



# In Touch

with our community

WHITELEY – AUTUMN 2010

## Royal seal of approval – now let's go for hospital extension

**THE PRINCESS ROYAL** formally opened the hospital for which Fareham had fought for over a quarter of a century on October 21 - Trafalgar Day.

Now, another battle is starting to get the promised extension to upgrade it.

"I very much hope that we will not need to wait another 25 years for this.

"The land is available and we will ensure the powers that be in the NHS do not forget about us.

"The facility now opened at Coldeast is state-of-the-art and a very good start on bringing medical facilities to Fareham which has seen only closures in recent years – Blackbrook Birthing Centre and St Christopher's Hospital being two examples," stated Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward after the Royal visit

Phase 2 will include a birthing unit, minor treatment centre and some GP beds.

Fareham is the only area predicted to meet the 250 per year births to make a birthing unit viable.

Hopefully, a GPs' out-of-hours surgery run from Coldeast will also come about.

The Royal visitor was greeted by Fareham Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford, Councillor Woodward and other civic dignitaries.

The Mayor was involved with the planning of the hospital and has often stated

that one day he will write a book on the saga of progressing the hospital to completion.

After receiving a bouquet from six-year old Chloe Garrett, who has Downs syndrome and attends the hospital, Princess Anne toured the building and met staff and patients.

Before unveiling the plaque, she said such facilities were much needed and were effective because of the total dedication of the staff.

Princess Anne then went to Fareham College where she opened a new sixth form centre and talked to staff and students.

Councillor Woodward said he was delighted the Princess had opened the new hospital and the college wing.

"Something like 1,000 students leave Fareham every day to go to other educational establishments to study for A-levels.

"It is great that we now have a good facility within the borough again," he added.



Princess Anne unveils the plaque to officially open Fareham's £14m community hospital.



Welcome: Council Leader Seán Woodward greets the Princess, watched by Mayor and Mayoress Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford and other VIPs.

## Labour's legacy: Inevitable staff cuts and fight to keep down council tax

**MORE Fareham Council staff face losing their jobs after the Chancellor's drastic spending review cuts.**

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward laid the blame squarely at the last Labour Government's door.

"These are Labour's cuts, it is the legacy they left us in May. Interest payments on their debts are £122m per day. This is unaffordable and the consequences are inevitable.

"I do however make this pledge to our residents – we will do everything we can not only to preserve the services that are important to you, but to continue to minimise any council tax increase."

Fareham's Conservative Council has honoured its pledge not to raise council tax above the inflation rate for many years and was aiming for another zero increase in 2011/2012.

"This means that we will continue to look at every opportunity to increase income while delivering high quality services.

"The culture of trying to achieve more for less is embedded in Fareham which is why we can offer good services with one of the lowest council taxes in England while receiving the lowest level of government grant."

The precise cuts will not be known until December, but the figure is even greater than the 25% the Council had expected,

equating to about £1.37m.

Councillor Woodward stated: "It is clear that, in an organisation where most of the spending to deliver services is on staff, reductions in funding of this nature can only result in significant job losses.

"The Council will have reduced manning levels by 17% over the last two years from over 500 to little more than 400 and may well need to go even further.

"While the priority remains to preserve front line services, reductions of this nature can only stretch those services. We are relying firmly on residents' surveys to inform us what services are the highest and lowest priority and, therefore, able to be reduced."

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

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**



**Whiteley on-line**

If you would like to get "on-line" with members of the community in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere to discuss issues about living in Whiteley, Hampshire or any other topics of interest then there is only one place to go.

Log on to Whiteley Community Forum at [www.whiteleyforum.net](http://www.whiteleyforum.net)

**Grant aid on offer**

County Councillor Seán Woodward has £10,000 available for grants to local groups and he has already helped Whiteley Community Association (Youth Club) with a £1,000 grant this year.

If your organisation could benefit from a grant, then contact Seán without delay.

**Governors wanted**

There are vacancies for governors at Brookfield School and Whiteley Primary School.

County Councillor Seán Woodward appoints governors to a number of schools in his Sarisbury Division on behalf of the local education authority.

