



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

LOCKS HEATH – WINTER 2010

Surestart project will give children the best start to life

A SURESTART children's centre is planned to cover Fareham's Western Wards.

The Hampshire County Council project will be the fifth and final centre in the Borough.

It will cover Sarisbury, Park Gate, Burridge, Swanwick, Whiteley and parts of Locks Heath and Warsash.

Subject to planning consent, it will be built on land adjoining Brookfield School.

Outreach work will be carried out at other community facilities in the area, but the Brookfield site will provide a permanent base open five days a week.

Children's centres aim to give every child the best possible start in life.

They are places where families can easily access a range of different services to support them, including:

- Information and advice on family support services
- Drop-in sessions for parents, carers and childminders.
- Access to early education and childcare for children under five.
- Access to child and family health services.
- Links with Jobcentre Plus, further education and training opportunities.

For more details go to www3.hants.gov.uk/p8325-101b_feasibility-2.pdf

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

Child safety

Parents should be aware of the child seat safety laws, writes Councillor Ruth Godrich.

All children under 15 inches (135 cms) in height must wear seat belts or child seat belts or the appropriate child restraints.

Councillor Godrich, a member of Fareham Road Safety Council, said there was a £30 fixed penalty or up to a £500 fine for failure to comply.

Lollypop appeal

Hampshire County Council has appealed for more lollypop people.

Wardens are men and women who safely escort school children and parents across busy roads.

If you could give up a short time every school day to help, then contact erniesage@hants.gov.uk

Pay is £7 an hour and you'll be given training and a uniform.

Skate park success

The skate park at Locks Heath Centre is proving a big attraction.

Councillor Ruth Godrich said it had been a huge success, providing a safe environment for youngsters to enjoy themselves away from houses.

It now has lighting and can be used for longer periods.

20 is plenty

Police carry out regular speed checks in Locks Heath.

The limit is 30mph, but drivers are asked to observe the '20 is plenty' signs near schools.

From the cold east to Coldeast: freeze keeps new hospital a bit longer on ice

IT'S BEEN in the deep freeze for over three decades.

Now, the cold east weather has brought more trauma to Fareham's Community Hospital at aptly named Coldeast.

A year ago, a blizzard wiped out the ceremony to dig the first turf to start the £23.5m project.

This January's big freeze has kept it on ice for a bit longer.

It will take about three months to commission, including transfer

of services from the Sylvan Clinic, Highlands Road Clinic and others, and should receive its first patients in June.

But the public will get a preview during three open days scheduled for early May.

The hospital, which has a new entrance in Brook Lane, will initially deal mainly with diagnostic and minor treatment services. It will contain:

- Large out-patient department replacing the Sylvan Clinic with 6 consulting suites and 2 ante-natal suites.
- Rehabilitation unit with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles, replacing and enhancing current services at Highlands Road Clinic.
- 2 general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and 2 ultra-sound units.

- Elderly assessment and treatment centre, including a large treatment area and 2 consulting suites.

- Older persons' mental health day hospital with 2 consulting suites, treatment room, sitting room and 2 activity rooms.

With the existing facilities on the site – Summervale, Rivendale, the Meadows and Hawthorn Court – Fareham will have the initial elements of a comprehensive health service campus by the end of 2010.

Phase 2 should include 12 maternity



Taking shape: The hospital for which Fareham has waited over three decades.

beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook Maternity Home.

Fareham is predicted to have an increase in births of 14%, with all other areas of Hampshire a decrease; Gosport will have a 13% fall.

There is also a need for extra in-patient facilities and an accident treatment service.

Free car parking is provided on site with waiting limited to 4 hours.

Fareham's hospital was given top priority in 1976.

Owing to site difficulties and planning problems, several other community hospitals were developed instead, notably Gosport, which resulted in a reduction in the provision of the fullest range of services at the new hospital.

In Touch editor Susan Bayford said: "After 34 years on the waiting list, at least the hospital will have the latest facilities."

Councillor Mike Godrich said it was a service that Fareham had long awaited, especially in the Western Wards where the population now stood at 40,000.

"These new facilities will save many patients the costly journey of travelling to Portsmouth or Southampton for their appointments or treatment, which will be of particular benefit to the elderly," he added.

TOP OF AGENDA

The new hospital will top the agenda at the next Western Wards CAT meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 17 at St John's Church Hall, Locks Heath.

There will be speakers from the Borough Council and Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

They're not luv'in' it – the fence that gives offence

WARD councillors have received many complaints about the area of Lockwood Shopping Centre car park that is fenced off.

Councillor Ruth Godrich said permis-

sion was given for a McDonald's take-away, and work started.

Then McDonald's decided against development, so a planning application was made for a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, which

was refused.

Next, an application to return the site to a car park was granted.

"Despite requests, the owners are reluctant to carry out work in the present economic climate," she stated.

'Ludicrous' 1.5 parking spaces per property rule is ditched

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.

