

Planning processes delay new Fareham local plan

FAREHAM councillors and officers have been working on the replacement for the current local plan for some time.

The previous plan was adopted in June 2000 and will be replaced by a new plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Work has been held up because Fareham's plan must tie in with the South East Plan and this has only just been through its mandatory inspection process.

Fortunately, Fareham's input to the South East Plan was accepted by the inspectors and, provided that the Government – who can make changes to the plan – agree with the inspectors' report, the planning process can go ahead.

The Government will make its decision sometime between this December and March next year.

Final adoption of the plan is not scheduled until mid 2011.

Councillor David Swanbrow, who is the Executive Member responsible for putting the new plan together, said:

"Once we have the go-ahead we will consult people on the plan every step of the way."

Nicked! Police crackdown on under-age drinkers



Pc Geoff Tarvin parades a huge pile of cans, bottles and cartons of booze, mostly confiscated from juveniles in on-going operations against under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

DOZENS of cans and bottles of booze have been confiscated by police in a borough-wide operation against under-age drinkers and outlets supplying them.

Officers recently mounted Operation Dorothy to get the message of zero tolerance across to youngsters, parents and shopkeepers.

It seems to be paying dividends, although police believe it may have driven some illegal drinking 'underground'.

The operation was carried out by officers, community support officers and special constables from Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering Fareham and Park Gate areas, who seized alcohol from juveniles and adults acting in an anti-social manner.

At the end of the four-week operation, their haul amounted to 170 cans of lager, 169 bottles of beer, half a bottle of whisky, a litre of vodka and a bottle of brandy.

But instead of pouring it down the drain, the police gave the drinks to Fareham Lions Club, who raffled it and gave the proceeds to local charities.

The operation was part of the Designated Public Places Order created in partnership with Fareham Borough Council to combat drink-related crime.

Police have powers to stop street drinking, seize alcohol where appropriate and issue fixed penalty

notices to the culprits.

Pc Dave Coleman said 32 more cans of lager were confiscated and a group of 20 youths moved on from Yew Tree Drive area in Whiteley during the first week of October.

Sgt Pat Dawson, in charge of the first sting in June after the order was extended borough-wide, said police were pleased with the results of the on-going operation and with the new powers to deal with drink related anti-social behaviour.

"Usually, once we catch an under-age person we don't see them again. We take the alcohol and the parents get a letter. On a number of occasions we have called on parents."

There had been input into schools and youth clubs where posters were displayed, but it was often over 18s who bought and supplied alcohol to juveniles.

Fareham Town County Councillor Ray Ellis said police had reported a fall in public drinking.

"In the same report they say that in the first 6 months this year they carried out 207 test purchases on licensed premises in South Hampshire and caught 50 law breakers, but none in Fareham area.

"However, a few were caught in Fareham in 2006 'stings' and cases are on-going.

"Premises caught more than twice are likely to find the police calling for a review of their licence," he said.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Quiz success

Fareham East Conservatives' latest fundraising event – an inter-ward quiz – was a great success and was won by Fareham West.

It was held in Wallington Village Hall, and was attended by many party members, including Fareham MP Mark Hoban.

Alec Hayward provided the food and Ivor Dugdale Jenkins was quizmaster.

The event raised nearly £300 for Fareham East Ward.

Bunking off

The number of missed sessions in Hampshire secondary schools has increased by 0.29% to 1.49%.

For primary schools the figures are Hampshire 0.33% (up 0.04%).

CATS success

Fareham Council has set aside £100,000 to fund neighbourhood initiatives, residents were told when the five Community Action Teams (CATS) met in September.

Each CAT will be able to bid for resources to fund projects in their area and £30,000 has been set aside from the fund for clean and tidy neighbourhood initiatives.

Meetings were well attended and gave residents the chance to have their say.

Presentations by the Council and police were well received and several topics raised, among them litter, speeding vehicles, grass cutting and individual concerns.

