

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

Cash to calm

Another £33,000 for more traffic calming measures in Burridge has been secured by Councillor Seán Woodward.

Developers Charles Church will pay. Residents' ideas for improvements are welcome.

Meantime, speed measurements and vehicle counts are under way to show the size of the problem.

Information panels

Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils worked 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.

More lights

Concerns from Woodlands Nursery about danger in the unlit car park led to Councillor Seán Woodward suggesting the nursery and council could share the cost of lighting nearest the public toilets.

The nursery contributed £1,000 which Fareham Borough Council will match to enable this valuable scheme to go ahead.

Closures

Glen Road and Swanwick Lane will be closed from November 7 to December 14 for reconstruction work on the railway bridge.

Smash! Bash! Champion Millie 'conkers' them all



LITTLE Millie Barrett showed up the boys when she won the annual conker contest staged by Friends of Holly Hill Woodland Park – the second year running a girl has become champion.

Millie (8) is the grand-daughter of one of the members, but the judges did not know that until after she had won.

The event grows in popularity each year with children of all ages taking part and even the local councillors were caught having a bash.

Council Leader Seán Woodward presented the prizes and Councillor David Swanbrow was one of the judges.

•Picture shows Millie after receiving her trophy from Councillor Seán Woodward (left).

Big cycle link planned for Park Gate and Swanwick, plus...

A MAJOR cycleway link is on the cards for Park Gate.

The plan is for a Toucan crossing east of Telford Way, to form a pedestrian and cycle link between residential and industrial areas separated by the A27 Southampton Road.

A cycle link from the A27 Southampton Road via the proposed Toucan crossing to Swanwick Station is also being investigated, using routes through the residential development between Telford Way and Collingworth Rise.

The cycle route would connect Southampton Road to the south, giving a link to Lower Church Road.

A travel survey has recently been carried out at Swanwick Station and a travel questionnaire sent to residents in the Park Gate area.

Surveys were organised by Park Gate Primary School, which will provide more information about pedestrian and cycle needs.

Progression to detailed design in January will depend on the outcome of surveys, consultations and preliminary cost estimates.

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.

Borough shows its flower power again

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.

Councillor Mrs Marian Ellerton said: "Congratulations to all winners and thanks to everyone for making our environment such a pleasant place to live."

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.

The Fareham in Bloom competition has also been judged and the winners in Sarisbury and Park Gate Wards were: Plantsman back garden – Mr and Mrs Thickett, Pine Walk; Public houses – The Bold Forrester, The Talisman, The Spinnaker; Schools – Whiteley Primary; Community gardens – Lockswood Bowling Club

Priory Park jobs will be caught on camera

YOBS behaving badly have led to Park Gate Councillors Marian Ellerton and Brian Bayford being besieged by calls from residents about anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

It is particularly bad in the Priory Park area, near the Community Centre.

But the jobs' days of causing mayhem are numbered. Security cameras are on the way.

As a member of Hampshire Police Authority, one of Councillor Seán Woodward's duties is to arrange Police and Community Consultation (PACC) meetings.

He has also convinced Fareham Community Safety Partnership to give a grant of £3,600 to the association to buy a CCTV monitoring system.

The association will contribute £1,000 and monitor the system.

Councillor Woodward has called a PACC meeting at Priory Park Community Centre at 8pm on Tuesday November 29.



Councillor's bid to save Holly Hill's lakes

HOLLY HILL Woodland Park's magnificent lakes, which were dug in Victorian times, could be lost if remedial work is not carried out urgently.

The upper lakes have been de-silted recently, but the danger is that the dams are beginning to fail.

Councillor David Swanbrow said: "Should this happen then the lakes will be lost."

He is determined not to let this happen and

is seeking ways to fund repairs to keep the lakes intact for many years.

"I think that I have a solution which will finance the restoration of the dams, using developers' open space contributions.

"Estimates have been obtained, but a decision is unlikely until early next year."

The park is one of Fareham's greatest recreational assets and is home to a great variety of wildlife.

SARISBURY & PARK GATE 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.

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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!

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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 compostor 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 Sarisbury & Park Gate Conservatives, 8 Persian Drive, Whiteley PO15 7BJ and printed by Tollwood, Unit 2, Lysses Court, High Street, Fareham PO16 7BE