



# In Touch

with our community

SARISBURY & WHITELEY – AUTUMN 2006

## 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 boroughs 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.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Glowing report**

Congratulations to the staff and governors of Sarisbury Infant School.

It was inspected by OFSTED late in September, and once again received a glowing report.

The governors regularly undertake self-evaluation and the inspector's report confirms their findings – that the school is good with some outstanding features.

**Strip ease**

Several Burrigge residents were worried about losing the proposed 40 metre buffer strip between the Charles Church and Fairlawns developments in Botley Road and the Persimmon development in Whiteley.

Councillor David Swanbrow investigated and was told that Persimmon were using the area for storage, but promised to clear the site and plant the strip by the end of March.

**Fence issue resolved**

Residents complained the evergreen hedge that ran south from Sarisbury Parish Rooms, and was the established boundary of Sarisbury Green Conservation Area, had been replaced by a 2 metre high fence.

Cllr David Swanbrow, who took up the issue, said: "The owners have now agreed to reduce the height of the fence and replant behind it, making this setting more in keeping with the conservation area boundary."

# Major scheme to ease traffic nightmare at Segensworth

**Expect more chaos when work starts in summer 2007**

**TRAFFIC nightmares drivers face daily at Segensworth Roundabout are about to be eased.**

Plans are being finalised to start work on improvements in late May 2007.

But the work will cause major disruption which could last up to 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 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).

## Harbour authority takes charging review on board

**RECOMMENDATIONS to review charges on the River Hamble have been accepted by the Harbour Authority.**

The Harbour Dues Working Group examined alternatives to the supervision charges currently applied to certain vessels moored in the river and harbour dues and concluded:

- 1 Supervision charges should be subsumed into a single system of harbour dues.
- 2 The appropriate amount of harbour dues should be set by type of mooring.
- 3 There should be no system of discounts and no named supervision activities.
- 4 Existing and new harbour dues should continue to apply, but vessels without engines or sails that are being rowed or paddled should be exempt.
- 5 Current exemptions should continue.

Group chairman County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "There was widespread concern that the Harbour Authority was not consulting the users of the river. We have listened and recommended significant changes which the Authority has agreed to implement."

## All is about to change at the club whose committee once met in the ladies' loo

**OLDER members will recall Burrigge Social and Sports Club committee had to hold their Monday night meetings in the ladies' lavatory because there was nowhere else to go.**

It was so cramped that the then chairman, Bill Isson, presided with one elbow leaning on the sink. Conditions at the village recreation ground are still behind the times and residents are being asked for their views on improvements.

It might be a complex issue because ownership is split between Fareham Council and Burrigge Social and Sports Club.

The western half of the site is owned by the club and accommodates adult and junior football pitches, changing rooms, cricket nets and a petanque terrain.

Fareham Council owns the eastern half, including a football pitch, a cricket pitch, changing rooms, two tennis courts, a community hall with a kitchen and bar, car park and play area.

The club leases the community facilities, car park and tennis courts from the Council, but not the sports pitches or changing rooms.

In 2004/05 the Council undertook a Best Value Review of its "Leisure for Health and Fun" objective

The playing pitch study identified the poor condition of the tennis court fencing and playing surfaces, shower and toilet facilities in the council changing rooms which do not conform to Sport England standards, the uneven and unmarked car park surface and drainage of the grass surfaces.

It also recognised the limited disability access.

The Community Infrastructure Study drew attention to the low community use levels at the club compared with other community centres in the Borough.

The club's 30-year lease on Council-owned land expires on March 31, 2007 and it wants to develop new sports facilities as part of its proposal to take on a new lease relevant to its sporting and social aims.

The Council has been seeking views from Burrigge Social and Sports Club, the Residents' Association, residents and other groups who have an interest in the site via a questionnaire.



## Flashing a warning to speeding motorists

**PLANNING for a traffic calming scheme through Burr ridge has been started by the County Council.**

It follows a contribution of £33,000 from developers of the new housing in the village.

After consultation carried out through *In Touch*, we suggested the scheme should also involve flashing speed warning signs.

Sarisbury Councillor Seán Woodward said whenever police set up speed traps in Burr ridge, the most common culprits were locals

"No amount of paint or gateway features seem to deter these people as they all 'know the road' so something that changes in accordance with their behaviour will be the best solution."

## County splashes cash to save walkers from an unlucky 'dip'

**A MINOR flood used to appear in a small area of Barnes Lane after heavy rain causing problems for parents and children walking to or from school.**

The 'dip' between the woods just north of Sarisbury Infant School used to flood badly which meant that children walking to Sarisbury Junior School and the Infant School often got soaked by passing vehicles.



**Sorted:** Barnes Lane is no longer the spot for an involuntary 'dip'.

Not a great incentive to walk to school.

Councillor David Swanbrow persuaded Hampshire County Council to dip into finances to install a drain under the 'Safer Routes to School' programme.

A simple engineering job at this spot, but a real benefit to pedestrians.

"Sometimes little things make a big difference, particularly as May was one of the wettest on record. This has kept a lot of people very much drier than they otherwise could have been".

## 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."

# SARISBURY & WHITELEY 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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.....  
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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.

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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  
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Telephone: 01329 233573  
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# 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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