



# Conservatives

# In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – WINTER 2010

## Summer start for residents' town centre parking plan

**THE LONG** awaited parking scheme for residents living in and near Fareham's town centre should be in place this summer.

The Borough Council undertook two consultations to try to make it acceptable to most.

An exhibition in Ferneham Hall enabled residents to discuss the plans with officers and give feedback.

Changes were made and modified proposals were sent out for consultation in the autumn.

A street-by-street analysis allowed the scheme to be tailored to residents' preferences as far as possible, some roads having a permit system and others restrictions on when and where vehicles can park.

Existing schemes in King's Road and Queen's Road will be incorporated.

Arrangements will be made for essential services that have to visit in permit scheme roads and there will also be temporary parking permits for visitors.

It is hoped it will be running by the end of July, but the Council will review it during the first 6 months of operation.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said although the scheme must be self-financing, it was not intended to be a way for the council to raise money and permit costs would be kept as low as possible.

## Council volunteers answer the call of the community



**COUNCIL** staff take a rest from clearing snow at the Rainbow Centre car park at Cams Alders.

'The Three Amigos' (l to r) Tony Hopkins, Paul Carter and Charlie Read gave up their lunch breaks to help centre staff and volunteers.

It was one of countless examples of how people across the Borough rallied in true community spirit.

## County Council budget figures

Council tax for Hampshire County Council will be increased by 1.9%

Police Authority's tax will rise by 2.9% and the Fire Service's by 1.8% This gives a total bill for a band D property in Fareham of £1,385.73, an increase of £24.93.

# Zero rated: Tories find the 'holy grail' of top value for lowest tax

## HOW DO they keep doing it year after year?

Fareham's Tory councillors have set another record low budget.

This time a **ZERO** rise.

The Borough Council's element at £140 for a Band D property remains almost the lowest in England.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward explained: "I am often asked how we achieve the holy grail of good services with a low council tax, despite a low government grant.

"My reply is always that we seek to do more with less, using innovative means to save money without damaging the frontline services on which our residents depend."

Delivering his 11th budget speech, he said the average property in Fareham was band C which would continue to pay just £125 a year.

Borough Council services cost only 34p per day per household.

"Contrast that with nearest neighbour Gosport, which charges 44% more than Fareham despite receiving double the grant per head from the government," he stated.

Several districts in Hampshire hide their council tax rises by passing services to parish councils to run, but Fareham cannot do that as it has no parishes.

Nearby parish councils, Whiteley for example,

have raised their tax by 250% in just 3 years.

"Most district councils receive far more in government revenue support grant per head of population than Fareham, yet we still have a low tax.

"Despite having a high tax rise, most are sacking staff and slashing services – we are maintaining and, in a number of cases, improving our services."

Pressures facing the Council are similar to those experienced by many families, but on a larger scale – costs rising and income not increasing or, in the case of interest on savings, actually dropping.

The fall in interest rates, while good news for those with mortgages, has seen the Council's income on its investments fall by up to £1,000,000 per year.

Every £40,000 lost equals around a 1% council tax increase to make up, so the fact that there is no increase is even more remarkable.

The Council agreed the following as part of the budget:

- £500,000 to a Matched Funding Account to which organisations in the Borough can bid to fund capital schemes. For every £1 of council taxpayers' cash, it means £2 to £3 of worthwhile schemes such as new school sports facilities, sports club houses etc.

- £15,000 for flashing 30mph speed limit reminder signs to use as requested by residents.

- £1.3m to the capital programme to enable refurbishment or replacement of sports pavilions and community centres.

## CCTV upgrade means you WILL be caught on camera

**THERE** will be no escape for criminals captured on CCTV at Fareham's upgraded control centre.

Digital cameras and displays can record at up to 25 images per second; 12.5 is more than enough for

successful prosecutions.

Police at Fareham and Park Gate can log into the system to save time investigating incidents.

It features unique mapping and display of camera locations across the Borough. New keyboard and

joystick controls enable operators quickly to control cameras independently.

Extra cameras to be connected include 5 for the new rapid bus route, 2 for Broadlaw Walk and 2 for the Quay Street Tesco store.

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

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Postal votes**

If you feel it's more convenient or if you are away during elections, you can register to vote by post or nominate someone to cast your vote at the polling station.

Contact Election Services on 01329 236100 or email [ssarling@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:ssarling@fareham.gov.uk) or your local Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard.

**Poor condition**

Councillor Dennis Steadman says the poor condition of road and footpath surfaces in Beaconsfield Road prompted him to ask Hampshire Highways Department to assess whether remedial work needs to be carried out. A decision is awaited.

**Not enough cash**

Fayre Road is still awaiting work to be carried out to improve the carriageway surface.

