



# In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM EAST – AUTUMN 2009

## Prosecutions follow zero tolerance enviro-crime enforcement

**ZERO** tolerance towards those who litter and allow dogs to foul Fareham's streets is paying off.

During 2008-09, Enforcement Team patrols issued 51 fixed penalty notices for littering, two of which ended in court after the culprits didn't pay up.

They probably wished they had as the court appearance cost them a lot more – a £50 fine, £70 costs and £15 for victim support.

In the same period, 92 cases of fly tipping were investigated, resulting in four successful prosecutions, punishments ranging from community service to fines and compensation.

Six more cases are currently being pursued.

The team also succeeded in prosecuting a youth responsible for graffiti in a churchyard.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said the team, introduced in 2004 to patrol the Borough to enforce legislation on a wide range of enviro-crimes, worked closely with community safety officers and police community support officers to provide an effective uniformed service.

Officers also deal with abandoned vehicles and unauthorised travellers' camps.

# Planning dictators' days are numbered, pledges top Tory

**FAR-REACHING** legislation proposed by the next Conservative Government to put the 'local' aspect back into planning has stalled the huge 10,000 homes development in Fareham.

Labour dictated that under the South East Plan the Borough must earmark a Strategic Development Area (SDA) north of the M27 and build the houses by 2026.

But all this will be put on hold, thanks to a letter to councils from Conservative Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Caroline Spelman.

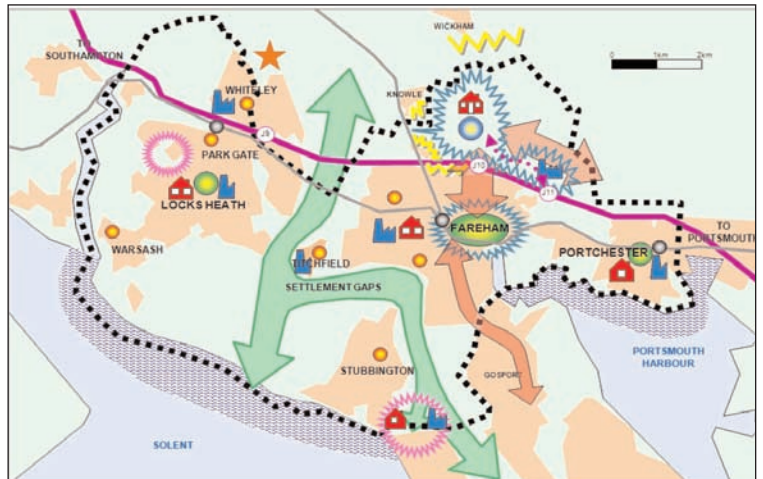
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

She stated: "A Conservative Government will abolish the bureaucratic and undemocratic tier of regional planning. This will include the abolition of the regional spatial strategies and the regional planning bodies."

Planning dictates from Whitehall civil servants, with no local knowledge or inkling of public opinion, would be replaced to make the process far more 'bottom up'.

Even better, Caroline Spelman said councils would be able to undo some unwanted planning policies forced on them by Labour.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, said the core strategy, which is key to the Local Development Framework, was to be published in October, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January and subjected to a public



**Shape of things to come?** The key diagram for Fareham's local development framework, but changes could lie ahead after the election.

hearing in May to decide whether it conformed to the SE Plan.

He said: "Fareham decided that if the development was to become a sustainable community that was pleasant to live in, the number of dwellings had to be much lower."

Under the system introduced by Labour, the inspector could find the plan unsound, forcing Fareham to waste most of the money spent producing its Core Strategy and start again; or worse, tell the Council it had to cram 10,000 flats and houses into the SDA, however undesirable.

"Currently, whatever an inspector decides becomes the plan and the local authority cannot change it.

"Labour used to say it would bring democracy nearer to local people. This is an example of what they meant – 'top down' planning with an iron fist."

Caroline Spelman's letter made councils who belong to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) take notice.

"They may now be unlikely to commit to taking on additional housing to make up for a shortfall in Fareham's SDA, with the possibility that the problem will disappear after the election.

"There is a strong possibility many councils currently preparing plans will delay the process until after May when, if the Conservatives win power, local planning will truly become local."

County Councillor Ray Ellis said: "For years people felt they had no real say in planning policy.

"If a Conservative Government is elected then that will change.

