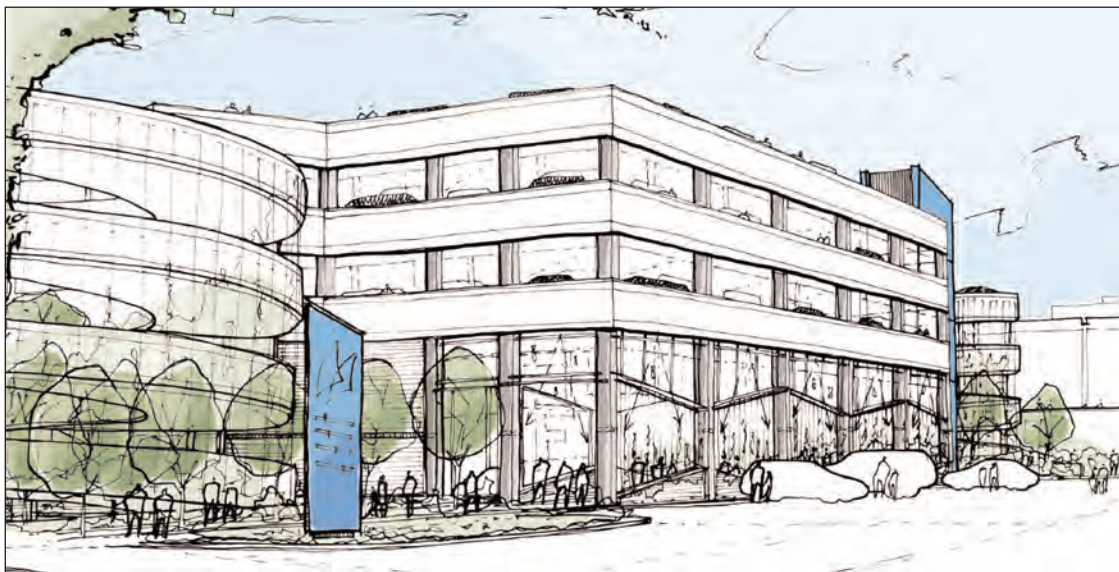


Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



New look: An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor John Bryant said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is a useful addition to the town centre."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Fareham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

More M27 lanes

Climbing lanes of 1.7km (1 mile) have been approved by the Transport Minister for the M27 between Junctions 11 and 12.

It is anticipated that the construction work will begin in early 2008 and be open to traffic by the end of 2008.

Heating grant

A grant of £3,200 has been made by the County Council to Wallington Village Community Association towards the purchase of a wall mounted heating and cooling unit in the Village Hall.

Road safety

Safer right turns will be introduced from the A27 into Beaulieu Avenue and The Thicket and safer cycle routes will be extended to the Portsmouth boundary.

There have been 46 accidents – five serious – on this stretch east of Delme roundabout over the past three years.

Broadcut crossing

The possibility of a pedestrian crossing at this location is still under investigation.

A study by traffic engineers has indicated that the siting of a light controlled or pelican crossing would be difficult due to the roundabout and safety considerations.

Further work is being carried out to assess the feasibility of a refuge island.

The County Council does not own the land for this to be built but it is hoped the Borough Council will provide the small area required.

Villagers demand end to haphazard parking like this



Dangerous: Cars parked in Wallington Shore Road force vehicles into the path of on-coming traffic, but other parts of the village are just as bad.

INDISCRIMINATE parking is causing widespread concern in Wallington and villagers are being asked for their views in a survey.

Fareham East Conservatives chairman Keith Barton said it was one of the main issues in the area

"We have known for some time this was an increasing concern, and we are trying to get around to all of you quickly to gather the results in time to be included in the Fareham

Borough Council Parking Strategy Document which is due out after September.

"There are a few cost effective options which might improve the situation. For instance, a residents' parking scheme or single yellow lines with waiting restrictions.

"There may not be a perfect solution for all areas, but perhaps with as much feedback as possible we can come up with some ideas to alleviate the problem," he said.

Some villagers blame

the cost of car parks, but if free on-road parking is available many drivers will not go into a car park however cheap it is.

The only answer would be to make some car parks free which would leave the Council with a funding gap for maintenance and security, pushing up charges elsewhere, which would be unfair on others.

Ways are being investigated to make some car parks more affordable, including issuing monthly rather than annual passes.

Yet another bid to ease A32 traffic flow

REJECTION by the Government of the Light Rapid Transport system to link Fareham and Gosport with Portsmouth, has made improvements to traffic flow on the A32 even more urgent.

It is proposed to examine traffic light frequency, including Salterns Lane, and to improve roundabout traffic flow during the next months.

Hampshire highways department has set aside over £3m for improvements to this road.

The Quay Street roundabout will need major re-modelling and potential

improvements, including traffic light control, are being examined by traffic engineers.

But it is unlikely any improvement will be possible until the Tesco negotiations are completed.