It was due to be done in the financial year April 2009/10, but has been delayed due to lack of funding.

"Efforts will be maintained to ensure the work will be carried out as soon as possible," said Councillor Dennis Steadman.

**Purse thieves**

Beware purse thieves, who are often active between noon and 3pm.

They mostly target the elderly, often while they are in or near charity shops.

For free lanyards to anchor your purse safely in your bag contact Fareham Police on 0845 045 4545.

# Council ditches 'ludicrous' 1.5 parking spaces per home rule

**NEW parking standards will be introduced for future housing developments in Fareham.**

The Borough Council has managed to get around the ludicrous figure of 1.5 spaces per household dictated by the Government.

This produced a nightmare for planners who had to obey Whitehall guidelines over the past 10 years.

Government believed that by preventing people from parking at new properties it would reduce car usage.

Like many Labour ideas it didn't work.

The Council tried to circumvent the rules by agreeing to use average parking across the borough to equal the target, allowing some flexibility.

But it still resulted in new developments with insufficient parking and caused severe problems.

Last November, as a result of the Local Development Framework process, Fareham was able to introduce new parking standards for future developments.

These are based on the number of bedrooms a property has which seems far more reasonable.

Garages - which tend to be used for storing anything but a car - will not normally count as a parking space.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "We can't do much about developments already approved and built, but this change does allow Fareham to get it right for the future."

**Kerbs scheme**

**A KERB replacement scheme was completed in Highfield Avenue in November.**

About 70 metres of defective footpath were also repaired.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said the Council tried to keep up with such projects in the older parts of Fareham.

If your road or footpath needs attention, contact your ward councillors who will arrange a visit by a Highways representative.

## Please help this thriving gymnastics club to vault ahead



**Where it all begins:** Clubs like the Fareham School of Gymnastics play a key role in developing and training gymnasts for Britain's Olympics team.

**BUSINESSES and local people are asked to help provide young gymnasts with a dedicated centre.**

Fareham School of Gymnastics is collaborating with Neville Lovett School to offer a range of activities involving exercise for all ages and abilities.

It opened in 2004 with just four members; today, the membership has grown to 240 – an amazing tribute to its popularity and success.

The club's main venue is Neville Lovett School in St Anne's Grove, where youngsters can use the Olympic apparatus of bars, beam, vault and floor.

They compete in club and inter-club competitions and show their prowess by taking part in holiday schemes, displays and local fetes.

In addition, the club can boast classes for the more advanced groups with 2009 seeing six of the young gymnasts reach the Southern Region Grade Finals.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "The club and Neville Lovett School would really welcome any support that residents or businesses could offer to assist this ambitious plan to become a reality.

"Our congratulations go to Ken Dimmer, the club coach and development co-ordinator, and to the helpers who give their time to make this project the success it is."

Fareham School of Gymnastics can be reached on 01329 312437 (mobile 0788704939) or call Dennis Steadman on 01329 285667.

## £200 reward for grassing on social housing cheats

**BLOW the whistle on housing cheats and earn yourself £200.**

It's the reward for anybody who reports tenants illegally sub-letting council or housing association properties that are subse-

quently allocated to persons on the waiting list.

The Borough Council has been awarded a £10,000 grant under the Government's scheme to crack down on the cheats.

Councillor Dennis Steadman

commented: "It is in the interests of all social tenants to ensure the allocation of the property is used for the legal tenant who is in need of a home and not given over to an outsider for illegal gain."



## Heathens to see the light after £5,000 grant

A GRANT of £5,000 was made by the Community Action Team to the Heathens Rugby Football Club towards the cost of portable floodlighting.

It followed a successful pitch drainage project in 2008/9 for one of the two pitches.

The floodlighting will allow training to take place in other parts of the field instead of restricting it to one area.

It will also avoid spending £73,000 to drain the second pitch, prevent its further deterioration and months of being unplayable.

Fareham Council, which owns the pitches, will save money as at the end of each season heavy grounds maintenance work has to be done to prepare the second pitch.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "It will benefit the community as the club will be able to offer training all through the season, which will attract more people into the sport."

## Residents' true grit beats deep freeze



**COMMUNITY spirit melted the snow and warmed many hearts as the deep freeze locked Fareham in its grip.**

An amazing response by residents across the Borough in the coldest spell since 1963 produced unsung heroes by the score.

Salt bins may have been empty, but you didn't have to look far to find true British grit.

Councillor Dennis Steadman writes: "Out of this type of adversity came the heroes of the hour and Fareham South was no exception.

"I had many reports of our able bodied residents checking on the more vulnerable, knocking on neighbours' doors, doing their shopping and clearing snow from cars and footpaths to make life more comfortable for those unable to help themselves.

