

## Tory leader tackles the Premier over development

FAREHAM Council's Conservative Leader Seán Woodward seized the chance to demand proper infrastructure when he met the Prime Minister.

The occasion was the recent signing of three new Multi-Area Agreements (MAA) at 10 Downing Street.

Elected members and officers from the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) attended the event, which was witnessed by Gordon Brown and ministers.



Seán Woodward (right) and County Council Leader Ken Thornber at 10 Downing Street.

As chairman of PUSH, Councillor Woodward said MAAs gave opportunity for groups of councillors to secure Government support and investment for their areas, working across boundaries to tackle economic issues.

He said: "As the only MAA area in the South East, it was important to attend the signing and to talk to the Prime Minister and senior officials

"It gave us opportunity to reiterate the need for infrastructure investment and Government support for South Hampshire."

## No excuse for lack of infrastructure before building starts

# 'Get it right now' is message to Government ahead of new town

A NEW town that the Government has ordered Fareham to build west of the A32 must be properly planned.

The Borough Council and neighbouring authorities are adamant the vision is not blurred by the absence of the infrastructure before the building of up to 10,000 homes starts.

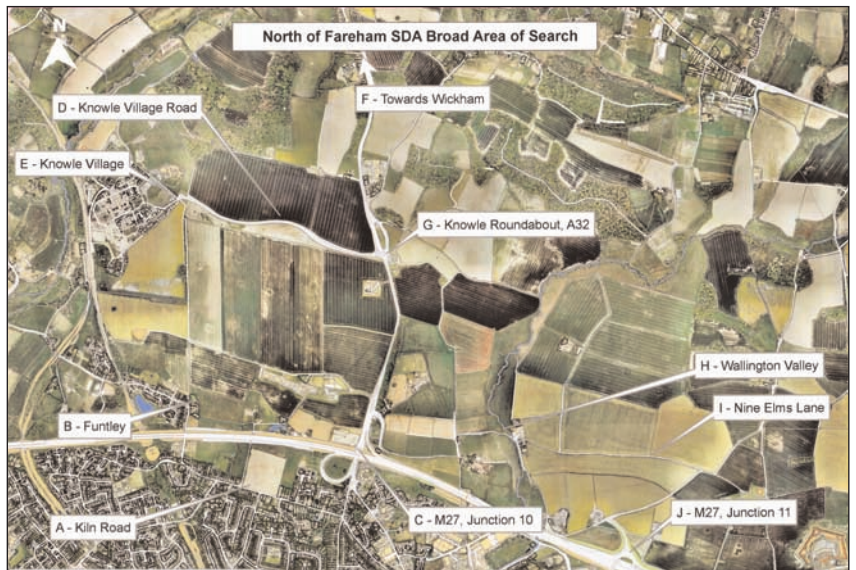
"We have to get the vision right because we want this place to be somewhere we can be proud of," said Councillor David Swanbrow, chairman of the newly-formed Strategic Development Steering Group.

The new town, whose exact location has yet to be decided, must be built as part of the South East Plan. It could house up to 25,000 people.

Building should begin around 2016 and will take at least 10 years to complete, but this schedule could be disrupted or diluted by the recession.

Nevertheless, the planning process has already started and councillors, led by Councillor Swanbrow as Fareham's Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, have been working for some time to produce the Local Development Framework that will replace the Borough Local Plan Review.

He said: "Developing a completely new settlement, however,



**Vanishing countryside:** This aerial view of green fields and farmland will be changed for ever when development starts on a new town north of the M27.

needs thoughts and ideas from a broad range of people and organisations from outside the council and perhaps the most important thing to get right early on in the planning process is a vision of what sort of a place it should be."

To that end, the Borough Council ran the first of several visioning events at Ferneham Hall at the end of March.

About 50 participants attended, representing organisations from Fareham and neighbouring districts, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and other government bodies.

Councillor Swanbrow said: "Some very strong messages

came out of this first workshop, including the need for infrastructure to be in place early with good public transport links to Fareham and Portsmouth and beyond.

"It should also be a place that feels safe and comfortable to live in and have a varied mix of housing, plenty of green space and good employment facilities."

Unlike the Western Wards, where infrastructure had to be added piecemeal to what already existed, the new town site is undeveloped countryside.

He added: "The Government promised the infrastructure, so there's no excuse for it not being there before the development starts."

## Too many heavy sacks result in changes to green waste collections

**CHANGES to the green waste collection were necessary for Health and Safety reasons.**

Fareham Council had to employ more staff to

reduce the amount each worker had to carry.