There have been two accidents due to speeding on right hand turns around the old Gosport Road roundabout, which is separate from the general traffic flow problem.

The roundabout will be resurfaced and keep-clear areas reinforced.

Any views on how traffic flow can be improved on the A32 will be welcome.

No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council

MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.

Nor will the Borough Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the other extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said: "Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, have exaggerated the problems and suggested that voters should support any opposition party offering to change the service.

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all political parties understand that it is essential in the interests of the environment and the saving of energy to encourage and increase recycling.

"It is accepted that some opposition parties will promise to make changes. When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07. The target for 2010 is 50%.

Top quality education wins praise for 5 Fareham schools

MODERATION by external assessors of the self-evaluation of five Fareham schools confirmed they were all providing good quality education.

The schools are: Redlands Primary, Neville Lovett Community and Continuing Education Centre, Uplands Primary, Harrison Primary and

Henry Cort Community College.

Redlands School was recognised as 'outstanding', for quality of education and pupils' results.

"These results have been consistent over several years, which is a tribute to the outstanding leadership and the quality of teaching staff in these schools," said County Councillor Ray Ellis.

"We wish to convey our thanks to the head teachers and staff of these schools.

"Cams Hill School has continued its excellent record of performance in this year's inspection report, and continues to provide a first class secondary education to the pupils most of whom proceed to higher education courses."

Borrowing fall-off may mean library changes

A **SELECT** committee is examining the evidence and making proposals for the future of the library and information services in Hampshire.

Due to the fall off in the number of books and CDs being borrowed from libraries locally and nationally, the availability of cheap paperback books and the extent of information now available on the net, the future direction of the library service and the nature of the provision needed is being examined by this committee.

The committee hopes to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage by the autumn.

Fareham Town County Councillor Ray Ellis is a member of the committee and is keen to hear your views.

Beds win award
FIVE HUNDRED new nursing care beds provided by Hampshire County Council in the Enhance Project have been awarded the Guardian Public Service Award.

Included in the scheme are the 80 beds at Hawthorne Court on the Coldeast site.

Decision awaited on extension to Wallington Conservation Area



A CHARACTER assessment of picturesque Wallington village was agreed by Fareham Council's Executive in July.

It summarises the outcome of public consultation on the Wallington Conservation Area and recommends its adoption.

The recommendation includes approval of alterations to the Conservation Area boundary and says research should be done to assess suitability of Lowlands and The Lodge on Wallington Shore Road for inclusion on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

The document can now be used in evidence in determining relevant planning applications.

Complete our survey on-line

FAREHAM East Conservatives' committee is conducting a survey around the ward, writes chairman Keith Barton.

Over the next few months we hope to get round the whole ward to ask your opinion on several issues.

At times it can be crucial to gather information to feed back to the Council so it can be used to help make the right decisions.

To save on cost and paper the survey will be on our website and can be filled in online at www.fareham-east-conservatives.org.uk and emailed back to us.

"For those who do not have internet access, please remember there are places such as Fareham Library that enable people to go on line.

We will be going door to door also so you will have a chance to have your say," he said.

County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

VOLUNTARY organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets that the County Council has aimed at supporting voluntary organisations and community groups.

Conservative Hampshire County Councillors for Fareham Town Ray Ellis and John Bryant said: "The County Council recognises the vital role that voluntary organisations and community groups play in helping us deliver services to Hampshire residents.

"By giving each councillor a budget, they can use that knowledge to benefit local people through providing grants for community initiatives."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at www.hants.gov.uk/grants

Organisations and groups can apply by requesting an application form from Ray Ellis or John Bryant or by downloading a form from the grants website.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or groups affiliated to a political party or from lobbying organisations.

CATs team ready for your views

FAREHAM town wards residents are invited to the first meeting of the Community Action Team (CATs) in Fareham Methodist Church, Queen's Road on September 17 at 7pm.

Five CATS groups led by ward councillors were set up to offer people the chance to find out what is proposed for their area and discuss grass roots issues.

Council officers, County Council, police, the Primary Care Trust and the Local Strategic Partnership representatives will also attend.

£100,000 will be set aside annually and each CATs team can bid for up to £5,000 for small local projects which would not normally be funded.

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**

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

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

Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

THOUSANDS packed the town centre to cheer **Baroness Thatcher** when she came to **Fareham** to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the **Falklands 25 years ago.**

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



Marching in memory: Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had

the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



Lest we forget: Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

£1.3m boost to brighten the drab end of town



SHOPKEEPER Mark Bizley discusses plans for a facelift for the tatty end of West Street with Councillor John Bryant.

Traders and shoppers have welcomed the £1.3m regeneration project to provide new pavements, trees, seats and street lighting.

There will also be improvements to junction crossings for pedestrians along the whole of the Golden Mile.

Councillor Bryant said: "It will benefit everyone and hopefully make this part of

town vibrant with shoppers all year."

Planning is under way, with work due to start this autumn and completion next summer. The bid for the money was organised via the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

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