If anyone is interested in being appointed to this invaluable community role, then please contact Councillor Woodward at: [sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk](mailto:sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk)

**Huge retail area increase could swamp Whiteley with shoppers**

**A PROPOSED massive increase in the size of the redeveloped Whiteley Village Centre has sparked fierce objections from Fareham councillors.**

Developers want 2,000 square metres of extra retail floor space and room to expand by a further 3,000 square metres.

But the message to Winchester City Council which is considering the application is to think again.

If not, then Fareham Council will write to the Secretary of State to and ask him to determine the issue.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Fareham's Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, explained:

"This brings the potential size up to over 30,000 square metres. On the face of it this may seem like good news for Whiteley, but think again. This is really bad news."

He said Whiteley would certainly benefit from a proper shopping centre similar to the one at Locks Heath, which is large enough to serve all the Western

Wards.

It is, however, only a fraction of the size of the proposed Whiteley centre and will remain so even if an approved small increase in floor space is built.

He demanded: "What is the purpose of such an overly large centre that is probably 10 times the size needed to meet Whiteley's needs?"

"It can only be to induce shoppers to come into Whiteley from outside and, judging by the size of the development, many thousands of them if it is to become profitable.

"Do the residents of Whiteley really want to have to cope with thousands of shoppers crowding the already over stretched roads every day?"

Fareham Borough Council's formal objection is not to the principle of a proper shopping centre, but to the enormous size that can only have a negative impact on the residents.

It will also object on the grounds of the impact on Fareham as a sub-regional centre and on a future district centre in the new eco town proposed north of the town

**Woodland boardwalk scheme is 'big success'**

**THE START of the autumn term at Whiteley Primary School saw a new and exciting access for children to walk from Rookery Avenue.**

It has led to a major improvement in the use of the 'Park and Stroll' facility at the Solent Hotel as it is closer than walking to the Gull Coppice access.

Gull Coppice remains for pedestrian access to the school and parents bringing their children by car are asked to use the Rookery Avenue access.

The £33,000 Safer Routes to Schools scheme was provided by the County Council at the request of Whiteley County Councillor Seán Woodward, who said:

"It was important to ensure the access had minimal effect on the ancient woodland behind the school which was achieved by providing a boardwalk access with safety surfacing and guard rails."

The access is secured at all times outside school hours.

Whiteley Councillor David Swanbrow said: "It is now a far safer place than it was with no more parking on pavements and around accesses.

He praised the staff and governors for their travel plan requiring the Gull Coppice entrance to be used only by parents walking children to and from school.



**There's further room for improvement on the buses**

**A NEW regular hourly No 28 service between Fareham and Whiteley on Mondays to Fridays between 7.50am and 8.50pm has been welcomed, but councillors say it's not enough.**

They are pleased there is now a direct link between Whiteley and the new Community Hospital at Sarisbury and that all the buses will be modern low floor ones.

But Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward is concerned that:

•The first bus from Whiteley in the mornings does not arrive in

Fareham until 8.13am which makes life difficult for students and workers - there were service 76 buses from Whiteley which arrived in Fareham at 7.40am and 8.07am

•There is no bus link into Whiteley in the morning peak hours for workers from Locks Heath, Warsash, Titchfield or Sarisbury. Councillor Woodward and the Council's public transport representative, Councillor Peter Davies, are meeting First Bus management to raise these concerns.

"Bus services in Whiteley are not good

and I am keen to see them improved to take advantage of the dedicated bus link between Whiteley and Swanwick at Yew Tree Drive.

"I'd like to hear from residents and businesses what level of service and destinations would get them out of their cars and onto the buses.

"We can then request trials of new services with a view to making them permanent if they are viable," he said.

Let us know what bus services (timing and destination) you would like to see for Whiteley and we will pursue these with local bus operators.



**'Their 'golden' garden is a delight to behold**

**WHITELEY couple Peter and Marion Hickman's garden is always a feast of colour.**

Little wonder they usually carry off gold awards in the annual Fareham in Bloom competition.