The Council is saving no money; any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste col-

lection service and trial schemes.

It is not a statutory service and Fareham is the only council providing the collection of one green

sack as an extra free service.

Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and up to £1 for each emptying.



# WARD NEWS BRIEFS

## Make parents pay

The 13-year-old girl, who set fire to Henry Cort School causing serious damage, disruption to classes and waste of school money on repairs, was only sentenced to a supervision order by the court.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said: "Should not parents be held more responsible for this type of behaviour by their children, and make a contribution to the repair of the school?"

## Conservation grants

Local conservation is being encouraged by the County Council.

A grant of £18,000 has been made to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to enable them to continue working on local projects.

Marwell Zoo, a favourite for visits, has been granted £41,000 for education conservation work.

The Wild Life and Butterfly Conservation Trusts received a total of £12,500, for conservation improvements of nature reserves and butterfly sites.

## Countryside plans

The County Council has published Rights of Way Improvement and Countryside Access Plans, showing 4,500km of footpaths and bridleways for people to explore.

On March 31, Government announced the formation of the South Downs National Park, which includes East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

# Tory values make Hampshire Britain's top county council



**Cabinet who's who:** Back row (l to r): David Kirk (Lead for Children's Services-Education); Mel Kendal (Executive Member Environment); Jonathan Glen (Skills, Economic Development & Human Resources); Ray Ellis (Executive Member Efficiency, Performance and Rural Policy). Seated (l to r): Felicity Hindson (Adult Social Care); Margaret Snaith (Recreation, Heritage and Communities); Ken Thornber (Leader, Executive Member Policy & Resources); Roy Perry (Deputy Leader, Executive Member for External Affairs); Patricia Banks (Executive Member for Children's Care).

## THERE'S MORE good news for Hampshire's council taxpayers.

Following the Conservative-run council's minimal 1.9% increase for the next two years, the County Council has been awarded the maximum score possible for the quality of its services and its value for money

The Audit Commission delivered its official verdict – Hampshire is now the top-performing county council in the country.

It's the 7th successive year that HCC has been given 4-star rating.

County Councillor Ray Ellis, Executive Member for Performance and Efficiency, said:

"This result, taken with scores for all the individual component parts (corporate assessment 4; children and young people 3; adult social care 3; culture 4 environment 4; value for money 4; and use of resources 4), is the best of any

county council in England.

"The Cabinet, members, officers and staff are to be congratulated on this excellent performance."

The assessment was supported by the Best Value Survey of People Satisfaction carried out by the Local Government Association.

It shows overall satisfaction with HCC to be 54% compared with 50% for all county councils.

HCC was also above the average for service delivery, with 59% satisfaction. In terms of perceived value for money, it was again ahead of other county councils 46% (42%).

Ray Ellis added: "Although these results are encouraging compared with other counties, there is clearly still work to be done to increase our service delivery outcomes to yet higher levels, to obtain better value for money and increase customer satisfaction."

## Tories aim to stay ahead in performance table

### A REVIEW has been carried out by Hampshire County Council to obtain even better value for taxpayers' money.

It examined how central functions can be better organised to make them more efficient and release more resources for front line services.

"The aim is to make significant savings to keep local taxes down.

"It is anticipated to save about £10m over three years, but it is not only

about saving money, it is to make the service you receive better and more efficient," said County Councillor Ray Ellis.

The review comes at a time when HCC faces increasing financial pressures and greater expectations from the public to maintain the best county services in the country.

"The aim must be to deliver higher performance at lower cost to the taxpayer and to be more efficient in our approach.

"We have done this despite having the lowest Government grants per head of population in the country."

The grant per head in Hampshire is £111; the national average is £526, with the highest at £800.

The average 2009-10 Band D council tax precept for all councils in England run by the three main parties shows:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Conservative | £1,144 |
| Labour       | £1,161 |
| LibDem       | £1,231 |

## Contracts, grants will come under far tighter scrutiny

### COUNTY Cabinet has pledged to improve relationships with voluntary sector partners, but at the same time get better value for taxpayers' money.

In 2007-8, the County Council awarded contracts and grants totalling £92.2m, the largest proportion in contracts to maintain roads and other services not directly performed by HCC.

There are also grants to a wide range of community groups, such as citizens' advice bureaux, Community Action, Dial-a-ride, Homestart, foster carers; art centres and museums.