Fareham 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 Ruth Godrich 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."



Council prepares 'greening' strategy

GREENING campaigns will help residents to save money by taking sensible and non-life changing measures to conserve energy.

In Touch editor Susan Bayford said the main purpose was to assess the impact climate change might have on Fareham and to outline priority actions which the Council, its partners and residents should take.

Residents will be consulted at the next round of Community Action Team meetings when they will be advised how they can become involved in setting up Greening Campaigns in the Borough.

The strategy will go before Fareham's Executive in March and a public meeting to gauge the level of interest is planned for April 27 in Fareham Hall.

Susan Bayford said the Government had told councils to take a clear lead on these issues.

"Fareham Council has an important role to play in developing a local response to these targets," she said.

Susan throws some light on 'new lamps for old' project

IT DIDN'T take long for Susan Bayford to roll up her sleeves after she joined Locks Heath Conservatives' action team.

She followed up complaints about tatty street lights and quickly got answers from the County Council.

"Work to replace and maintain 250,000 streetlights across Hampshire is at last a step nearer.

"A five-year private finance initiative will be carried out by Southern Electric Contracting and all lighting columns over 15 years old – about 150,000 – and all lanterns will be replaced by new high efficiency units. "Focus for the following 20 years will be on maintaining and operating the new lights to a high standard.

"I hope that once the project is up and running many areas in Locks Heath will be upgraded," she said.

Susan is married to Park Gate ward Councillor Brian Bayford and has supported the Conservative Party since becoming involved in local politics in

the late 70s.

She then worked at Fareham's Rainbow Centre for Conductive Education, first as a fundraiser and then as chairman since 2006.

After Mark Hoban was elected as Fareham's MP in 2001, she spent seven years managing his constituency office and dealing with issues raised by constituents.

Photo: Susan points to one of numerous lamp standards in the Western Wards that are rusting away.



£200 reward to grass on tenant 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 subsequently 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.

In Touch editor Susan Bayford said: "It is in the interests of all social tenants to ensure allocation of the property is used for the legal tenant who needs a home, not given over to an outsider for illegal gain."

Victory for councillors' campaign to keep local day care services

TRUSTEES at Lockwood Day Care Centre lost the County Council contract for day care, which went to Age Concern.

It had sparked major concern among the aged, particularly as Age Concern wanted it relocated at Kershaw Day Centre in north Fareham.

However, due to a change in funding arrangements, clients can opt to receive a direct payment from Hampshire's Adult

Services and choose where to use it.

It reopened as Lockwood Day Care Services and those who choose to use the Lockwood Centre can ask for County Council funding towards the cost.

Pick-up and return home will continue as previously, plus the provision of a cooked meal.

After intervention by County Councillors Seán Woodward and

Keith Evans, day care is now being provided free at Locks Heath Sports and Social Club in Warsash Road for older people with a disability and dementia.

Councillor Woodward said: "I am delighted that after our campaign the day care service for the elderly continues to be provided in Locks Heath.

"To have moved it to a remote location in north Fareham would have been unacceptable."

LOCKS HEATH 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.

WARD COUNCILLORS Locks Heath



Mike Godrich
62 High Oaks Close
Locks Heath SO31 6SX
Tel: 01489 579193
email:
mgodrich@fareham.gov.uk



Ruth Godrich
62 High Oaks Close
Locks Heath SO31 6SX
Tel: 01489 579193
email:
rgodrich@fareham.gov.uk



Susan Bayford
1 Camargue Close
Whiteley PO15 7DT
Tel: 01489 880740
email: susan@bayford.mail9.co.uk

In Touch Editor Locks Heath Edition



COUNTY COUNCILLOR Fareham Warsash

Keith Evans
94 Abshot Road Titchfield Common Fareham PO14 4NH
Tel: 01489 582450 Email: keith.evans@hants.gov.uk

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.

•Contact Mark via his office:
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN
Telephone: 01329 233573
email: mail@markhoban.com

Borough-wide community centre modernisation plans under way



Allotment Road, Sarisbury



Sarisbury Green pavilion

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.

A phased implementation



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



programme was agreed, aimed at completing needs assessments and developing a master plan for each area.

An advisory group to the Executive was set up, primarily to consider obtaining funding for the provision of a new community centre at Portchester following consultations with residents and a needs assessment.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley chairs the group, which includes the five Portchester ward councillors, representatives from Portchester Community Association and the County Council.

The Executive also approved refurbishment of the sports changing rooms at Osborne Road, Warsash, Sarisbury Green and Allotment Road, Sarisbury.

Phase 2 - the Crofton CAT area - will start when the Portchester project is finished.

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."

In Touch is published by Locks Heath Conservatives, 62 High Oaks Close, Locks Heath SO31 6SX and printed by Bishops Printers Limited, Fitzherbert Road, Farlington, Portsmouth PO6 1RU.