"They will be able to vote in local elections for councillors who will decide on local planning policies."

## ..and plans to revive a 18th Century tax will go out of the window

**SCHEMING** Labour plans to tax you for the view from your window won't last long under a Tory government.

Caroline Spelman, who recently

exposed the tax, said her party would repeal any legislation.

Historically, it smacks of the 1766 House and Windows Duties Act, which taxed a house by the num-

ber of its windows and led to owners bricking up where possible.

But Labour would not stop there. If you have a patio, pond, pool, summer house, you're a target.

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**For your diary**

Saturday, November 7: Desmond Swayne MP speaking at a dinner, Lysses Hotel, High Street, Fareham. Tickets £22.50 each.

Sunday, November 29: Christmas Fair 10am-2.30pm supporting local shops and traders at Titchfield Community Centre.

If you are a local business interested in exhibiting please contact FCA office on 01329 822646 or conservatives@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

£3 entry includes mulled wine and mince pies.

Friday, March 12 2010: Chris Grayling, Shadow Home Secretary, supper at Victory Hall, Warsash, £12.50 per head.

**Thanks**

Ray Ellis and John Bryant wish to thank voters in Fareham East who returned them to Winchester in the June County Council elections with big majorities.

The County Council now comprises Conservatives 51, Lib Dems 25, Labour 1, others 1.

**Troubled waters**

Most Hampshire rivers are likely to fail EU rules on water conditions.

New standards have to be met by 2015.

The flow of Wallington river has been examined by Tony Norris and silting up is occurring, so he has written to the Environment Agency requesting that action be taken.

**Badgers threat fails to halt £20m high speed bus link**

**WORK is back on track to build the high-speed bus link between Fareham and Gosport.**

Hampshire County Council won a legal battle after an anonymous 57-year-old woman challenged the scheme and called for a judicial review, saying she feared for wildlife.



**Flashback:** Preliminary work to clear the overgrown rail track started at the beginning of the year.

Permission was given to continue work on rail removal in preparation for the £20m high-speed bus link along the course of the former railway line.

A variation of the court injunction to cease work on the rail removal prior to the judicial review set for October 14-15 will allow work to continue, provided the badger setts near the track are not disturbed.

County Councillor Ray Ellis says the County Council is also allowed to monitor and maintain existing badger setts, relocate reptiles and erect temporary reptile fencing.

HCC is vigorously contesting the judicial review and is convinced the scheme will bring much needed social, economic and environmental benefits to residents.

The public exhibition that was scheduled for September has been postponed until the results of the judicial review are known.

**Your passport to county's top attractions**

**YOUR family can have one year's unlimited entry to several top Hampshire attractions for £60.**

Culture-all passports will cover Milestone Museum, Manor Farm Country Park, Staunton Country Park, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Bursledon Windmill,

Rockbourne Roman Villa, Aldershot Military Museum, Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve, Victoria Country Park and Basing House.

It also includes unlimited free car parking at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Lepe Country Park, Victoria Park and Calshot

Activities Centre.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said the County Council wanted to encourage residents to experience the wide range of activities available in Hampshire.

Information about the passport is available on the website at [hants.gov.uk/culture-all](http://hants.gov.uk/culture-all).

**A load of responsibilities rest on his shoulders**

**AFTER his re-election to the County Council, Fareham Town Councillor Ray Ellis has been assigned several main responsibilities:**

He is one of nine cabinet members and has the Rural Affairs and Human Resources Portfolio.

He is vice-chairman of the

Employment in Hampshire CC Committee, the Efficiency Panel and the River Hamble Management Committee.

He is a member of the Economic Development Board, Buildings Land and Procurement Panel and Members' Allowances Panel.

**How parents can claim free school lunches**

**PARENTS can complete a form of basic information and return it to the County Council's catering service via the school to claim free school meals.**

The catering service can easily check whether parents are eligible via a national system called 'the hub'.

It ensures that pupils who are eligible receive their free meals faster, and reduces the administrative burden on schools.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said the most important thing about the meals was pupils' acceptability of taste.

"We are always seeking to hear your views on provision of menus," he said.

The web site where parents and pupils can rate the meals and comment is [www.myschoollunch.co.uk/hampshire/parents/menu-vote](http://www.myschoollunch.co.uk/hampshire/parents/menu-vote).

