

Council chiefs are livid at decades of broken promises

Hospital may be axed

Closures leave Fareham's 110,000 population with just two small clinics

HEALTH bosses who promised Fareham would have its community hospital at Coldeast by 2009 are now saying the plan may be scrapped.

Hampshire & IoW Strategic Health Authority forecasts a £3m shortfall in funding in 2007-09 and suggests either a further delay or pulling the plug.

Savings will be made by closing the remaining day care facilities at St Christopher's Hospital and Coldeast.

Blackbrook Maternity Home has closed and is unlikely to reopen.

Replacement of the 30-year-old Fareham Health Centre is also at risk because of the shortfall.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Executive Member for Health and Environment, said: "This leaves Fareham, one of the largest boroughs in Hampshire, with only the small clinic at Highlands Road and the temporary Sylvan Clinic at Coldeast."

Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward and Councillor Bayford said it was unacceptable and would mean

Fareham people having to travel to Gosport or St Mary's in Portsmouth for health services that should be provided locally.

Changes to Gosport's War Memorial Community Hospital and improvements to St Mary's Hospital and the new Havant Community Hospital will be unaffected.

The Government has let a contract to a private American-funded health care company for orthopaedic and ophthalmology surgery, 'walk in' centre, accident treatment centre and other services at St Mary's Hospital, plus some out-patient clinics at Havant.

These projects must continue as Government priority is to be given to the private company, causing further financial problems for Portsmouth Hospitals.

Councillor Woodward has written in the strongest terms to the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hants Strategic Health Authority and Secretary of State for Health advising that any proposal to delay or abandon Fareham's community hospital will not be accepted by the residents of the Borough.

Similar letters have been sent to County Health Scrutiny Committee Chairman Councillor Ray Ellis, who is supporting us, and Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Bayford attended the Strategic Health Authority and F & G Primary Care Trust meetings and argued that the



community hospital must be progressed in the interests of Fareham residents and those in Winchester-Whiteley and border areas.

Later this month, Fareham MP Mark Hoban is meeting the Primary Care Trust to renew his call for the hospital.

He said: "Local people will be let down if the new hospital does not go ahead. I am convinced that it is necessary."

WHAT THEY PROMISED AND NOW THEY CAN'T DELIVER

Fareham's hospital would be operational to match the opening of the new, extended QA Hospital by April 2009. Phase 1 would offer:

- Enhanced maternity unit with birthing pool
- Beds and day care centre for the elderly
- Consultant out-patient suites providing about 25,000 appointments a year
- On-call facilities for GPs
- Physio/occupational and speech therapy
- Diagnostic services including X-Ray

The Health Authority was confident a later phase would provide an accident treatment centre to serve the Western Wards of Fareham, Whiteley, Bursledon, Lowford and Hedge End. The 25-acre site has room for expansion.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Grants

Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils have awarded grants totalling £4,400 to Sarisbury Community Association to enable it to install a fire alarm and emergency lighting system.

Lunch and talk

Commander Jeff Tall, Director of the Royal Naval Submarine Museum, will be the speaker at Sarisbury and Park Gate Conservatives' lunch on October 23 at Sarisbury Parish Rooms at 12 noon.

Tickets from chairman Susan Bayford on Locks Heath 880740.

New surgery

Fareham Council decided in principle to sell the land occupied by SPAR and the Doctors' Surgery on Yew Tree Drive to the doctors so a permanent surgery can be built.

It followed the practice's failure to find a suitable alternative in Whiteley having used the council's land for the last 7 years.

The land is zoned for residential use but, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and grant of planning permission, the council feels a permanent medical centre will benefit Whiteley residents.

An application for outline consent for the new building will be considered in August by the planning authority.

Hopefully, the temporary surgery can remain during building if the sale goes ahead and detailed planning consent is granted.

Green light for trial traffic signals phasing changes

HAMPSHIRE County Council is proposing changes to the traffic signal timings at the junction of the A27 Bridge Road with Swanwick Lane.

Signals are being trialed in a bid to reduce the amount of queuing and delay experienced on the A27 eastbound during the evening peak.

It is intended to run the A27 Bridge Road green signal twice within a cycle with the minor roads Swanwick Lane and Moody's Boatyard appearing alternately between them.

This change will be for the period of congestion that normally occurs between 16:00 and 18:30 Monday through Friday.

The change will impact on the



Signal success? Timing will tell at this busy junction opposite Moody's.

side roads although the increased delays should be offset by increasing their green times.

