

Signing up to save our buses

PROTESTS from Lib Dems and local residents have helped to avert the loss of the 35 bus route between Fareham and Hill Head.

A petition leaflet circulated by Councillor Jim Forrest and fellow Lib Dems along the 35 route in Hill Head and western Stubbington resulted in more than 230 signatures being sent to the County Council in protest at cuts in subsidies to bus services.

Over most of Fareham, the cuts meant reduction in frequency of services. But Jim told Hampshire's cabinet member for transport: "The proposed deletion of the 35 service has the effect of a complete withdrawal for part of its route. While the 33 will give an hourly service to the western parts of Stubbington and Hill Head, its route via

Gosport Road and Newgate Lane means that there will no longer be a direct service to Fareham Railway station and Fareham College."

The area's Conservative county councillor made the same point in talks with county and bus company officials.

The clear public anger had its effect, and a revised timetable now retains daytime services on the 35 (weekdays only) and gives early morning links to the railway station and the college.

Jim Forrest said: "Services from Hill Head and western Stubbington will still end earlier in the evening than before.

"That's bad news for people working in Fareham who already had difficulty getting a bus home from work, but at least the route has not been extinguished.

Jim Forrest with some of the bus users who signed the petition - Sylvia Thurlow, John and Wendy Diamond and John Cook



"It's as if the planners just looked at place names on the timetable and assumed the 33 and 35 served the same people because they start and finish at the same places.

"If they had consulted local people beforehand they would have avoided a mistake which caused great distress to people who depend on their local buses."

Vital link to the places we go

We asked what are your main destinations on the 35 and 33 services. They included:

Stubbington shops	113 (49%)	Cinema	67 (29%)
Surgery or medical centre	108 (47%)	Pubs or restaurants	50 (22%)
Hospital visits	66 (29%)	Other destinations mentioned included hairdresser, nursery, church, workplace, other colleges.	
Library	58 (25%)	We also asked if residents were aware of consultations via leaflets, posters or meetings.	
Visiting friends	65 (28%)	<u>Only one said they had seen a leaflet or poster.</u>	
Fareham shops	178 (77%)		
Newgate Lane shops	81 (35%)		
Sport or leisure venue	23 (10%)		
Fareham College	14 (6%)		
Railway station	131 (57%)		

Helping avert a commuter nightmare at Junction 11

A NEW community of perhaps 7,000 homes to the north of Fareham has been approved by a Government planning inspector.

But his report recommended substantial changes to the special development area (SDA), meeting some of the objections Liberal Democrats had raised to the original proposals.

In particular, he ruled against a concentration of employment at junction 11 of the M27. Instead of rows of factories and warehouses scarring the western slopes of Portsdown Hill, - possibly bringing commuters from other areas to the already crowded junction - he asked the council to consider better ways of meeting employment needs of the new community. If we don't create employment op-

portunities close to people's homes, traffic congestion can only increase.

Liberal Democrats on the council will look closely at proposals for Newgate Lane, where the SDA must be considered alongside proposals for Daedalus.

Many in the borough remain unhappy with the whole concept of the SDA. But to vote against the inspector's recommendations after a full public inquiry, could perhaps have opened the way for developers to build what they like, where they like.

Liberal Democrats on the council will fight to ensure that if the new homes are built, they will have the schools, public transport, medical facilities etc that they need and will not impose a burden on the rest of Fareham.

For more on this and other stories see farehamlibdems.org.uk

More stories overleaf:

Cuts in library times →

Another hospital may be closed →

Coast road is re-opened →

New pond at The Ark →



After the landslip ...

THE NEW footway at the eastern end of Hill Head Road is a welcome improvement in safety for pedestrians. Hampshire Highways have done a good job under difficult circumstances in repairing the landslip.

Residents in adjoining roads will be relieved their days as a rat-run are over. But now we must ensure the campaign to keep down speed in Hill Head Road is not forgotten.

Pond will be boon to injured birds

CONGRATULATIONS to Groundwork Solent who recently built a new pond for Stubbington Ark Animal Shelter.

The pond will help wildfowl to recuperate from their injuries before being released back into the wild.

Bins where they're needed

SITES in Queens Crescent and Anker Lane have been added to the list for litter/dog bins when more become available, after we pointed out the need in the July Ad Lib.

Trims in order

WE HAVE reported the direction sign in Gosport Road on the approach to the Peel Common roundabout, which has become almost completely obscured by shrubbery.



HEDGES and plants blocking footways can pose problems for users of mobility scooters and wheelchairs, or mums with pushchairs. Highways staff have powers to order gardeners to cut back shrubs on the edge of their property - but a timely trim can save this trouble.



Conference highlights

NOT easy .. But right! That was Nick Clegg's message on the first 500 days of coalition government. Here are some of the achievements delegates heard about at the Lib Dem conference in Birmingham:

- Green deal to make bills lower and homes warmer;
- Councils generating renewable energy;
- New powers to turn empty homes back into family homes;
- A £500million investment in growth;
- Equal marriage, straight or gay;
- War on bogus bonuses;
- Investing in education for girls in developing countries;
- Help for Britain's neediest pupils.

More at libdems.org.uk

Shake-up in mental health services

SOME psychiatric hospitals in Hampshire are likely to close soon.

Southern Health NHS Trust wants to use the money this would save to develop its community teams, who visit people caring for relatives with mental health problems in their own homes.

One of the hospitals proposed for closure is The Meadows, near the new community hospital at Coldeast. This would mean that people from our area who still required psychiatric in-patient care would have to go

to Elmleigh at Havant, involving a big increase in travel time for their visitors.

Health service professionals who explained the plan to Fareham councillors recently asserted that this 'hospital at home' concept would bring benefits to patients, but councillors were not convinced that enough staff would be available to give home carers the back-up they need.

Details of a consultation on the proposals can be seen at southernhealth.nhs.uk but the deadline for feedback was October 14.

Streetlights to get a make-over

A BIG project to replace all of Fareham's streetlights is due to start next May.

Councillors have been asked to pass on feedback on such issues as styles of columns for conservation areas, levels of dimming, areas where extra lighting is needed to help residents or emergency services, and retention of

posts of historic or architectural note.

Contact Jim Forrest if you have comments. Faults on existing lights can be reported on the website hants.gov.uk

The project will take some years, but hopefully we'll see an end to wonky and ugly columns like the one illustrated in Cuckoo Lane.



Less time at the library

LIBRARY opening hours are being reduced as part of Hampshire County Council's spending cuts.

Stubbington is designated as a 'medium' library, and it is proposed to reduce its opening time from 41 hours a week to 37.5.

This would mean the library would be closed all day on Wednesdays; on Fridays it would close at 5pm instead of 7pm. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays it would open at 9am instead of 9.30am.

Fareham library and Gosport Discovery Centre are designated as a 'key' libraries, to be open for at least 50 hours a week, 6 days a week.

Consultation forms about the plans are available at the library. If you want to give your views, fill one in and return it by December 28. You can also fill in the form online at hants.gov.uk/library.



The Ad Lib team: Working with local people - for local people



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Got a problem or an issue? Contact us at the addresses above

Name/s

Address.....

Phone E-mail.....

I'd like help with:

Or call at our council surgery, Crofton Community Centre, first Saturday of every month, 10am - noon

For social events contact:

Sandra Abrams
01329 664727



Skittles at The Crofton
Saturday, November 19
Coffee morning
Wednesday, January 11
Christmas Karaoke
at the Foresters, Anns Hill,
date tba

Or DO try this at home -
our fiendishly difficult Hampshire place-names quiz. Only £1. Contact Sandra for a copy. Result announced at the Skittles evening