

## At last! Community hospital reaches the planning table

**Completion in 2010 will end the saga that started before Casualty**

**PLANNING** has started on the proposed new Fareham Community Hospital at Coldeast with a completion date planned for 2010.

It heralds the end of a saga that has run for longer than TV's Casualty.

Two meetings have been held so far and Councillor Brian Bayford, the Borough's representative to the Planning Group, reports the intention to try to complete the development in one phase subject to adequate financial resources.

Capital funding will be provided partly by the Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and partly by the Local Investment Framework Trust (LIFT), a type of private financing.

The hospital is expected to include an enhanced replacement of the Sylvan Clinic, 12 maternity beds to replace Blackbrook, consultant outpatient clinics to enable Fareham residents to see specialists locally, a range of diagnostic and treatment facilities



**New lease of life:** The Council aims to restore and preserve Coldeast mansion (above).

**Facelift:** There will be an enhanced replacement for the Sylvan Clinic (below left).

**Axed:** Closure of Blackbrook Birthing Centre (below right) caused widespread sadness.

ities and a GP out-of-hours service.

Residents currently have to go to Gosport or Southampton to see a GP out of hours.

An accident and treatment service is not currently planned but, hopefully, can be included later. It would provide 3 major services:

- Immediate treatment for minor injuries (with patients returning to their own home)
- Treatment/stabilisation and a short stay in hospital for observation
- Or immediate treatment and stabilisation of a patient before transfer to a major A&E unit for more intensive care.

Meanwhile, another act in the blockbuster reached its climax with the sale of land at Coldeast Hospital by English Partnerships to Miller Homes after years of planning applications for hundreds of houses, all of which were refused by Fareham Council, until John

Prescott granted the current development on appeal.

Miller Homes have consent for up to 250 houses on land containing most of the old hospital buildings, apart from the mansion.

The hall currently used by Scouts will be refurbished as a community centre with the field at its rear being given to the Council for public use.

The PCT owns 25 acres earmarked for the hospital and 100 acres are countryside owned by English Partnerships.

Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, has led several meetings with English Partnerships and

(cont'd in P3)



## Outrageous survey puts Fareham bottom of 'des res' league

**CIVIC** leaders are livid at national newspaper reports slating Fareham as the last place in Britain anybody would want to live.

"It's absolute rubbish," raged Executive Leader Seán Woodward who challenged the papers to name their sources.

The Daily Mail and The Independent lauded the

Regency spa town Cheltenham as top of the property hotspots in a national survey.

It placed Fareham last of the 1,833 towns listed by postcode.

"The small town on the edge of Portsmouth harbour is plagued by high crime and unemployment," they stated.

Councillor Woodward produced facts from the Office of

National Statistics which put Cheltenham's jobless at 1.7% and Fareham's at barely 1%.

"Home Office crime figures are more favourable to Fareham, with fewer crimes per 1,000 of the population in theft from vehicles, burglary, violence and robbery.

"Reported crime in Cheltenham in these areas is

up to five times higher than in Fareham." Yet both towns have similar populations.

Cheltenham has 110,000 inhabitants, Fareham 109,000.

He was happy to let Fareham people speak for themselves.

"In a residents' satisfaction survey 94% said Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work," he said.



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Best value

A broad ranging questionnaire 'Listening to Your Views' has been sent to 2,500 randomly selected homes across Fareham.

All councils must carry out these surveys every three years.

Councillor Marian Ellerton, Chairman of the Best Value Review Panel, urged residents to complete and return them to the council promptly.

"It is important that we know what is working well in the borough and what residents would like to change so that we can plan for the future," she said.

### Litter bins

Following requests from residents, extra litter bins are being provided on the recreation area path by Priory Park Community Centre.

### Brook Lane

The speed limit for the top part of Brook Lane is to be reduced from 40mph to 30 mph.

### High Hedges

There are still residents having problems with high hedges overlooking their premises.

This can usually be resolved in consultation with neighbours, but if this doesn't work the Council offers a service which can lead to legal action. Call Councillor Brian Bayford if you need advice.

### Yellow lines

An Order is being sought for yellow 'no parking' lines from the entrance to Sherwood Gardens into the lower part of Barnbrook Road.

# Major scheme to ease traffic nightmare at Segensworth

## Expect more chaos when work starts in summer 2007

**DRIVERS will be delighted that traffic nightmares they face daily at Segensworth Roundabout are about to be eased.**

Plans are being finalised to start work on improvements in late May 2007, but inevitably it will get worse before it gets better.

The work will cause major disruption as it progresses and could last for 20 weeks.