Cams Hill School gets £700,000 for expansion

A LONG OVERDUE £700,000 extension has started at Cams Hill School.

It will consist of a new library, two studios, new main reception area, events hall, medical room and a cafeteria.

Head teacher David Wilmot and County Councillor Ray Ellis, chairman of the school governors' finance committee, are delighted the extension has now started.

Councillor Ellis feels that the 1000 pupils at the school have not had

the facilities they needed over several decades and the school is now catching up with other secondary schools in Hampshire.

The facilities provided will also be available for use by local communities when not being used by the school.

The project will take eight months and is due for completion in April 2008.

The school received a £100,000 grant from the government when it was awarded specialist status as a science and

maths centre two years ago.

The County Council contributed £220,000.

The rest came from the school's capital budget and sponsorship from local businesses.

The ground floor will comprise a new main reception area, an events hall that can hold 400 people, two studios which can also be used by the local community, a medical room and offices.

Upstairs will be a 2,500 square-foot library and learning centre.

Not a brick laid yet, but demands are mounting for new community hospital

THE BEGINNING of the end of decades of frustration is in sight this autumn when work starts at the Coldeast site ahead of the building of Fareham's community hospital.

Hampshire Primary Care Trust promised the hospital would open in 2010, but before that one of the Western Wards' biggest housing schemes will get under way.

About 250 homes will be built on areas occupied by buildings in former and current health use.

Meantime, a case is being prepared for the hospital's annual through-put of patients. Demand appears to be heavy.

For example, an outpatients' department (acute specialities) will need to cope with a capacity of 21,000, maternity up to 2,000, older persons' mental health 2,400 individual and up to 700 group therapy appointments, with links to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Community and Primary Care Centre (minor day surgery), GP specialists, chronic disease management; out-of-hours provision, branch surgery consultations, family planning, children's

health, podiatry may need 1600 attendances.

Diagnostic Imaging (GP direct access), out-patients' consultations day care assessments will need a capacity for 15,000 X-rays and 9,000 ultra sounds.

Mobile MRI scanning will have to be catered for in future expansion.

The rehabilitation department (physiotherapy) should be able to deal with 9,600, patients annually, speech therapy 1,800 and occupation therapy 100.

In phase 2, a birthing centre will be provided if current consultations allow (see story in Page 3).

In Phase 1, Fareham Community Hospital will cover 3,450 square metres (37,136 sq ft) and Phase 2 will add another 850 square metres (9,149 sq ft).

The design will be flexible to enable future change of use and expansion if required.

All admissions to Gosport War Memorial Hospital beds will be based on clinical need not on geographical criteria.

New council chiefs take over at County Hall

ANDREW Smith has been appointed Hampshire County Council's new chief executive on the retirement of Peter Robinson.

He was awarded the OBE for his service to local Government and is a member of the Government's Task

Force set up to improve efficiency in design and construction for local government. Another recent appointment is Jean Bradlow as joint Director of Public Health, shared by the County Council and Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

UK under threat from new EU constitution

THE UK would lose a large degree of independence if the proposed European Constitution is forced through by the Labour Government.

Daniel Hannan MEP told a large audience of Conservatives from Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth and Havant in Wallington Village Hall about the dangers of the constitution becoming law without the population being consulted through a referendum.

He said the proposal before European governments was essentially the same as the old proposed written constitution for Europe, which was voted out in the referendum held in France and Denmark.

The meeting agreed the Government should honour the commitment it gave in its statement to the electorate that a referendum would be held before agreeing a new constitution.

Bus service cuts to pay for elderly

A LOCAL bus service will be cut to save money.

The County Council has to reduce bus service subsidies by £500,000 to help meet the rising cost of social care for the elderly.

Services carrying fewer passengers will be targeted and they include No 69 Fareham to Bishop's Waltham.

The Sunday service was to be axed, but the decision was changed after public consultation.

Full details of new timetables may be obtained from Alison Hull, Transport Officer HCC.

