



In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM EAST – WINTER 2007

Doggone it!
Don't let
your pet get
carried away

COLLAR your dog or microchip it – that's the message from Fareham Council.

Strays can be a nuisance, but there is a service offered by the Council to people who find lost pooches.

The out-of-hours collection and kenneling service has been extended and can be contacted between 5.15pm and 10pm by calling 0800 374485 in a normal working week.

A tagged or microchipped dog will be returned speedily to its owner who will have to pay a fixed fee.

But if Bonzo makes off a second time, it will be kenneled at the owner's expense.

The dog will be kept for 7 days in kennels, then found a new home.

Executive Member for Public Protection, Councillor Arthur Mandry, said:

"We hope to be able to reunite stray dogs with their owners or find them a new home as quickly as possible."



All set for another Tory below inflation budget

'We manage to do more with less'

FAREHAM'S Conservative Council will again be the envy of neighbouring authorities when it sets a below-inflation council tax without reducing its excellent services.

A rise of about 3% will mean average Band C householders will pay less than £118 a year for the Borough's services or £88.50 for single occupants.

Hampshire County Council takes the lion's share which, with demands from the Police Authority and Fire and Rescue, is likely to see Band C properties paying an extra £50 a year.

Consistently prudent management achieves these very low rises year on year, despite the Government paying Fareham one of the lowest grants in the country.

Conservatives always look for the best value for taxpayers' money by finding innovative ways of increasing income and reducing expenditure, while continuing to improve services.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted that we have again been able to minimise the impact of council tax on our residents."

"We have yet again been able to produce a budget which is balanced, improves services and seeks an increase from residents which is below the level of inflation."

"The average household in Fareham pays less than £2.30 per week for the high quality services of Fareham Borough Council."

"That sum is viewed with envy by many residents of surrounding districts. We manage to do more with less than almost any other council in England."



Open: The new customer service centre at the Civic Offices and (left) Executive Leader Seán Woodward working flat out for low Council Tax lost over 2 stone after handing over the refurbished Leisure Centre.



How we spend your money

The Council has a capital programme of £22m over the next 5 years. Its plans include:

- Improving 14 public conveniences £400,000
- Neighbourhood fora suggestions £100,000
- Improvements to council footpaths £50,000
- Play strategy projects £50,000
- Green Flag status for parks, woodlands £30,000
- Osborn Road multi-storey car park £100,000

The Council spends £38m annually on revenue services and improvements include:

- Community football development officer £10,000
- Tree Survey £40,000
- Business continuity planning £20,000

These come on top of improvements for this year, which included 5 new skateparks, mobile CCTV unit, new community centre at Fareham Methodist Church, £2m for enabling social housing for rent and several environmental improvement schemes.

Fareham's commitment to equality for the disabled

DISABLED residents and the groups that support them have been influential in creating a new Disability Equality Scheme for Fareham Council.

The scheme, now available on the Council's website, underlines Fareham's determination to

achieve equality of opportunity.

The Council will ensure there is no discrimination against the disabled and will identify training to enable officers and members to recognise and accommodate the needs of our disabled community.

A disability equality working

group, involving disabled residents and staff, will be set up.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "We were determined to ensure the actions we committed to were ones that would make a very real difference to disabled people, their families and carers."

Happy New Year! We keep *In Touch* throughout - not just at election time

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Education workshop

Two MPs will hold an Education Workshop at the Wallington Community Centre on Saturday, March 3 from 9.30am to 12.15pm.

It will be chaired by Fareham MP and Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury Mark Hoban, with Havant MP and Shadow Education Minister David Willetts as special guest.

It's a must for any parents concerned with education matters.

For more information or to reserve a place ring Tina Ellis 01329 822646 or 843936.

Taking the bait

Illegal commercial bait diggers are targeting Fareham Creek.

Bait digging is permitted for individual fishermen, but local by-laws prohibit commercial exploitation.

These diggers can be abusive and aggressive, so it's best to report them to the Council.

Crossing started

Work started in January on a new traffic light controlled crossing at Delme roundabout.

The £100,000 County funded scheme may cause delays particularly at rush hours for several weeks.

Doorstep crime

The County Council has given £3000 for publicity to encourage people to report doorstep crime to the police.

Trading Standards has formed a quick response team to catch doorstep criminals in the act. Contact 01962 846316.

