

Ribbon cut on new classrooms

TWO new classrooms have been officially opened at Titchfield Primary School.

A ribbon on the £500,000 project that created the two classrooms was cut by Hampshire county councillor Geoff Hockley.

Cllr Hockley said: 'It is a smashing school. I am delighted to be involved with it.'

Headteacher Mike Bainbridge described the extension to the school as 'stunning'.

He said: 'We are an expanding school. One of the classrooms was a music room that was doubling up as a resource room and was not fit for purpose.'

'We got the chance to have one new classroom but we ended up getting two.'

The project was funded by the county council.



OPENING DAY From left, school governor Nick Girdler, Cllr Geoff Hockley, architect Steve Mathews, contractor Dan Hughes and headteacher Mike Bainbridge
Picture: Paul Jacobs (14623-2)

Teenage councillor speaks of his delight

SOUTH Downs College student Henry Pickett has spoken of his relief after winning a by-election.

The 18-year-old becomes the youngest member of Horn-dean Parish Council.

The independent candidate received 166 votes to beat UK Independence Party member David Alexander, who received 110 votes.

The by-election was held following the resignation of Cllr Robert Sowden and there was a 13 per cent turnout.

Cllr Pickett, who used to attend Ditcham Park School near Petersfield, said: 'It was a huge relief to win. I'm very pleased with the result and I couldn't be happier.'

'I've always been interested in politics from a young age. This provides a platform for me to give back something to the community that I grew up in, and that's pretty much the reason why I wanted to stand.'

During his canvassing, Cllr Pickett spoke to more than 200 residents.

The teenager said he backed proposals to create a multi-use games area at Merchistoun Hall, in Portsmouth Road, Horndean.

'Our voice is not being heard over Welborne'

by **KIMBERLEY BARBER**

Fareham reporter

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RESIDENTS have voiced their fears over a proposed 6,000-home new town as the final plans are released for consultation.

Fareham Borough Council is inviting comments on the plan for the town - Welborne - which will be built on green fields north of the M27.

As previously reported, the final plan for the 6,000-home town was agreed by councillors last week, despite objections from residents.

But Shaun Cunningham, of Shearwater Avenue, Fareham, said: 'The message from residents is clear

Council presses ahead with 6,000 homes plan despite people voicing their concerns

- Welborne does not have public support which is why at every forum attended by councillors the message conveyed to them is one of rejection.

'I know of no local society or community group in Fareham that supports Welborne.'

Rose Peters, also from Fareham, agreed.

She said that residents want to see a referendum on the proposals.

Mrs Peters said: 'Welborne, the massive planned and imposed development, is still going ahead.

'Residents' hopes of being given any voice on Welborne were dashed again when councillors voted to approve the latest version of the 6,000-home development.

'At the council meeting, one resident urged councillors to reconsider.

'His deputation, alongside many others submitted over many years by community groups including Wallington, Funtley, Knowle Village and Wickham, the Council to Protect Rural England and the Fareham Society, was ignored.

'Residents including myself have also made individual representations. 'Yet all these separate but cohesive views are falling on deaf ears.'

The consultation period started yesterday at 5pm and residents will be able to make comments until April 11.

The council's executive member for planning Cllr Keith Evans said: 'We've asked people's opinions throughout the development of the Welborne plan and this is another opportunity.

'Representations will be forwarded to the planning inspectorate, who will independently examine the plan later this year.'

To make a representation go to fareham.gov.uk/consultations or call (01329) 236100 for more information.

Diana Ross tribute show

A DIANA Ross tribute evening will be taking place in Portsmouth.

The fundraiser is at Cathedral House in St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth on Friday, May 9 from 7pm.

It is in aid of the Cathedral Innovation Centre.

Tickets are £12.50 per head and will include champagne and a buffet.

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