

Shocking update on local hospital :

Moorgreen Health or Houses



Cllr David Goodall reports: In last year's Focus we report that the Local Health Authorities thought that Moorgreen hospital was surplus to requirements and that the Borough Council, in a motion at full council, called on the Local Health Authorities not only to reconsider their idea but also to provide enhanced services on the Moorgreen site.

Currently, in planning terms the Moorgreen site is specially designated for health use only. This is unless the Local Health

Authorities come forward with an alternative plan which provides for all current and future health needs without using the Moorgreen site. The

current position is that the

Health Authorities have outlined plans to build houses at Moorgreen but have not as yet outlined plans to improve health provision either on the site or within Eastleigh.

I believe as a community we need more good local health care provision and not less. The current thinking appears to be to centralise all services in the centre of Southampton and is driven more by cost factors than actually providing the health service required.

There is clearly a need for large regional specialist centres like Southampton General, but not all health services need to be provided in this manner. There is still the need to provide local and district based health services. There should be a balance between a big central hospital and local provision.

Your local councillors would be very interested in your views on this matter and what facilities you would like to see provided by the Health Authorities at Moorgreen, so that we can judge whether or not the Health Authorities are meeting your local need.

For more detail on their plans for the Moorgreen site see :-

<http://www.southamptonhealth.nhs.uk/moorgreen-site-development>



• **Chris Huhne MP, Cllr David Goodall and Cllr Tony Noyce outside the threatened hospital**

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It's your NHS - what do you think ?

175 room hotel, 18 hole golf course, Test match standard cricket ground

New Rose Bowl Plans



Cllr Joyce Sortwell reports: After much public consultation the Rose Bowl management have submitted plans for the final design of the Rose Bowl and the surrounding ground. The plans for The Rose Bowl complex include:

- 4-star, 175 bedroom hotel with 75 hospitality boxes overlooking the ground
- New permanent covered stands offering improved weather protection, comfort and increased capacity
- Substantially enhanced public and corporate catering arrangements with more outlets offering a wider choice of better quality food and improved ambience
- High number of good quality permanent toilets
- New permanent broadcasting facilities with up to 4 in-vision television studios and 8 radio suites as well as WiFi internet and broadband facilities
- 18-hole golf course to be created from existing 9-hole course
- A further stadium entrance for enhanced spectator access and egress

More about these plans can be found from the Borough Council Online Planning Service or from the Rose Bowl website at :-

<http://www.rosebowlplc.com/pages/new-developments/>
<http://www.rosebowlplc.com/pages/fly-through-video/>

Already passed are the plans for a second entrance into the site from Moorhill Road, which will be used on big event days and take some of the traffic pressure from the village centre. This follows the plan passed at the start of the last cricket season for the emergency entrance for Police, Fire and Ambulance which comes directly into the site from the M27, this too decreases traffic pressure from the village centre as no longer does a roadway have to be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Focus keeping you informed all year round

Government talk on the homeless is cheap but their cost award against us is not

Fighting for the Homeless in Eastleigh



Cllr David Goodall reports: Back in 2005 the Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee considered two applications for housing on the site of Wildern Mill, which is located to the north-west of Turnpike Way, Hedge End and to the south of Gullycroft Mead.

The first set of plans were for the construction of 251 one and two bed residential units in five blocks of flats, ranging between 4 and 11 storeys in height, with new access off Turnpike Way and car parking for 357 cars. This we refused on numerous grounds not least of which was that an 11 storey block of flats was 'somewhat' out of keeping with Hedge End.

The second set of plans were for the construction of 184 residential units comprising of 9 separate blocks ranging between 2 and 7 storeys in height with new access off Turnpike Way and car parking for 249 cars. This was a better set of plans than the first; even though the main block was still tall, it was now no higher than the existing mill building it was planned to replace. However, there were still issues to resolve, not least of which was the lack of affordable housing on the site.

Normally on larger developments the council insists on about 30% of the units being affordable housing i.e. social rent, a part buy/part rent scheme, or key worker accommodation. On this development that would mean about 60 units. However, the actual plans proposed about 6 units. As a result the committee refused this application too.

The applicant then appealed against this decision to the Secretary of State and Ruth Kelly's decision was not only to allow the application but also to award costs against the council. The initial cost of the claim was £182,777; however after some argument, this was reduced to £145,000.

The Secretary of State made this cost award because she considered it unreasonable that the council insist on the normal level of affordable housing, as it would unduly affect the profits of the developer. In other words this governments policy in action is that the developer's profits come before homes for the homeless of Eastleigh, even when the housing register has some 5,000 households on it consisting of about 10,000 people.

The only slightly silver lining in all this is that due to good financial stewardship over the past 2 years a reserve fund was build up to pay for any cost award, which the committee has been able to do, without affecting our normal work too much.

Homes for SGB site



Cllr Bruce Tennent reports: Well after receiving plans for the redevelopment of the the old SGB site in March, four sets of amended plans later and a traffic assessment, plans were finally passed for redevelopment in October.

The initial design for 40 units, comprising of 16 houses and 24 flats, was finally changed to 38 units as the flats were reduced to 22.

Most importantly the flat's design was changed to something more in keeping with the area, and the overall block size was reduced to mainly a three storeys with only the very corner element still at four storey.



• The old SGB site now a place for 38 new homes

Traffic issues were another concern in particular traffic turning right into site and possibly stopping on the corner if queuing traffic prevented the turn. So as a committee we requested that the County Council as the Highways Authority change their proposed white keep clear sign to a keep clear yellow box. However as we are not the Highways Authority we do not have the legal power to force this change. Therefore if you too believe that a yellow box junction would be safer by the entrance to the new site, could you please write to the County Council and support the Area Committees view.

