



In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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

New footpaths

We are delighted to report that residents of Appleton Road and Woodbourne Close, Titchfield have recently had their footways resurfaced.

This work was badly needed and long overdue.

Your local councillors are aware that many other footpaths also need resurfacing and we will continue to press for the work to be undertaken.

Play Ranger success

The Play Ranger service has proved to be a huge success in providing play opportunities to all children and young people across the Borough.

The feedback from folk who have participated has been excellent.

Turkish delight

A belly dancer will top the bill at a Turkish evening which is being arranged by Titchfield Conservatives to raise funds.

She will appear at event on Saturday, July 17, but you'll have to book early as tickets costing £15 are limited to 50.

Contact Geoff or Connie Hockley if you are interested on 01329 287365. Local venue will be advised on application.

Distributors needed

We are always looking for residents to assist with distributing literature and editions of *In Touch*.

If you would like to help then please contact one of your local councillors.

Geoff throws some light on 'new lamps for old' plan



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.

All lighting columns over 15 years old – about 150,000 in total – 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.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "I hope that once the project is up and running many areas in Titchfield will be upgraded within the next two years.

Photo: Geoff Hockley points to the rust on one of many lamp standards in Catisfield area that are in poor condition.

From the cold east to Coldeast: freeze keeps new hospital 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.

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 planned for early May.

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

With the existing facilities on the site, Fareham will have the elements of a comprehensive NHS campus by the



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

end of 2010.

Phase 2 should include 12 maternity beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook Maternity Home.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said Fareham's hospital was given top priority in 1976.

He commented: "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."

'Ludicrous' parking rule is ditched

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

The Council has got round the ludicrous Government figure of 1.5 spaces per household.

It was a nightmare for planners who had to obey Whitehall guidelines for 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 bend the rules by employing average parking across the borough to equal the target.

But it still left new properties with insufficient parking.

As a result of the Local Development Framework process, Fareham was able to introduce new parking standards for future developments, based on the number of bedrooms per property; garages will not normally count as a parking space.

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

Victory in councillors' fight 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 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 Evans said: "I am delighted that after our campaign the day care service for the elderly continues to be provided in Locks Heath.

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

£200 reward for housing cheat grasses

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.

Titchfield Councillor Connie Hockley said: "I welcome this scheme."

Be a governor

FANCY becoming a school governor?

County Councillor Geoff Hockley, who has visited all schools in his division and attended their governors' meetings, is amazed by their dedication.

Schools' management is determined by the governors; the County Council's input is simply advice and finance based on numbers.

If you're interested in putting your skills into school management, contact Geoff.

They never mind the weather to make sure kids reach school safely



THEY turn out in all weathers.

Had the schools been open during the big freeze, they would have been on duty as usual.

These are the lollypop people - the school crossing patrols provided by the County Council at a cost of £1.1m a year.

"But what a splendid service they provide. Out in all weathers and friends to a large number of the children and the mums and dads

who they help to cross the roads of Hampshire safely," said County Councillor Geoff Hockley

So, if you fancy the idea of free high visibility clothing, safety training, a rather large school crossing lollypop and £7 per hour even during school holidays, contact Geoff, who is chairman of Fareham Road Safety Committee and will be happy to talk to you.

•**Photo:** Titchfield lollypop man Keith Matthews is one of the Hampshire team who serve their community.

A salt mountain far from the snows of Kilimanjaro

HAMPSHIRE County Council will have a £3m salt 'mountain' ready for any future big freeze.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "Despite the Government saying that 6 days' supply (6,000 tons of salt) was all that counties would need to stock, we had already taken the view that 12 days was more appropriate and, as time proved, very necessary."

The County Council has decided in future to keep 18 days' stock costing £3m and was also considering buying 4,000 salt bins for distribution to appropriate points such as hills, schools, surgeries, day centres and many others before next winter.

Control over these would raise additional problems that would need to be

resolved and residents would be kept in touch.

On a lighter note, Councillor Hockley recalled the last big snowfall in Britain was 1963, the year before he and Connie went to work in Zambia.

A few years later, he took part in a Round Table Kenya charity climb up Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Some of us gave up when we reached the snow line and apart from a snowball fight at 10,000 feet, the beer didn't need any chilling. Hampshire's snow was just a little bit different," he added.

•**The Snows of Kilimanjaro (1952) is one of the all-time film classics, starring Gregory Peck, Susan Hayward and Ava Gardner.**

The Gardner gardeners get a grant to regenerate

GARDENING enthusiasts have regenerated waste land at the end of their street.

They spent over 130 hours tidying up and planting the overgrown entrance to aptly named Gardner Road.

It came about after Titchfield Gardeners' Club was awarded £426 of Community Action Team funding.

The project was undertaken by Mr Robert Blake and other residents to encourage community involvement.

Club members dug over the soil four times and took more than 60 bags of waste to the tip before spending the money to buy shrubs and equipment.

Mr Blake, a member of the club, supervised the work and agreed to maintain the County Council-owned land.

The residents' labours were recognised when local Councillors Connie Hockley and Tiffany Harper planted the first shrub to officially open the project.

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON 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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Four 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



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."

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