Ray Ellis, Cabinet Member for Performance and Efficiency, said: "It is time for tighter scrutiny and monitoring of grants which must be more related to the delivered service for taxpayers.

"We must do far more to deal with the identified issues and ensure that future grants awarded are only to previous good performing partners. Routine automatic re-awarding of grants without proper evaluation of outcomes must not occur.

"There is a need to increase mutual trust and respect, roles need to be more clearly defined and accountability to be increased."

All large contracts are awarded after competitive tendering and grants above £15,000 are subjected to best value review.

The Policy and Resources Select Committee will scrutinise value for money of the £92.2m.



Old directory formula is yellow plus blue equals green...



**OLD EDITIONS of Yellow Pages telephone directory can now be recycled in the blue top kerbside bins and paper banks.**

Previously, there were several reasons why the directory could not be recycled, but Project Integra has resolved these issues

Executive Member for Streetscene Councillor Brian Bayford said:

"This is excellent news.

"It has always seemed such a shame to have to throw out the old Yellow Pages when the new copy has been delivered, now it can be recycled and putting it in your blue top bin couldn't be easier.

"It will also help to contribute towards the government's tight target for 50% of all household waste to be recycled by 2010."

## It's been a hard day's night for Ray securing the best deal for Fareham

**"IT'S NOT only about attending council and committee meetings, which use only a small fraction of my time."**

But it is a full-time job for Ray Ellis, one of Fareham Town Division's two Conservative county councillors.

He leaves home at 7am and is lucky if he's back home by 6pm. And there are often evening functions to attend.

Ray Ellis insists his main task is to ensure the council delivers high quality services with maximum efficiency and lowest cost to taxpayers.

As a Cabinet member, he participates in the collective political management of HCC strategy, but with specific executive responsibility for Performance, Efficiency and Rural Policy.

He said: "HCC delivers a wide range of services from pre-school provision and schooling to care of the elderly, protection of children from abuse, maintaining and lighting roads, pavements and footpaths, waste disposal facilities, recreation for all age groups and jointly with the police in preventing crime.

"However, my first duty is to make sure that the needs of the Fareham Town population are provided for."

For example, he arranged for road crossings to be installed at the Delme Roundabout, for footpaths and road repairs and efficient street lighting.

At an individual level, Ray has been responsible for the speedy issue of disabled vehicle badges, provision of sufficient incontinence pads to elderly

people and giving grants to deserving activities in Fareham such as the Citizens' Advisory Bureau, school parent associations, access groups and the Scouts to name but a few.

"More generally, I try to ensure that Fareham receives an adequate share of County money for improvements to the place where we live for all age groups, but especially for young families and the elderly."

He works with the HCC officers to ensure positive outcomes, which means making site visits to assess the issues at first hand and co-operating with the Borough Council, Network Fareham and voluntary organisations to obtain maximum benefit.

"I have chaired the Action Team for Fareham and Gosport, which deals with the wider issues, such as transport routes to the Gosport peninsula, health facility and school provision.

"At County level it is necessary to serve as a representative on regional and national bodies to obtain maximum funding and support for Hampshire and to maintain contact with 11 district councils and numerous voluntary organisations.

"Government regulations and bureaucracy are forever changing and it involves a great deal of reading and attendance at seminars to keep up to speed on the latest reports and decrees.

He added: "A councillor needs to work very hard to do the job effectively and obtain desirable and sustainable outcomes for the electorate."

You'll soon have to think up another EXCUSE

**HAMPSHIRE County Council is working with bus companies to help make 'sorry the bus was late' less than a feeble excuse.**

The Transport Plan (2006-2022) had a target to have 90% of bus services arriving on time by 2011.

It has developed partnerships with bus companies to improve services through increased frequency and higher specification buses.

Bus punctuality partnerships have been set up to tackle the causes of delay and are focusing on traffic management and resources.

Borough councils are addressing parking enforcement to clear bus routes and to reduce traffic hold ups.

Better bus shelters are also being provided.

Employers are being encouraged to develop work place travel plans.

## Litter louts warned: Even a fag end can cost you a hefty fine

**TWO NEW mobile signs have been produced warning of 'litter hot spots'.**

They will be displayed in targeted areas where there is a persistent problem to remind the public it is an offence to drop litter.

Anyone over 16 caught dropping litter in Fareham, including cigarette ends and chewing gum, can be given a £75 fixed notice penalty.

Refusal to pay will result in prosecution and a fine up to £2,500.

The enforcement team operates

across the borough and responds to tip-offs and complaints.