Ambulance response times probe

AMBULANCE emergency response times are deteriorating in Hampshire.

And county councillors are demanding to know why.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee chaired by Ray Ellis is investigating.

The committee has asked the Hampshire Primary Care Trust to determine the reasons for the poor response times by the South Central Ambulance Service.

It is also conducting its own investigation of the Ambulance Service and has asked its senior staff to attend a meeting to be questioned by members.

M27 widening

THE contract to construct two climbing lanes on the M27 has been awarded to Costain.

Work is due to start in January 2008 and will last about 10 months.

Steps will be taken to minimise traffic delays, but it is inevitable that some will occur.

There will be an exhibition in late autumn for residents to discuss the project and to introduce the contractors' public liaison officer.

Call to replace Blackbrook as Fareham births increase

A BIRTHING centre is desperately needed in Fareham which is the only area where a rise in births is forecast.

Since the Blackbrook centre closed, the number of home births in the borough has greatly increased.

Now, Hampshire Primary Care Trust has issued a document for consultation on future maternity bed provision in South East Hampshire.

Women prefer the homely atmosphere of midwife-led birthing centres to that of hospitals.

Portsmouth Primary Care Trust has agreed that there will be a centre on Portsea Island, and the options which have been proposed by Hampshire PCT involve a centre at Queen Alexandra Hospital, with two others

either in Gosport, Petersfield or Fareham.

Fareham has a population of about 107,000, so it does need its own birthing centre, particularly in view of the large housing development planned for North Fareham.

If the PCT agrees the need for a birthing centre in Fareham it is unlikely it would be established until the second phase of the Coldeast Community Hospital development after 2010.

Meantime, County Councillor Ray Ellis urges residents to attend the meetings organised by the PCT and respond before the closure of the consultation period.

Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the final proposals at the end of November.

Challenging time for ward committee

THE PAST few months have been a challenging and successful one for East Ward Committee, reports chairman Keith Barton.

On the public service front, a local survey of Wallington and Southampton Road areas on the parking problems has led to some interesting feedback which has now been passed to Fareham Borough Council.

The results of the survey will be published later once we have done more of the ward's parking hotspots.

In conjunction with this, we now have a whole ward survey available on our website www.fareham-east-conservatives.org.uk.

He said: "We would love to hear from every household in the ward and we will be trying to get round each of you soon to ask your opinion on the issues most affecting you."

He added: "My committee and I are looking forward to the coming months and meeting more of you as we gear up for next year's challenge, so don't forget to have your say on the positive changes we can help make in the ward."

Future safe for Ashcroft Arts Centre

ASHCROFT Arts Centre will not be closing, although there will be changes.

Residents were concerned that financial problems might result in the loss of one of the top performing arts venues in the south.

County Councillor John Bryant met officers to discuss the problems and was assured that it would remain open.

Welcoming the news, he said: "It has been a very popular venue for a great variety of activities and has a character of its own, which is why so many people have become attached to it over the years."

Historical note: It originally opened in 1979 as Fareham and Gosport Drama Centre in the former infants'



school.

It was renamed Ashcroft Arts Centre by celebrated British actress Dame Peggy Ashcroft in September 1989. Dame Peggy was acclaimed for her performances on stage and in such films as *A Passage to India*.

FAREHAM EAST 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 councillors.

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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

WE SEEM to spend a lot of time talking about house prices. Property programmes on TV are very popular. Statistics on house prices are closely scrutinised. Houses have a big impact upon our finances too!

In our community, young people face a double challenge: not only is the cost of moving high, but increasing house prices and recent increases in interest rates push mortgage payments up. Because I believe as many people as possible should be able to have the chance to own their own home, I think it is right to help especially those people who are buying their own home for the first time. That's why we announced our plan to scrap stamp duty for first time buyers. This will save up to £2,500 depending on the size of a property and provide a welcome boost for young people in our community. This will give first time buyers the chance to step on to the housing ladder.