"More than 35 parents banded



together to clear the snow from the access and playground at Redlands Primary School while the head and staff cleared the entrance at Neville Lovett school - a wonderful effort."

Dennis said Neighbourhood Watch got involved and his wife, Carole, who is a co-ordinator, contacted some of the more vulnerable residents and called on the elderly to assure their wellbeing.

"I was also in contact with residents in sheltered accommodation to assure them they were not forgotten and that help was on hand should they need it.

"The utmost credit goes to staff in the Council offices, some of whom walked to work through the icy conditions from their homes in Gosport and outside Fareham, covering distances of four miles and the same on the return journey.

"One even walked from Whiteley."

**Photos:** Redlands Primary parents (left) and Neville Lovett teachers clear snow

## £26,000 safe routes project for South Ward schools

**THE County Council is spending £26,000 on traffic calming as part of the Safe Routes to School scheme.**

Redlands Lane Primary School and Neville Lovett Community School will benefit from the project.

Work is due to start in the February half-term period to try to lessen the impact on the school and local traffic.

## New youth club at Neville Lovett wins kids' approval

A SMALL youth club has been opened for children aged 10-16 at Neville Lovett Community School.

Parents and youngsters were consulted and some young people put together a successful bid to the Youth Opportunities Fund to pay for equipment and a member of staff, assisted by volunteers, to help run the club.

They are now in their second term with an average of 50 young people attending sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays between 7pm and 9pm.

Suggestions from young people are welcomed and they are also encouraged to think of the club as their own.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "This is a very worthwhile venture and hopefully in the future there will be venues in other parts of South Fareham open to accommodate the large number of young persons in this area for similar purposes."

# FAREHAM SOUTH 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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**Our man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

I was talking to pupils at a couple of schools in Portchester recently about the need to get involved when you see something happening to a place or a service that matters to you.

It was a theme echoed by a couple I met from Locks Heath who asked me to support a campaign to protect children's services at Southampton General.

Change is one of the main reasons why people get involved in politics. It certainly motivated me to get involved when I was 16. It still drives me today.

As a politician, change can mean resolving a constituent's problem or persuading the Government to change tack.

After the longest and deepest recession since the 1920s, it is clear we cannot go on like this. The country needs so many changes to get back onto the right track.

When I talk to local businesses, they tell me they want interest rates to remain as low as possible as long as possible, but unless we reduce Government borrowing, this won't be possible. But Gordon Brown is fighting shy of making the difficult decisions that are needed to encourage economic recovery.

In the health service and in our schools, I hear examples of where staff are required to put into practice decisions made in Whitehall that don't meet the needs of local people. Shouldn't we be giving our doctors, nurses and teachers the authority to do the right thing for pupils and patients rather than be dictated to by Whitehall?

2010 is the start of a new decade. I feel that we have been stuck in a rut in the last few years. I believe that 2010 must be a year for change in our country. We cannot afford another wasted decade.

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**Borough-wide community centre modernisation plans under way**



Bath Lane, Fareham pavilion



Portchester Community Centre

**PLANS to provide each of Fareham's neighbourhood areas with modern community facilities are under way.**

Top of the list is Portchester Community Centre where options for raising the £1.7m cost are being considered, but others (some pictured) also need urgent attention.

The Council's policy objectives prioritised the need to review the use of its community buildings, rationalise their provision and, as appropriate, modernise them by 2012.

The review set out a longer-term, innovative approach to the provision of Council community-owned buildings, including sports pavilions and community centres.

The vision to provide a well-designed, modern community centre in each of the six neighbourhood Community Action Team areas was agreed by the Executive, which pledged £500,000 towards the initiative, plus £40,000 for a community buildings health and safety fund.



Osborne Road, Warsash officials' changing rooms (left) and players' changing rooms

A phased implementation



**It's no bull – less spending reduces waste**

**HUNDREDS of empty coke cans went into making this life-size bull to beef up the recycling message.**

But it's no bull that people are buying less in the recession, so they put less in their bins.

Fareham has seen a 5.5% reduction in green top bin waste and a 6% fall in blue top bin recyclables. But the Borough's recycling rate still reached 39.6% in October.



"An excellent figure and we aim to achieve the target for 2010 of 40%, although any continuation of reductions in total waste will make this a challenge," said Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Streetscene.

Fareham is one of only three districts in Hampshire to provide free garden waste collection, although it had to be restricted to one bag per household.

One in four households generates more and they can buy disposable bags – £20 for a roll of 25 sacks or £5 for a roll of 5 – which will be collected with the green waste bags.

He added: "Fareham residents are among the best recyclers in the country. It's a good performance, but one we intend to improve with advice and encouragement."

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