeding, trying to control youths on public jetties and working closely with the local and marine Police.

They also provide safety cover for dinghy racing, tow or recover broken down vessels, liaise with the coastguard and the lifeboats of Hamble and Calshot and audit navigation mark and lights.

WARSASH 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.

WARD COUNCILLORS Warsash



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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.

Recycling bin's full of tins



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.

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 back-



Browned off: Maybe it's time to recycle him

yard 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."