'HATS the way to do it' says new action group

A NEW organisation that targets local priorities for action has put transport and congestion high on its list.

Hampshire Action Team for Fareham and Gosport (HATS), which met for the first time under the chairmanship of County Councillor Ray Ellis, promises not to duplicate work undertaken by other bodies.

"But it will ensure that HCC funds are used according to locally determined priorities for improvement and that maximum cost benefit is obtained," he said.

Two of the main aims are to control congestion on the A32 and A27, particularly at Delme and Quay Street roundabouts, and find options for using the old Gosport-Fareham railway line.

HATS wants to develop a healthy community, particularly for the young and elderly, improve maintenance at



Top target: Quay Street roundabout causes daily jams.



Gosport ferry pontoon. Also on the list are:

- Investigating school provision in relation to population and monitoring local schools' performance.
- Improving access to facilities for youths and what is available to them.
- Enhancing local economic development to minimise travel to work.

Golly, isn't this PC gone mad?



GOLLIWOG badge collector Nick Martin sparked an outcry almost as fierce as the recent Big Brother fiasco.

Nick (68), whose home at Weyhill Close, Portchester houses a collection of 300 of the highly-prized pieces,

lent them to Westbury Manor Museum for a three-week display.

But the exhibition brought cries of 'racism' across the country.

Nick collected the badges produced by famous jam maker Robertson's as a child, then realised their value about 15 years ago when he saw some for sale in a shop.

Since then, he and wife Carol have built up their home collection by browsing around second-hand shops.

He said he couldn't see what the fuss was about. "It is only white English people who complain that golliwogs are racist. They were originally more of a tribute. It's political correctness gone mad."

If you have any views about the exhibition please write to the Editor.

Government failing to keep up with community care demands

HAMPSHIRE County Council has warned the government that central funding is not keeping up with the expectations of an increasing ageing population and complex needs.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said people were expecting a level of help and support from the Council in old age, which was impossible to meet with the cash available.

"This expenditure in Hampshire has increased by 67% in the past six years," he said.

A review of adult social service

provisions in HCC was undertaken and a five-year plan developed, covering a new range of options with more emphasis on prevention, well-being and choice.

It aims to keep more people in their own homes instead of residential homes by providing extra-care housing with round-the-clock security, using advanced IT and tele-care equipment, as well as care teams of nurses, ancillary staff, and domestic support staff.

The direct payment scheme will be further developed to enable

individuals to choose their own care provision.

Research has indicated that within three years virtually all help with basic needs, like shopping, cleaning and getting dressed will no longer be provided free.

Added Dr Ellis: "We wish to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions but instead provide alternative 'at home' care.

"Please support us in our campaign to obtain more government funding for this area of work, which is so vital to us all."

Ray becomes observer on NHS funding organisation

RAY ELLIS has been appointed as an observer member of the Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

This NHS body is responsible for allocation of funds and organisation of the health service in Hampshire.

It also liaises with the Primary Care Trusts of Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight, as well as with the South Central Ambulance Service Trust to provide a seamless health system to our residents.

County Councillor Ellis' appointment is in addition to his role as chairman of the HCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

If you have any comments or problems with health issues Ray will be pleased to hear from you.

Care service CARERS DIRECT is a new service offering out-of-hours support to carers in Hampshire.

It is one way the County Council can offer support for this role. Call 0845 600 4555 Monday to Friday, 5pm to 11.30pm; weekends and bank holidays 8.30am to 11.30pm.

Hampshire's speed limits under review

SPEED limits across Hampshire are under review as part of the government's initiative to complete this by 2011.

As single carriage-way roads have the highest level of serious injury accidents, roads such as the A32 will be examined closely, particularly in the more rural areas.

It is likely that speed reductions will be required to 40, 30 or even 20mph on some presently unrestricted roads.

In addition, any school requesting a speed limit of 20mph near its entrance is likely to receive approval.

Appeal for advisors on rural issues

VOLUNTEERS are needed by Hampshire Countryside Access Forum to advise on rural issues and the development of the countryside.

If you are interested or wish to comment, contact County Councillor Ray Ellis the HCC representative on the Forum and who is also an elected member of the Local Government Association's Rural Policy Group.