Government policy is to close Post Offices : Britain's disappearing Post Offices



Cllr David Goodall reports: In past Focus editions we warned that the Government's grand plan to save the Post Office from making large losses, is to shut about 2,500 more offices!! Well now they have published the list, the good news for us is that West End is not affected, but in Eastleigh Borough folk in Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, Hamble and Netley are not so lucky as their Offices are earmarked for closure.

Last time the closure programme was called the "Post Office Urban Network Reinvention Programme" this time the title is just as false, it's the "Network Change Programme", whereas a more apt title would be simply "The Post Office closure programme" or given that about 1 in 5 Post Offices are affected maybe "The Post Office Network Destruction Initiative".

The axe missed West End due the excellent use of the Post Office by the community. However locally in Southampton the people in the neighbouring Bitterne Park area are not so fortunate. Their Post Office in Oaktree Road is 'earmarked' for closure.

Post Offices are initially 'earmarked' for closure prior to a period of consultation and in theory only after the public consultation will a 'final' decision be made.



• Cllr David Goodall & local resident 'Robbie' Robinson outside the 'earmarked' Oaktree Road Post Office

However the plans to consult the public on the closure of 2,500 Post Offices have been labelled a sham by the Liberal Democrats after it was revealed that the Post Office has no dedicated phone line for consultation responses and the Government has no one dedicated to oversee it, as they say it is up to the Post Office. Speaking on this matter in December Liberal Democrat spokesman Lembit Öpik MP said :-

***"This is a sham that has turned into a shambles.
I'm very concerned that this isn't a proper consultation"***

In Eastleigh we are doing what we can on the Borough Council to ensure at least a proper consultation is held here, Council leader Keith House said :-

"Any decision should ultimately reflect local opinion and the needs of the communities. To ensure that local views are taken into account in any final decision we are seeking early meetings with the Postmaster concerned, with the Post Office itself and Postwatch, the independent watchdog for postal services in the UK."

The real problem is that a closed branch doesn't only mean the loss of services to local people, it has knock on effects that too often include losses at other nearby shops and longer queues at the remaining Post Offices.

Worst still, closure doesn't even help to address the main issue of loss-making Post Offices. History has taught us that if we can't stop this latest round of Post Office closures, then another round of closures will be along before long. Under the last Tory and this government about 7,500 Post Office have been shut even before publication of this 2,500 closure list.

Only the Liberal Democrats have a real plan to help

3 Steps to Save Our Post Offices

1. Invest £2 billion in post office network - open new branches where needed.
2. Free the Post Office from Royal Mail restrictions to let it develop new business.
3. A new legal requirement for the Government to maintain the local Post Office network.

***See more on the campaign & the rescue plan at:
www.libdems.org.uk/postoffices***

So who is this new Liberal Democrat Leader

Nick Clegg



Cllr Tony Noyce reports: Well with the Liberal Democrat leadership election at the end of last year, instead of a Gordon Brown snap general election, we in the Liberal Democrats have a new leader. Now had Chris Huhne won this election the new leader would need no introduction, however with about just 1% more of the vote the winner was Chris's old MEP colleague Nick Clegg, so who is he :-

- Nick Clegg was born in 1967 in Buckinghamshire and studied at three universities: Cambridge, Minnesota and College D'Europe.
- Before entering the European Parliament Nick worked as a development aid and trade expert in the EU, managing aid projects in the former Soviet Union and overseeing negotiations for China and Russia to join the World Trade Organisation.
- In 1999 he was elected to the European Parliament, where as Trade and Industry spokesman for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe he led the move to open up the domestic telecoms market and advocated trade measures against illegally logged timber.



Nick and Miriam

- He was a co-founder of the Campaign for Parliamentary Reform, which argues for more transparency and accountability in the European Parliament.

- Nick stood down from the European Parliament in 2004 and he was elected as MP for Sheffield Hallam in 2005 with a majority of 8,682.

- Recently as Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary Nick has spearheaded our defence of civil liberties, proposing a Freedom Bill to repeal unnecessary and illiberal legislation, campaigned against Identity Cards and the retention of innocent people's DNA, and argued against excessive counter-terrorism legislation.

- He also launched the successful "We Can Cut Crime" campaign and has campaigned for prison reform, a fair but firm approach to immigration and defended the Human Rights Act against ongoing attacks from across the political spectrum.

- **And finally...** Nick is an avid lover of the outdoors, an expert skier and keen mountaineer. He speaks five European languages, and is married to Miriam Gonzalez Duran and has two young children.

Keeping in Touch

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What can we do for YOU?

Now 4 ways to contact your West End Liberal Democrats

On Issues, Ideas, Information to Help us - Help you

- ① write to West End Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, Eastleigh, SO50 9AA
- ② visit the website www.davidgoodall.org.uk
- ③ phone
- ④ email



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Local News Roundup

Community Buildings Grant - the next LAC meeting should see a grant of £1,032 to 10th Itchen North (West End) Scout Group for roof repairs. This supports the approximately £2,000 they have raised themselves.

Community Grants 2008/09 - the next LAC meeting should also see Community Grants of £6,860 approved, including £300 for the West End Local History Society, £350 to the Friends Merlyn House and £570 for Eastleigh Southern Parishes Older People's Forum.

Teenage Health Drop-In Centre - the next LAC meeting should also see £3,500 continuing support approved for this successful centre, which provides free and confidential health support to local young people on a wide variety of health issues including contraceptive advice, prescriptions, general health enquiries, health promotion and most recently access to an alcohol screening and education programme.



And finally... On the election of Nick Clegg as leader our own Chris Huhne MP said :-

"We've elected a leader who is going to take us from strength to strength. Good luck Nick, congratulations and God's speed."

And Nick has appointed Chris to be Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary.

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