County Councillor John Bryant said: "Educating people about the offence of dropping litter and possible fining is an important part of the process."

## 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

I am very proud of the young people in Fareham. Too often, young people get a bad press because of the actions of a tiny minority at the expense of the tremendous contribution that the majority makes to the wider community.

It creates a barrier between the generations. We need to redress the balance and emphasise the positive.

I am lucky that I get to see so much of what our young people are able to do. In the last few weeks, groups from Orchard Lea Junior School, Neville Lovett and Henry Cort have been to Westminster and I was struck by the range of questions they asked, demonstrating a keen interest in their community, nation and the wider world.

A few weeks ago I listened to young people at Portchester Community School set out their ideas on how we can improve facilities for them.

Their ideas were well thought through and demonstrated an understanding of conflicting pressures that councils face when allocating resources. What they said and did ran counter to the media stereotypes. Stereotypes dog every generation and group and where there are tensions between different groups these can be self-reinforcing.

We are too ready to be critical and we should be more willing to listen and recognise the qualities and talents of our young people. The only way to bridge the gap between the generations is to accept that the good outweighs the bad.

Young and old need to value each other more, and understanding each other's contribution to the community is a good starting point.

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## Valuable work praised at opening of new Community Action offices

**COMMUNITY Action Fareham has moved into new offices opposite Trinity Church at 163 West Street.**

The independent charity supports voluntary organisations and provides a Home Help scheme and Advocacy project for people with mental health issues.

Other services include community transport and Dial A Ride for the elderly.

Shophmobility is also run by Community Action, giving disabled people access to town centre shops.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward officially handed over the keys on March 31 to the Chairman of Community Action

Fareham, George Ringrow, at the new building where a plaque was revealed as a tribute to the special occasion.

Councillor Woodward said: "It was an honour and a pleasure to hand over the keys to this valuable organisation.

"These brand new offices, will offer Community Action Fareham further support to continue their important work within the Borough".

The Council invested £528,000 to provide the specially designed offices in a prominent position in the town centre, which are a big



**Fresh start:** Seán Woodward (left) and George Ringrow outside the new offices.

improvement on the former dilapidated premises in Osborn Road South.

## Foiling the Borough's midnight rubbish tippers

**THEY sneak down the lanes after dark to dump their rubbish in the woods.**

It saves them the fee for legally disposing of industrial waste at a council tip.

The culprits are often rogue builders who add to their profits by billing their unsuspecting clients.

They have made countryside around Sarisbury a disgrace.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "As fast as the Council and landowners clear the fly tipping, more vehicles arrive under cover of darkness to dump more waste."

But it won't be



happening in future. The Council has made a prohibition order which will prevent vehicles enter-

ing the footpath and bridleway network from Sarisbury Green (Glen Road and behind the

### He thought he'd got away with it

Fly-tipper Ivor James (45) suffered a double whammy when he dumped his rubbish in Glen Road.

Fareham Council officers were delighted to find his name and address on mail in one of the bags. James denied involvement.

But he couldn't wriggle out of evidence from a public spirited resident who caught him in the act on camera and noted his vehicle registration number.

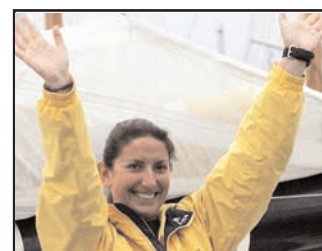
James, of Addison Road, Sarisbury admitted the offence and was sentenced to 100 hours' community service by the town's magistrates and ordered to pay the Council £645.76.

shops), Oslands Lane and Glen Road, Swanwick.

Signs and physical barriers will be in place, including lockable bollards for which keys will only be issued by Hampshire County Council to people with right of access.

Councillor Woodward added: "The order combined with the bollards will prevent this filthy practice. I'm hopeful the problem will be eliminated.

"Traders who charge people to remove this waste will now have to pay to dump it at the tip rather than on other people's property."



## Fareham honour for Dee's daring deeds

**DEE CAFFARI, first woman to sail solo non-stop around the globe in both directions, will be presented with the Citizens of Honour Special Achievement badge by the Mayor Ernest Crouch at a special tea in the Mayor's Parlour on May 5.**

*In Touch* is published by Fareham N & NW Conservatives, 14 Highlands Road, Fareham PO16 7XL and printed by Bishops Printers Limited, Fitzherbert Road, Farlington, Portsmouth PO6 1RU.