It is anticipated that this change will be initially trialed until the end of October.

If successful the change will

be made permanent.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We would be keen to receive feedback on how this works so that the County Council may be made aware of the impact its changes have made."

Seán Woodward says thanks – 4,200 times!

IT WAS a huge share of the vote – the biggest in a three-way fight anywhere in Hampshire.

Newly-elected County Councillor Seán Woodward wants to say a big 'thank-you' to those who voted for him in Sarisbury Division, which comprises Sarisbury and Park Gate Wards, on May 5.

He said: "I was delighted with the result. Needless to say, I will do my best to represent all 10,207 electors in the Sarisbury Division.

"I look forward to hearing from anyone with an issue they would like me to look into."



RESULT

Seán Woodward (Con)	4,200 (62%)
Liberal	1,396 (20%)
Labour	1,245 (18%)
Conservative majority	2,804
Turnout 67%	

New lamps for old is the cry in Fareham's streets

HAMPSHIRE County Council has recently carried out an audit of its 117,500 street light columns.

The survey shows that 58% of columns are past their design life (national average 32%).

The cost of replacing all columns would be £120 million and the columns of most concern were installed before 1975 as the design life is generally 25 years.

Manual inspection is used to identify columns in need of maintenance or replacement and those giving greatest cause for concern are those protected only by galvanising which is removed by weathering and followed by rusting on the windward side.

Inspections in Fareham show that structural defects increase in steel columns over 30 years old.

In the last year, £2 million has been spent replacing ageing columns which is starting to reduce the number of defective columns.

County councillors will consider funding issues in the future which may include private finance initiative, prudential borrowing, leasing and revenue (council tax) support.

•A bit more light reading... Did you know that there are 7,378,129 street lighting units in the UK?



WHITELEY *Matters*

Summer 2005

Get your skates on! Kids rarin' to try their skills

THE £46,000 skatepark being paid for by Fareham Borough Council and sited at Meadowside Leisure Centre is under construction.

It should be completed by September and will be a big asset for Whiteley's youngsters.

It is one of five skateparks being funded by the council across the Fareham area.

Portchester is open and after Whiteley the skatepark at Stubbington will be next, followed by Locks Heath and Fareham Town.

Seán secures new primary school for Whiteley



Seán Woodward and his son James (6) are pictured outside the present Whiteley Primary School.

Watch this space: The Church of England's site is favourite to take the new school.

Education chiefs agree 'we got facts and figures wrong'

HE'S BEEN your county councillor for less than three months.

But in that time, Councillor Seán Woodward has proved what a wise choice voters made.

Success doesn't come much better than achieving the primary school so desperately needed for so long at Whiteley.

At their meeting on July 25, Hampshire County Council Executive agreed in principle to build one.

It ended three years of frustration.

Incessant campaigning, working with parents, heading delegations and pressurising the Education Authority from his position as Leader of Fareham Borough Council met with no success at Winchester.

Despite public opinion, the County Council had its own agenda for educa-

tion in Whiteley and that did not include a new primary school.

Education chiefs wanted to extend the provision for primary education away from Whiteley altogether.

They refused to accept their calculations were wildly inaccurate until Councillor Woodward gave them irrefutable facts and figures.

He showed that the 'surplus' of places in Western Wards schools was not a surplus at all as the level of development was being underestimated by the Education Authority.

This prediction was finally proved true this year when, following rejection by Whiteley Primary School, all children could not obtain places at Sarisbury Infant and Park Gate Primary Schools.

He said: "I realised that the only way to gain a change of heart from the County Council would be from within, which is why I stood for election on May 5."

Voters in Sarisbury Division, which embraces most of Whiteley, backed him with a crushing majority in which he gained 62% of the vote – the biggest in Hampshire in a three-way contest.

Immediately he arrived in Winchester he was able to meet officers and members on equal terms to press Whiteley's needs.

Now they have accepted the new school is justified.

Councillor Woodward said: "I am delighted that the County has agreed to take this step.

"I feel it is crucial that arrangements are put in hand before September 2006 so that never again will Whiteley's children be forced out of Whiteley for their primary education.

"It may not be possible to have a new school ready for 2006, but interim arrangements should certainly be made within Whiteley in preparation for a new school.

"We will continue to report progress and campaign for a new secondary school to serve the Whiteley area."

The next decision to make is where to build the new school.

It is hoped to provide a voluntary church-aided school on the Church of England's church site near Whiteley Village.