After that, traffic should flow much better with more lanes and a new system of access and exit on to the roundabout.

### These are the aims:

- To close the exit from Barnes Wallis Road on to the roundabout and route outgoing vehicles from Segensworth East/North via a new one-way west-bound link along Witherbed Lane to a traffic signal controlled junction on to Segensworth Road.
- The Segensworth Road junction with the roundabout will have traffic signals and the exit from the roundabout into Segensworth Road will be closed.
- A fourth lane will be added to the M27 link road approach to the roundabout from Junction 9.
- Sections of the central island of the roundabout will be cut away to widen the circulatory carriageway.

### The proposals will provide:

- Two southbound through lanes from the M27 link on to the A27 towards Fareham.
- Two through lanes from the M27 link on to the A27 towards Park Gate.
- A left turn lane from the M27 link into Barnes Wallis Road catering for Segensworth East/North inbound traffic.
- A signal controlled exit from Segensworth Road on to the roundabout.



**Wider:** A fourth lane will be added to the link road from the M27 Junction 9 approach to the roundabout (above).

## Now it's the turn of the green cone to get in on food waste recycling act

**A NEW type of composter is on trial in Fareham, which now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire at about 40% since April 2006.**

It has exceeded the 2005/6 Government set target of 30% and is now aiming at 50% by 2010

However, most residents are now maximising the use of the 'blue top bin' and using the new free green waste collection service started in September. Problems are still being experienced with flats, where there is a considerable amount of pollution of the recycling containers.

It is intended to provide extra advice to these residents to avoid the expense of dealing with contaminated bins.

A limited Government grant has been obtained which will provide a 'door-stepping' service to advise residents on all aspects of recycling.

Further advice is being organised to deal with problems experienced by a very few residents during the summer heatwave..

Volunteers are testing a new 'green cone' food waste composter over the next 6 months to check its effectiveness.

This system is totally sealed and is claimed to be an ideal way of disposing of food waste without flies or vermin being able to gain access.

If successful it would mean that a large amount of residual waste would be removed from the green wheelie bins.

Ring the Council on 01329 824387 or 824389, or Councillor Brian Bayford on 01489 880740 for more information.

## Chance to voice your objections

**UNHAPPY with a development/extension near you or want support for your application?**

You can attend the planning committee to speak on your own behalf if you wish to make constructive comments.

Applications to make a deputation must be made to the Planning Department by 12 noon on the Friday before the Planning Committee (usually held on the first Wednesday of the month).

## Bowlers plant one on the jack(pot)



Members of Lockwood Bowling Club, Priory Park celebrate winning an award in the Fareham in Bloom competition.

## Priory Park graffiti rash complaints

**GRAFFITI** is causing problems at Priory Park where walls, fences and street furniture have been defaced.

Residents complained to Councillor Brian Bayford that it is lowering the tone of the area.

Failure to clean it up could encourage more vandalism.

The Council is responsible for cleaning public property and requiring other agencies to clean their street furniture.

A new legal document has been prepared to allow, with residents' permission, the cleaning of private property for a nominal sum (to be agreed). Details will be available shortly and a major effort will be made to clear up the unsightly mess.

## Public to have more say in new NHS trust set-up

**THE NHS** has had three reorganisations over the last four years and the latest sees the scrapping of the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust which has been responsible for all primary and community care within the two Boroughs.

This is replaced with the Hampshire Primary Care Trust for all of the county, with the exception of Portsmouth and Southampton unitary authorities which will retain local PCTs.

Councillor Brian Bayford said it was interesting that the population served by the new PCT will be about 1.3 million – the largest in the UK – while Portsmouth's will be serving just 180,000 (about the same population as Fareham and Gosport).

Portsmouth's Queen Alexandra Hospital is seeking 'foundation' status, which it is claimed will provide greater flexibility and hopefully better

care for residents. One major benefit is that the registered membership

will be able to influence issues at the hospital.

The Foundation Trust will have registered membership from all interested residents in the catchment area, which includes Fareham, a board of governors elected by the membership and 5 non-executive members selected by the board of governors.

Residents are advised to register to become a member to ensure effective representation.

Either telephone the membership secretary on 02392 286600 or email [Member@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Member@porthosp.nhs.uk).



Brian Bayford

## Hospital (cont'd from P1)

reinforced very strongly the fact that we would wish most of this land to be gifted to the Council for community use.

Areas of the site could form an urban park, nature reserves etc and could house new community and leisure facilities.

Councillor Woodward said: "I have fought for 20 years to preserve and retain as much of this countryside as possible for the local community.