This year was no exception as they won gold in the floral back garden

category.

The couple's home in Whiteley also won silver for their floral display and bronze in the container section.

"Their garden is a delight to behold," said Councillor Seán Woodward, who is pictured presenting Peter with his gold award.



## New CommuniCare minibus provides lifeline for Western Wards needy



**A HUGE fund-raising effort has bought a new 13-seater minibus for use by CommuniCare.**

The County Council contributed £5,000 and Fareham Council £2,000 towards the £33,750 cost.

and will provide a lifeline for the elderly and infirm in the Western Wards.

It runs around 750 journeys

CommuniCare has provided a transport service for 46 years for needy people who don't qualify for help, giving the more vulnerable a frequent link to the outside world.

The new vehicle has a passenger lift for the disabled

a year, taking people to weekly lunch clubs at Sarisbury Green Community Centre and Warsash Victory Hall, on shopping trips to the Locks Heath, Fareham and Whiteley shopping centres.

During the last year a team of CommuniCare volunteer 'taxis' took 577 people to hospital and 698 to their local GP surgery or medical centre.

**•Photo:** First passengers with County Councillors Seán Woodward and Keith Evans (back row left) at the handover.

## Local issues produce lively councillors' question time

**SEVERAL topics were raised by residents at a councillors' question time held by David Swanbrow and Seán Woodward at Whiteley Community Centre.**

**Q** The recent survey on the possible opening of the Yew Tree Drive bus link to all traffic.

**A** Hampshire County Council has decided not to proceed with any opening at the present time.

One factor in this decision was the expressed view of traffic consultants acting for the developers who intend building 3,000 houses north of Whiteley in Winchester district that they do not support such an opening.

**Q** The inadequacy of Whiteley bus services.

**A** We undertook to seek views of Whiteley residents on this issue and to report improvements to the bus timetable. This we have done (see Page 2)

**Q** Speeding traffic on the arm of Sweethills Crescent nearest to the Strawberry Track.

**A** Councillor Swanbrow arranged for a Speed Limit Reminder sign to be installed for a two-week period during November.

These signs display a warning to approaching vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit, and also record some data about the volume of traffic and the numbers in excess of the limit.

They are useful even without the statistics because they do have a noticeable effect in slowing traffic for a short time.

After about two weeks their usefulness decreases as motorists get used to them and start to take less notice.

The statistics generated are useful, however, as they can

be used to inform the police about speeding problems allowing them to decide locations to set up their own equipment with a view to taking enforcement action against offenders.

**Q** Safety of people parking on Rookery Avenue on dark evenings.

**A** Councillor Woodward undertook to ask the County Council to cut back trees around the street lights where they are obscured so that the lighting levels are improved.

The police were also requested to include Rookery Avenue in their patrols.

**Q** The likelihood of new school provision in Whiteley.

**A** Both primary and secondary schools are planned for inclusion in Winchester's 3,000 house northward extension to Whiteley. However, the timing of the development is uncertain as Winchester still does not have an up-to-date local plan.

**Q** Completion of Whiteley Way.

**A** This will be included in Winchester's 3,000 house Northward extension to Whiteley.

**Q** Any future house-building on the Fareham side of Whiteley.

**A** It was pointed out that all planning consents for Fareham have been granted and no further house-building beyond that is planned.

The sites with consent awaiting construction are adjacent Shetland Rise (underway), adjacent Rookery Grange and north of Dickens Drive. These developments are fewer than 200 units in total.

## 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.

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**MARK HOBAN**  
Your man in  
Westminster



Last month's Spending Review was a major milestone towards restoring the nation's finances.

When we came into office in May and looked at the books, it was clear the last Labour Government had gone on a binge with the nation's credit card.

We had to take big decisions to confront our debts, set out a clear plan to rebuild our economy, reform public services and put our welfare state on a safer footing.

We chose to spend your money on the most important priorities - health care, education, national security and the infrastructure that supports our economic growth.

The Coalition Government decided to protect the budgets for the NHS and schools, which will get more money every year - over and above inflation.