WHITELEY *Matters*

Summer 2005

More bricks and concrete thanks to Mr Prescott

DEVELOPMENT of 215 houses north of Dickens Drive by Persimmon is imminent.

Originally permitted by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, it incorporates a large number of improvements negotiated following residents meetings organised by Councillors Seán Woodward and David Swanbrow.

The roundabout is being replaced, £10,000 of traffic calming measures will be placed in Sweethills Crescent and double yellow lines have been painted on the bend near Austen Gardens at the request of the bus companies to improve safety.

A 20mph speed limit in Dickens Drive will be enforced by the developers as the road is still not adopted by the highway authority.

Construction traffic will be made to wait in Rookery Avenue in the early morning rather than queuing in residential streets.

Contributions have also been made to construct a roundabout at the Botley Road/Yew Tree Drive junction, initially for buses/emergency use, before 50 houses are occupied.

Persimmon are also acquiring the final development site in this area, north of the permitted site, which will include several dozen houses which we feel would be best developed with the 215 houses to save further disruption for residents.

Whiteley switches on to broadband



BRITISH TELECOM has invested £400,000 to enable the Locks Heath/Whiteley exchange to provide broadband.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who had been lobbying BT for the access for three years, performed the switch-on at Ipso Facto in Whiteley in June.

He said: "I am delighted that at last the people of Whiteley have access to broadband. Broadband is vital to the future prosperity of communities.

"There are already many examples of Hampshire businesses using broad-

band in ways that improve their competitiveness, profitability and levels of customer service.

"Broadband is opening up whole new areas of learning and recreation through high-speed access to the limitless range of knowledge and information contained on the internet.

"Working from home also becomes much more viable."

•Pictured are (left to right) Seán Woodward, Ian Duffin of BT and Tim Whitaker of Ipso Facto.

They're building a square in a roundabout way



A SQUARE is to be built in Gull Coppice in front of the school and community centre this summer.

The County Council-funded £200,000 project will tidy up a very scruffy area and provide a feature to enhance the community heart of Whiteley.

The area will finally include

community centre, school, shops, pre-school, physiotherapy clinic and NHS dentists.

There are concerns over road safety as parents are parking in the lay-by outside the school which is designated as "school keep clear".

They have recently started parking in a herringbone pattern

in the lay-by, meaning they have to reverse out into traffic.

Also, children walk in the road behind the cars so there is potential for an accident.

The lay-by, therefore, will be converted from carriageway to footway to create a wider pavement near the front of the school which is very congested.

Bollards will prevent cars from mounting the kerb to park on the widened footway. This will benefit parents and children who congregate outside the school.

Work on the nursery should start in October by Childcare Corporation when the road beside it will be closed for construction and the other arm of Gull Coppice containing the shops and physiotherapy centre will open. The nursery should be completed next summer after which all roads will be resurfaced and opened.

New cycle for bin emptying

PILOT of a free garden waste service in Whiteley starts soon.

Residents are receiving garden waste sacks and information on how to use them.

Households with 140 litre wheeled bins will be advised they have the option to change to a 240 litre wheeled bin.

It will ease the September transition when green-topped bins will be emptied one week and recycling bins the next to help the council to meet Government recycling targets by 2006.

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Writing may be on the wall for graffiti vandals

CCTV may be installed following a spate of graffiti in the children's play area and on the wall of Priory Park Community Centre.

Councillors Marian Ellerton and Brian Bayford, Community Centre chairman Margaret Culverhouse, police and council officers are investigating installing a camera to catch the vandals.

The car park and green open space are a meeting place for noisy groups of youngsters. CCTV discourages such behaviour, resulting in a more peaceful atmosphere for residents.



Artless: Margaret Culverhouse (left) and Marian Ellerton indicate the graffiti.

Kids' safety in Wimpey's hands at Badgers Copse

THE new play area in Badgers Copse remains the responsibility of the builders – Wimpey - until the maintenance period is completed.

Fareham Borough Council is not able yet to take direct action but is able to ensure that Wimpey meet the requirements of the planning consent and maintain in a safe con-

dition the play equipment and surrounding area.

There has been trouble with older youths from the estate congregating there and causing damage to the equipment.

Police have been informed and will be regularly checking the site.

The Borough Council also has other plans to safeguard it.

Bridge troubles over Hamble waters

A YEAR of train delays and noise are likely during strengthening and painting works by Network Rail to the railway bridge over the River Hamble through to September 2006.

