

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

Information panels

Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council have been working with the Fareham Society to provide two interpretation panels for the Fareham side of the River Hamble.

The aim is to give useful information to walkers and point them to other nearby places to explore, including Holly Hill Woodland Park which is owned and managed by the Borough Council

Social calendar

Events are planned for next year will include a beetle drive at St Mary's Church Hall on January 14, skittles night at The Crofton, Stubbington March 11 and a summer BBQ at Ferry House, Warsash on June 10. Contact secretary Mrs Ruth Cartwright on 01489 578 519 for details.

Elections

We are preparing for the next local elections to be held in May 2006. If you would like to become a member or help the Association, please contact Councillor Trevor Cartwright on 01489 578 519.

Trafalgar theme

The Association ball held in Ferneham Hall in September was attended by nearly 200 people. The hall was decorated in a Trafalgar theme. Guest speaker was leadership front runner David Cameron MP who gave an impressive speech and answered questions.

Objectors, council forced to accept Polybond plan



FAREHAM Council has been forced to bow to Barratt Homes and give consent for 49 dwellings on the former Polybond site.

Planners had no choice but to reject

dozens of objections from residents.

At the meeting, deputations opposing the application were given by both residents and Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

Members were powerless to refuse the application, which had to meet Government planning guidelines.

One member stated: "There are too many houses, but the Government are dictating what we can approve, and therefore I support it reluctantly."

Planners sink Warsash pontoon move scheme

A SCHEME to reposition pontoons on the River Hamble at Warsash was described as "dangerous" and thrown out by Fareham planners.

The Stone Pier Yard application from Warsash Marine went to the Planning Committee in September when it was unanimously refused on the grounds of the development would jeopardise ease of navigation.

The application was to re-position the pontoons into deeper water, thus obstructing the current secondary channel.

Deputations opposing the application were given by Councillor



Going nowhere: Stone Pier pontoons will stay put.

Trevor Cartwright, Warsash Sailing Club, the River Hamble Mooring Holders' Association and the Warsash Sea Scout Group. Other objectors included Warsash Residents' Association and Hamble-le-Rice Parish Council.

Their main objections were that it would make the river dangerous and create congestion and larger vessels would put smaller boats at risk.

The committee asked Warsash Marine to consider the possibility of dredging the existing berths.

Dressing gives Shore Road that new look



FINAL stages of improvements have been started by contractors for Hampshire County Council.

Ground by the Rising Sun will have a new granite setts surface and Shore Road is getting a natural stone dressing to tarmac surfaces.

The gully/pathway beside the cottages will have a raised, slightly extended surface. It will enhance the village character and move traffic away from the cottages.

Free checks on offer for electric blankets

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 annual 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 electric.blanket@hants.gov.uk to book an appointment.

Report noisy pubs, clubs under new licensing law

RESIDENTS can now report pubs and clubs that cause noise and nuisance to the Local Licensing Authority, in this case Fareham Borough Council.

The council has established a Licensing Panel which reviews all applications for regulated entertainment, sale and supply of alcohol and hot food between 11pm and 5am.

Councillor Mrs Ruth Godrich said crime, disorder, public nuisance, public safety and protection of children are all within the panel's remit.

Mrs Godrich said: "When these conditions are not being met, residents can make representation to the council."

The Environmental Health Pollution Section operates round the clock and will respond to nuisance after 11pm on Freephone 0800 374485.

Happiness is a town called Fareham

MOST residents are happy to live and work in Fareham.

A recent survey carried out by the Borough Council shows 91% of residents are satisfied the borough is a prosperous and attractive place and 94% are fairly or very satisfied it is a safe and healthy place; 88% are happy with the way the council is run and services provided.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Service Performance and Improvement, said the feedback would be analysed and concerns dealt with.

Courts make vandals clean up their mess

VANDALS who are caught now stand a good chance of being made to work to repay the community for their misdeeds.

Several residents who complained about vandalism, especially graffiti, contacted Councillor Mike Godrich to suggest offenders should be made to clear up their mess.

Now it is happening – thanks to cooperation between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Probation Service.

“Offenders serving community punishment orders are working with grounds maintenance staff and countryside rangers.

“They are supervised by a probation officer, while council officers guide and direct the work.

“They have been cutting back, cleaning and tidying hedges and ditches and undertaking woodland management work.

“In addition they have also cleaned off or painted out graffiti.

Mike Godrich

“Offenders’ time is being used to the advantage of the community, so let us know if you get a problem of this nature,” said Councillor Godrich.



£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.

LOCKS HEATH & 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.

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.

If you do not require a reply, please tick the box

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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
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Hamble Harbour Board expects almost every man to pay his duty



MANY small boat owners may soon have to pay harbour dues if Hamble River Harbour Board agrees to proposals to raise more cash.

Suggested charges are £5 per metre for boats under 6 metres that are not permanently afloat and £10.78 per metre for all other boats.

Only dinghies under 3 metres without an engine, such as Optimist class, or with an engine less than 10hp and marked boat tenders would be exempt.

The engine size limit means all personal watercraft such as jet skis will have to pay regardless of length.

Owners of yacht tenders up to 4 metres marked with the mother ship's name will receive a free sticker when dues for the mother ship are paid.

It is suggested that dues could be collected through sailing clubs or directly from owners.

The Harbour Board says owners should contribute towards upkeep of river facilities such as navigation marks and lights, and the monitoring and control of the harbour by the harbour master and his staff.

Without proper control the harbour would be less safe, so the Board feels it is reasonable for all users to contribute, which is not the case at present.

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.