Money is short, but we have been able to spend to help support growth. We are investing in roads, railways and green energy projects, and also in our science base and workers' skills with a record number of adult apprenticeships.

To afford this we had to find savings elsewhere - like waste. We will ruthlessly cut government cost so money is spent on front line and not in the back office.

We also had to make some tough decisions on welfare. The current systems trap millions on a lifetime of benefits and it costs the rest of us dear. We will create a welfare system that supports people into work and is affordable for those who pay for their taxes.

Decisive action now is the only option that will tackle the legacy left by Labour, put our public finances on a firm footing and provide a stable platform for growth.

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# Seven golds in a row! Fareham grows from strength to strength

**PARKS staff and volunteers are in seventh heaven after Fareham again emerged victorious in the South and South East In Bloom contest.**

Several other awards, not least a silver gilt medal for the Borough's first appearance at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom ceremony in Birmingham, crowned seven years as regional top town.

At the South and South East ceremony in Gillingham, Fareham won a gold medal, was overall winner in the Champion of Champions and gained the Hampshire Life Award for highest marks in the county.

Judges were impressed by the quality of the town's parks, landscape, green environment and community involvement.

Portchester memorial gardens gained a gold in the Best Commercial/Landscape class, Holly Hill won a silver gilt in the Countryside Park category and Westbury Manor gardens, entered for the first time, also won silver.

But it didn't stop there. Co-ordinator Heather Scott won an Outstanding Contribution award for services to the community.

Six RHS Neighbourhood Awards recognising the efforts of local communities went to residents of Burnham Wood, Fareham Allotments Association, The Wild Bunch at Warsash, Friends of the Sensory Garden, residents of Eleanor's Wood and Northern Junior Community School, Portchester, which also won gold and was overall regional winner in



the Schools' Category.

This year, the RHS issued 'Your Neighbourhood National Certificate of Distinction' Awards and again Fareham was prominent, with Heather Scott, from Northern Junior School, being honoured with the RHS Britain in Bloom School Award and FBC's Horticultural Development Officer, Matt Wakefield, winning the RHS Britain in Bloom Community Champion Award.

"These are exceptional results, proving the hard work of Fareham's gardeners, our dedicated volunteers, the Parks and Open Spaces and cleansing teams really is to the advantage of all residents," said Councillor Connie Hockley, Executive Member for Community.

**•Pictured:** The Mayor, Councillor Brian Bayford, and Matt Wakefield receive the Silver Gilt Award for Large Town/Small City from Alys Fowler, a presenter on BBC TV Gardeners' World programme.

## Strategic plan vital to keep developers at bay

**FAREHAM is poised to adopt a vital part of a plan that will control development for the next 16 years.**

But the Core Strategy must be ratified at the Council meeting on November 18.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, stressed:

"If we do not, it will open the way for developers with land holdings all over the Borough to start building urban extensions where they are not wanted and without any infrastructure, adding to the severe problems in some areas."

The Core Strategy is the basis for the rest of the plan and until that has been approved by the Planning Inspectorate, Fareham must rely on saved parts of the Borough Local Plan Review,

which dates from June 2000.

The Government has made several changes to the planning system already, including axing the South East Plan.

This was mostly good news, but it had caused confusion as some people believed councils could simply stop much needed development.

However, councils are expected to stick to what they inputted to the South East Plan, but not the changes the Labour government imposed.

So the proposed Strategic Development Area north of Fareham is no longer tied to the South East Plan figure of 10,000 homes, but can be downsized.

Fareham has applied for ECO town status which could attract extra government funding.

The former HMS Daedalus

and Coldeast sites feature strongly in the Core Strategy.

Daedalus proposals aim to keep the airfield for general aviation and to encourage aviation and marine-led employment.

Any building must not unacceptably diminish the strategic gap between Fareham and Gosport.

The aim at Coldeast is to preserve the mansion and associated buildings and to provide sports pitches, allotments and a new cemetery while retaining much of the open space and woodland.

The plan should go to the Planning Inspectorate early in 2011, followed by a public inquiry starting in May and the inspector's report in the autumn.