

FOCUS

St Faiths Ward **STRONGER TOGETHER**

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HAVANT MUST THRIVE AGAIN



There are signs Meridian Centre could be picking up with new tenants. But opinions are split over whether the new retail outlets and a new Tesco will eventually benefit the rest of the town. East Street barely has a retail presence and North Street hangs on. The council is working on plans to re-locate the civic centre to Market Parade and sell off the Civic Centre site. A study is under way. There is a case for moving the Council's offices to Leigh Park's Greywell. It's in the centre of the borough, there is vacant property, better access and potential jobs for local people. Demolishing sound buildings is not sustainable. St Faiths' green fields have all but gone or are going but Havant Park survives. It is vital that any adjoining development is sensitive to the open space and is not another Wickes monstrosity or worse.



Ray has lived in Havant for almost 30 years, 26 of them in St Faiths. Ray has combined a successful business career with a wide-ranging commitment to his local community. This includes service on schools governing bodies, Havant CAB, Havant Art Centre and Havant Housing Association. He was founder of Havant Business Association and its first chairman. After early retirement from IBM, Ray launched an award-winning consulting partnership.

A Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, he is a regular contributor at seminars and various business events. In the nineties Ray was elected county councillor for St Faiths East and Emsworth, serving on planning and recreation. Now semi-retired and living in Emsworth Ray's passion is the environment. He revived Friends of the Earth in Havant, took a leading part in opposing the giant new Tesco in Solent Road, helped promote a plastic bag-free campaign in Emsworth and speaks up on other threats to the quality of life in Havant. He is married with three grown-up children.

Ray
Cobbett
Lib Dem
STRONGER
TOGETHER

PLEASE
RETURN THE
RESIDENTS'
SURVEY.

Bus station shock



Havant Bus station has only been open for a year but it is already under threat from Tory budget cuts. It will close on weekday evening and Sundays so the council can save £24,000.

Lib Dem councillors had wanted the council to defer increasing councillors' allowances. This would have given the council £20,000. But it was thrown out by Labour and St Faiths' Tory councillors. Ironically Havant Council has signed a new Green Charter pledging action to improve the environment.

"They tell us they care about the environment with posed pictures of litter picks whilst leaving bus passengers out in the cold with no access to refreshments or toilets," said Lib Dem, Ray Cobbett.

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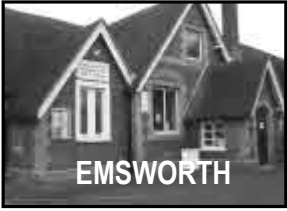
St Faiths needs a Community Centre



BEDHAMPTON



Leigh Park



EMSWORTH



St Faiths ?

St Faiths is the only ward in the area without a Community Centre.

Residents say they want an affordable place to meet and organise social activities and events.

Lib Dem, Ray Cobbett, said, "It's absurd that Hayling, Emsworth (it has two), Bedhampton and Leigh Park all have them but not us. If

elected on May 1st, I'm going to make this my top priority."

When he was Emsworth's county councillor, Ray succeeded in a campaign for a new library in the town.

At a recent seminar on building communities, Ray proposed, and many agreed, that, like other parts of the Borough, St Faiths should have its own residents' newsletter.

New homes put pressure on Havant's green gaps

Plans published by the council show that green fields on Denvilles eastern boundary could be sites for new homes. Another site is an area next to Locks Farm near Bartons Road. It's all part of a plan for 6300 houses the Labour government say must be built in Havant over next 20 years.

Comments on the plans should be made by 25th April: there are more details on the council's website. (www.havant.gov.uk-9421) or on display in Havant Library.

The sustainability of this number is in doubt. Havant has gone through intense development over years but it has not been matched so far with infrastructure or services.

The council has pinned its hopes on creating new jobs for the borough to the north in Dunsbury Hill Farm. It concedes that many of the jobs will go to people living outside the borough which suffers with an acute shortage of skills.

Much of the debate has focused on numbers and sites. Ray Cobbett said,

"Quality design and mix of property are just as important. After Locks Farm the council said strategic green gaps would be safe in their hands, but no more it seems.

Against global warming getting this plan right is vital."



Havant Gap-looking East



Green Charter welcomed

Havant Council's decision to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration is good news. The document pledges the council to developing policies on energy use and generation, transport and design of buildings.

Ray Cobbett said, "The Declaration came out in 2000 and has been signed already by over 200 authorities so its good to see Havant joining them."

MUSEUM FUTURE THREAT

Hundreds of residents have signed a petition opposing closure after Havant Council decided to withdraw funding next year.

Ray Cobbett said, "I'm very unhappy about the delay in the consultants' report and believe that Havant Council is not moving fast enough."

You can fool some of the people some of the time but

The latest issue of the Tories 'In Touch' leaflet compares council tax in Havant with councils run by Labour and Lib Dem councils. It suggests that Havant is the lowest. Focus did some research of its own and, based on official county council figures, Havant Council now has the second highest Tax in the county. All questions please to the Tory candidate.

Band D property 2007-08 district council share

Gosport	£463
Havant	£414
Rushmoor	£399
New Forest	£369
Eastleigh*	£356
Winchester	£326
East Hants	£308
Hart	£297
Test Valley	£291
Fareham	£283
Basingstoke	£271

* Lib Dem Council

STRONGER TOGETHER

Ray

COBBETT