Whilst rising house prices have made it harder for people to buy their first home, it means that more and more people are pushed into the inheritance tax net too.

Originally, inheritance taxes were meant to be a tax on the wealthy. Yet increasingly, people living in normal family homes are being caught by it through no fault of their own. Since 2000, the amount of money collected through inheritance tax has gone up by 70%. I don't think inheritance tax should penalise people who have done the right thing by buying a home of their own and putting a little bit away for a rainy day. That's why we will raise the inheritance tax threshold so now only millionaires pay the tax. Our message is that we will back those people who do the right thing, so that their children don't end up paying a big tax bill.

The Conservative Party has always backed those who want to get on in life and scrapping stamp duty for most first time buyers and lifting the inheritance tax thresholds rewards those who have aspirations for themselves and their families.

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The Fareham 'feel-good' factor reaches record high

IT'S A GREAT place to live, say an overwhelming majority of Fareham people.

Under the Conservative administration not only can you expect to live longer in the borough, but also enjoy cleaner streets and a low crime rate.

The town's feel-good factors were acclaimed in the 2007 Residents' Survey in which people were asked how satisfied they were, taking everything into account, that Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

The survey was mailed to 4,000 households selected at random.

There were 928 responses returned and the data has been entered into the Council's management information system and analysed.

A staggering 95% (94% in 2006) were satisfied or fairly satisfied and 89% said they were very or fairly satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs the borough and provides services - the same figure as last year. Findings from other parts of the survey also showed high satisfaction levels:

- Shopping** – 80% happy with general facilities, 87% with the town centre.
- Environment** – 90% satisfaction.
- Refuse** – 69% chose fortnightly collections, rather than pay more council tax for weekly collections.
- Crime** – 98% feel safe in their neighbourhoods in daytime, 72% after dark (up 5%).
- Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the way they were dealt with.



Coast: Fareham has miles of coastline and the creek provides a safe haven for yachtsmen to drop anchor.

However, there are still improvements that residents want to see, with traffic congestion and street repairs topping the list.

But these are the responsibility of the County Council and Fareham's Executive promised to work with the Highway Authority on these issues.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted both at the good response and the confirmation that the priorities the Council is pursuing are also those of our residents."

"We are currently reviewing all our community facilities and activities for teenagers are an important strand of that review.

"We continue to work with the police and community safety officers to reduce the low level crime and anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas."

Fareham tops Hampshire recycling league

FAREHAM is top of the league in Hampshire for recycling which is now running at 46% and well on the road towards the next Government target of 50% in 2010.

Latest figures show an increase of 24% since alternate bin collections were introduced in 2005.

A review of the glass recycling service is being undertaken and it is unlikely that a kerbside collection service will be provided, but there will be significantly more, conveniently sited 'bring banks'.

Most residents are now maximising use of the blue-top bin and using the green waste collection service.

A Government grant has

been received to provide an advisory service on all aspects of recycling and to help reduce contamination in the recycling bins.

Fareham is the only council not to make an extra charge for collecting green waste although from October there will be a charge of £5 for replacement sacks.

The possibility of providing a replacement sack service for community centres etc at a nominal charge is being examined. Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and about £1 for each emptying.

The Council, with about 40,000 eligible homes, has issued over 140,000 green sacks over the past 18

months. Each household can have up to 3 sacks emptied.

The Council is saving no money and any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste collection service and the trial schemes.

All Fareham's residual waste is incinerated; none goes to landfill. The incinerator produces enough energy to heat/light 30,000 homes.

Available to you – 1 x 240 litre green top bin (for those with a 140 litre), 2 x 240 litre blue top bins (for recycling) and up to 3 green sacks.

Residents with specific problems can phone 01329 824387 or 824389 for advice.

In Touch is published by Fareham East Conservatives, 2A Drift Road, Wallington, Fareham PO16 8SY and printed by Chameleon Print, Unit 3, Palmerston Business Park, Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1DJ.