"I believe the issue is now approaching the final chapter and if we can come to an agreement with the site's owners in the community's favour I shall be delighted."

David Hughes, Project Director, Hospital Sites Programme, stated in a letter he was encouraged by the frank exchange of views and emerging ideas when he met Councillor Woodward.

It was possible for English Partnerships to work with the Council on a development brief for the wider Coldeast site to deliver benefits to the community which met the Council's ambitions.

He added: "I listened with interest to your ideas about an extended 'community of care' on the Coldeast site. We were also pleased that you felt the mansion should be protected and brought back to life. As a result of our productive discussions we will not be disposing of the freehold of lot 2 to Miller."

# PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK 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

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**Your man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for **Fareham**

AT THE heart of the debate about development in Hampshire is how many houses should be built in the area. We know from population trends that we are going to see a huge increase in the number of people who live by themselves. In part, this is good news. People are living longer, but, sadly, higher rates of marriage breakdown lead to more people living by themselves. This means in my view there is no choice but to build more houses. This is not a comfortable message for people living in our area.

We are already seeing the consequences of this population change. In Fareham, where in the past we have seen lots of three or four bedroom houses being built, we are seeing developments with a higher proportion of flats – whether in Park Gate or Portchester or along the Avenue. The argument that is being made at the moment is that if we are to meet the needs of a changing population, we will need to continue to build more one and two bedroom flats.

But if we don't build more houses, the people who will miss out will be those who don't already have a place of their own. Young people already find it hard enough to buy a house or a flat; if there are fewer places on the market in the future, as the demand for houses increases, will they be priced out of the market?

For me, the crucial decision is if we need more houses, who decides how many? At the moment, the decision is taken in Whitehall. Government ministers will make the final choice. It is not right that decisions that shape the future of our communities should be taken in London, they should be decided in Hampshire by people who are accountable to you.

We should take responsibility for meeting the needs of our community in Fareham rather than being dictated to by Whitehall. Let us decide, not the Government, how many new houses we need to build to meet the changing population in Fareham.

**You may contact Mark via his office**  
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN.  
Telephone: 01329 233573  
email: mail@markhoban.com

# Bloomin' marvellous!

## Golden hat-trick and a bunch of awards for Fareham's gardeners

**FAREHAM is basking in the summer glory after a hat-trick of wins in the South and South East in Bloom competition brought a coveted gold award.**

It came when Fareham won the Large Town/Small City category for the third successive year.

It was the first time the town had been awarded gold as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Fareham will now be invited to represent the southern part of the region, which covers Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and East Wiltshire, at next year's national competition.

Holly Hill Woodland Park at Sarisbury

was declared overall winner for the Best Countryside Park which earned a silver gilt award. The RHS also gave Fareham the only regional prize – the Britain in Bloom Biodiversity Award.

The citation praised all aspects of the campaign and excellence across the Borough.

Matt Wakefield, the Council's Horticultural Development Officer, put the icing on the cake when he won the Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in horticulture, the community and the In Bloom competition.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Connie Hockley was ecstatic after the ceremony in Chichester on



**Celebration:** Councillor Connie Hockley, Les Dawson (Chief Executive Officer for sponsors Southern Water), FBC's Horticultural Development Officer Matt Wakefield and volunteer coordinator Heather Other.

September 6

"The Council is totally committed to provision of first class parks, countryside and woodland sites.

"You have only to walk, cycle or drive around the Borough to see the evidence," she said.

"Events like 'In Bloom' do not just happen, but they are the result of years of hard work by Fareham's gardeners, dedicated volunteers and the

Council's public spaces team."

Fareham's 'In Bloom' gardening competition is 11 years old and very much the jewel in the crown of the Community Services.

Its awards ceremony was held on September 14 at Ferneham Hall when Councillor Hockley congratulated all who entered the competition and those who won an award.

## Department store giant is focus for centre revamp



**Exciting:** A big spender will revitalise the Shopping Centre.

**A FAMOUS high street name will be the focus of a multi-million pound facelift for Fareham Shopping Centre.**

It will involve demolition and replacement of the jaded multi-storey car park in Civic Way and doubling the size of

the retail area to the north of Osborn Square

The store's name is being kept secret until a planning application is made shortly, but Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward promises it will revitalise the centre.

Five smaller shop units

near British Home Stores will be replaced and a modern car park built.

The plan will include construction of 2,900 sq m (31,200 sq ft) of retail floor space on two floors.

The department store and new shops will be about the size of the Boots store.

Councillor Woodward said: "This exciting new, high quality development will represent considerable investment into Fareham town centre."

An exhibition showing the plans and inviting people's comments was being held in the centre in October.

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