The railway line will be closed from August 14 for between 4.5 and 52 hours at a time on 50 separate occasions through to July 2006 and there will be noise day and night.

Detailed information may be obtained from Network Rail on (01293) 622344, who are liaising with Fareham Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and the River Hamble Harbour Authority.

Having a ball to remember Nelson

FAREHAM Conservatives' main social event this year will be a "Trafalgar Ball" to be held in Ferneham Hall on Friday, September 9.

We are delighted that David Cameron MP (a potential candidate for Leader of the Conservatives) is our speaker, and music will be provided by "Nite Shift" (back by popular demand from last year).

There will be a drinks reception followed by a three course dinner supplied by award winning Royal Marine chefs.

Tickets are available at £45.00 each. Please telephone 01329 822 646.

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

.....

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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Can I first of all thank you for your support at the General Election. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability in Westminster and Fareham. There has been no let up in my work for you since the election.

In Westminster, I continue to battle on behalf of local people so that your voice will be heard by the Government. Since the election, I have questioned the Government on the plans to build an extra 80,000 houses in South East Hampshire over a 20-year period. I have been pressing them on the need for better infrastructure. Because of the work that I have done, ministers are aware of your concerns about the local health service.

The tragic events of Thursday 7th July are a reminder that Parliament, as well as tackling the needs of local communities, needs also to focus upon maintaining the security of our nation.

Whilst I am sure that there are lessons to be learnt from the attacks on London, we need to be clear about one thing, we should never give in to terrorists.

Not only should we not give in to their political demands, but we should continue to get on with our lives.

People planning to visit London during the summer holidays should go ahead.

Those in our community who work in London should continue to do so. Terrorists try to force us to change so standing firm in the face of their threat sends them a message that we will not be defeated.

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

Celebrate a glorious day for Fareham

WRITE Saturday July 30 in your diary in red ink.

It's the day Fareham is planning a feast of celebrations to mark this momentous year for the borough and Britain.

It will be a day of rejoicing, commemoration, festivities, music and lots of fun. And fireworks.

So what are we celebrating?

Firstly, two national anniversaries – Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the end of World War 2 in 1945.

Appropriately, it's the 30th anniversary of the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough on HMS Collingwood, named after Vice Admiral Lord Collingwood, who took command of the British fleet when Nelson died.

Secondly, it is also the day when the prestigious Market Quay complex with its splendid new cinema will be officially opened, Cremer Mall, Vannes Parade and Pulheim Parade will be named and a cannon from the Trafalgar era loaned by Fort Nelson will be unveiled in West Street.

The day begins on a serious note, when Fareham Mayor Councillor Leslie Keeble and Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward will join Hampshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan, in the formal commemorations.

Representatives from Vannes and Pulheim will attend and be particularly honoured later when they inaugurate the parades named after Fareham's twin towns in France and Germany.



Contrast in styles: The new Apollo and (inset) the former Embassy.

At 10 am, led by the Royal Marines Band, sailors from HMS Collingwood will exercise their right to march through the town with drums beating, colours aloft and bayonets fixed.

Then, the town centre will erupt into a cavalcade of fun all the way through the afternoon and evening, starting with the launch of 200 balloons.

There will be a balloon race, fairground rides, stilt walkers, jugglers, musicians and competitions provided by Ocean FM.

A French market will be in the precinct from July 28 - 30, offering the delights of cuisine from across the Channel.

During the day, collections will be taken to support local charity The Rainbow Centre, which is raising money for its new premises at Cams Alders and has also organised events for children.

And owners of the new Apollo Cinema have promised a special preview to mark its opening.

A firework display will bring down the curtain on what promises to be, in the words of Seán Woodward, "a glorious day for the town".



New law will trim causes of hedge rows

SHARPEN your shears and trim that hedge.

High hedges that block views and steal the light have been the cause of numerous rows between neighbours.

Not any longer. Thanks to new legislation that came into force on June 1, if neighbourly attempts to solve problems are unsuccessful it is now possible to apply to the Council for enforcement action.

Residents will need to show evidence that several attempts have been made to resolve the problem and on payment of a small fee (not applicable to pensioners and those on benefits) an order can be served requiring action to reduce the offending hedges to a maximum of 2 metres (just over 6 ft).

A penalty of £1,000 and direct action by the Council to reduce the hedge(s) is possible if action is not taken.

There have been several problems recently in the area that have now been amicably resolved between neighbours when details of the new law were advised.

If you have a hedge problem contact your local councillor who will be pleased to advise.

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