**Ray has £10k for good causes BIDS for a slice of his £10,000 individual grant budget are invited by Ray Ellis.**

Application forms, details and limitations are available on line or by post from Members' Secretariat at The Castle, Winchester.

A grant of £600 has already been awarded to Club Hampshire to provide lunches for Fareham residents needing support.

**Hampshire 'Garden Force' is now available for over 60s**

**A NEW gardening support service is available for residents aged 60 or over – thanks to Hampshire County Council's well-being strategy.**

County Councillor Ray Ellis said a consultation of Hampshire residents showed

this was a top concern.

The service will be provided by the Shaw Trust, which has more than 20 years' experience in horticulture and will provide up to six visits per year.

A basic service will be provided at a reduced cost to those

who receive a means-tested benefit and at a standard rate to others.

For more details on prices and how the service operates contact the Shaw Trust 0845 604 4643 or email to: [grounds.maintenance@shawtrust.org](mailto:grounds.maintenance@shawtrust.org).

## Praise for 'greenest fingers' in East Ward

**WINNERS** from East Ward in the Fareham in Bloom competition have been congratulated by Branch chairman Keith Barton.

Carol Blackman - gold & overall winner; Lynn Cowdery - gold; Frank Burtenshaw - gold; Sean Dynes - gold; Charlie & Joan Knight - 2 silver gills, 1 silver & 1 bronze; S Gill - silver gilt; Mrs I D Smith - silver; K A Elliott - 2 silvers; Mrs Pauline Cushman - 2 silvers & 1 bronze; Mrs M Blake - 2 silvers; Jonathan Bennett - silver; J A Carpenter - silver gilt; J Westbrook - silver & silver gilt; Terri Booker - silver; Bill Twist - bronze; Nigel & Mary Messenger - silver gilt; R Bailey - silver; Cams Garden Club - silver gilt; Acacia Lodge - silver; Fareham Day Service - bronze; Northwood House Residents' Garden Club - bronze; United Reformed Church - bronze.

## Avoid 'cowboys'

**BEWARE** the 'cowboys' who will try to trick you of your hard-earned cash.

Look for a reputable tradesman and if you do not know one, use the Buy with Confidence website: [www.buywithconfidence.info](http://www.buywithconfidence.info) or ring 0845 603 0081.

## County Council cabinet members turn down allowance increase

COUNTY Council cabinet members unanimously rejected the allowance increase recommended by the

Independent Review Panel.

Cabinet member Ray Ellis said: "Although the allowances are

lower than most other comparable local authorities, it would be quite inappropriate to accept an increase

when so many people are suffering redundancies, unemployment and pay constraints."

## Work starts on Lorraine's legacy for town's disabled

A FAREHAM woman, who championed a path around the creek for the disabled but did not live to see it, was remembered when work on Phases 1 and 2 began this month.

At least Lorraine Herrington, who made an outstanding contribution to the cause of disabled access across South Hampshire, died last December knowing her efforts to fund the path had been rewarded.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said officers had approved an all-weather test strip so work to improve the path for wheelchair users could proceed.

It will extend just over a mile of the 1.5 miles scheduled to be improved and the path will be closed during the period of work.

It runs alongside Fareham Creek and is the only naturally attractive part of the harbour that remains unspoilt.

It will have stopping places with

interpretation panels, which will feature the natural and naval heritage visible in the estuary.

Lorraine's efforts won a £25,000 grant from Veolia Environmental Trust and a Fareham Council grant.

Since then, a second grant was received to enable the £120,000 Phases 1 and 2 to proceed.

Ray Ellis allocated £3,000 from his community budget for the panels.



**Lorraine's path:** At the start of the new access are (l to r) Ray Ellis, Russell Cleaver (HCC funding development manager), Alan Brind (wheelchair), Richard Herrington and Liz Giles.



**Champion:** Lorraine, husband Richard and a friend on one of the walks she enjoyed.

## Volunteers can help to win the ward, says Keith

**BRANCH** chairman Keith Barton, who nearly topped the Lib Dem Mayor in 2008, is appealing for volunteers to help win the seat in next year's Borough Council elections.

"In Touch is one of the ways voters are kept right up to date with what their

Conservative councillors are doing at Borough and County levels, so I'm appealing for volunteers to help deliver them across the ward.

"Just 80 votes made the difference last time. We can overturn that majority with your help."

## 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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**Your man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

You have to make difficult decisions in your life, which require a sacrifice today to achieve a better tomorrow. Do you go to college to get more qualifications or straight into work; or sacrifice nights out to repay debt or save for a deposit?

We announced tough decisions on spending at our Party Conference this month to secure our future. Soaring borrowing by Gordon Brown means we spend more on interest on Government debt than on schools or our armed forces. If this continues, we will put the economy at risk, so we must make difficult decisions today for a better tomorrow.

Everyone must do something because we are in this together; freezing public sector pay helps protect up to 100,000 frontline jobs; and deferring the retirement age secures the restoration of the link between state pensions and earnings.

Government debt arises from spending and borrowing too much. Government does too much. Take the case of the two police officers wanting to share child-care, where rules prevented them doing the right thing for their children.

David Cameron spoke very powerfully about enabling us to achieve our full potential. He wants government to support those who need it, but to get the state to step back so that families and communities can do the right thing.

It means scrapping targets that hold back doctors from giving us the care that we need, but making sure that those on low incomes who want to work aren't losing 96p of every £1 they earn to the tax man. If we get through the difficult times ahead, we have a bright future. Only leadership and determination will get us on the right track.

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# Fareham's flower power brings national competition invitation

**NOW Fareham is up with the big boys. Next year, it's Britain in Bloom for the six times top award winners.**

The Borough's fantastic winning streak in the South and South East In Bloom competition resulted in an invitation to take part in the prestigious national contest in 2010.

"Naturally I said yes," said delighted Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward.

Britain in Bloom, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, is one of the largest events of its kind in Europe.

Back to this year's competition. As overall winners for the sixth year running of the Large Town/Small City category, it was the first of four gold medals on the day. And more successes followed.

The sensory garden won gold in the Best Small Park category, Holly Hill Woodland Park collected a gold as winner of the Best Countryside Park and the pupils at Northern Junior School, Portchester again took gold as winners of the Schools' Category.

And just to gild the lily, Fareham's Tourist Information Centre won a new award presented by Tourism Southeast to reflect how well parks and visitor activities are promoted.

Congratulating the winners at the awards ceremony in Brighton, Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley hailed it as a spectacular success, much of it due to the tireless work of volunteers and parks staff.

She said only 15% of marks went to floral displays, the rest came from community



**Winners:** Heather Othen (left) receives the outstanding contribution award from Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins, who is pictured (right) with Connie Hockley after presenting ranger Mark Trigwell with the gold award for best countryside park.

involvement and the Council's environmental work.

She praised Mrs Heather Othen for winning an outstanding achievement award. "Like all our volunteers, Heather works with dedication and passion to help ensure Fareham's entry into In Bloom scores top marks."

This was echoed at Ferneham Hall on September 8 where sponsors, competitors and residents met to celebrate the end of the 14th Fareham In Bloom year, which again showed a record number of entries.

Connie Hockley said it was the largest community activity in the voluntary sector and the gardening competition was the culmination of months of hard work by everybody involved.

"If you are a keen gardener and are not involved in our 'In Bloom' competition, then think about entering in 2010."

Thanking those who ensured In Bloom worked so well, she added: "It is hard work, but it is fun too, so if you feel like becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with me."

•See P3 for list of East Ward winners.

## Chance for deaf to try new technology

**A DEAFPLUS bus will be trialled in Fareham town centre from November 30.**

It comes at the request of Council Leader Seán Woodward and will contain equipment demonstrating aids for deaf people.

The charity DeafPlus has a contract with the County Council for its early intervention service, which provides



120 half-hour sessions a year across Hampshire.

The free service gives the deaf the chance to try the latest technology.

## Work on Fareham's community hospital progressing fast

**FAREHAM'S community hospital at Coldeast is taking shape fast.**

Exterior masonry work, the fascia and most of the cladding are finished and windows installed.

Councillor Leslie Keeble said the first fix of mechanical and electrical work was well under way and installation of soft flooring and internal decorating had begun.

"Exterior landscaping and

## A matter of degree

**THE dangerously overloaded bin shown here would not be collected.**

But Councillor Keith Evans firmly denied that the Council operated a closed-lid policy.

"We apply common sense, so in practice a bin will be collected even with the lid open to 40 degrees," he said.



formation of the bell-mouth to Brook Lane should start soon," he said.

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