Prince's Trust helps Fareham entrepreneur



Brrm, brrm: Damon revs up, watched by County Council Deputy Leader Michael Woodhall (left) and Nick Giles from the Prince's Trust.

Damon's Mustangs pave the way to business enterprise

LOCAL entrepreneur Damon Daysh has the Prince's Trust to thank for setting him on the road to success.

Damon, who started his own business in Fareham a year ago refitting classic Ford Mustangs, has benefited from mentoring business support and grants from the Trust, which is supported by the County Council.

He has now expanded his business and established a workshop in Alton.

The Trust provides finance for young people aged 18-30, who have difficulty getting access to funding from more traditional routes.

The Trust particularly helps unemployed persons to obtain work.

Simon will speak up for local youth

SIMON Thorne (17), who attends St Vincent College, has been elected as one of the six members from Hampshire to represent Fareham and Gosport at the National Youth Parliament.

He will play an important role in the work of the parliament and, after consultation with local youth and the Hampshire Youth Council, will present their views to national bodies.

He will receive training on the role

of elected representatives and attend monthly meetings of the Hampshire Youth Council and the Regional Parliament as well as the agm of the UK Parliament.

We hope Simon enjoys his time representing his peers and learning more about the democratic process and decision making.

There is currently a vacancy for a deputy. If you are interested, call Lynne Meechan on 023 8068 4939 lynne.meechan@hants.gov.uk

New editor Keith gets to the seat of disabled toilet problem

DISABLED toilet facilities for older children are lacking in Fareham Shopping Centre.

Keith Barton, who has just taken over as the new editor of Fareham East In Touch, said a woman whose son is adult size ran into the problem.

"Obviously he can't be laid down on a baby change seat. This is a growing problem for mothers with older disabled children.



Keith Barton

Research has shown that these improvements have been made but mainly in Northern England and I have yet to find one in the South.

"I have some documentation on this matter and will be pursuing the issue with Fareham Shopping Centre management," he said.

Fareham-born Keith, a self-employed IT firm director who lives in Drift Road, is a prominent member of the Wallington Village Community, where he manages the village hall and edits the WVA's magazine.

•You can contact Keith on 01329 286396. email: keith@nexgen-computers.co.uk

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

IF WE ARE to be successful in the 21st century we need to get our education system right.

We will not be able to compete successfully with India and China, unless we have a highly skilled workforce. Despite the excellent work that takes place in our local schools, colleges and universities, more needs to be done.

In early January, new league tables were produced which show that less than half of 16-year-olds in Hampshire get five good GCSEs including English and Maths. I know from talking to local businesses how important it is for them for children to leave school with a good grasp of basic skills.

International studies show that while we do well as a country with the proportion of young people going to university, we lag behind our competitors when it comes to the number of young people staying on at school or college at 16. I am not sure whether the answer is to raise the school leaving age to 18 as the Government proposes. Will young people bother to go to college if they do not feel that the courses on offer are worthwhile?

Ruth Kelly's decision to send her son to a private school because of his particular educational needs also caused controversy in January.

People will have their own views on whether she was right to do this as a mother and a senior politician, but I know from my postbag that the help and support we give to children with special educational needs is an important issue.

You will have your own views, as a parent, a teacher, a student or an employer and I want to give you the opportunity to air them at a meeting we are holding on March 3 with David Willetts, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education. Details are on Page 2 of this In Touch. I hope you will come along to debate and discuss these issues so that you can influence the future of education in our community.

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

16 wardens to target verge and double yellow parkers

PARK on a double yellow or sink your wheels into a grass verge in Fareham after this April and there's a high chance you'll be booked.

Sixteen full-time parking wardens will have appointed to enforce 'no waiting' restrictions across the borough.

The Council will take over parking enforcement from the police whose duties end after April 2007.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Connie Hockley said the County Council would have imposed a private contractor had Fareham not decided to take over the responsibility.

The aim was to bring uniform standards and flexibility to street regulations and the new set-up would also allow the Council to consider residents' parking schemes.

"Regulations are usually

imposed after complaints by residents of indiscriminate or dangerous parking.

"Verge parking orders have also been given a warm welcome by local people who do not wish to see their grass verges reduced to a rutted quagmire, with possible damage to services beneath the

surface," she said.

She denied it was just another Council money-making scheme.

"If the rules which are imposed for the benefit of the majority are complied with, there will be no fixed parking penalties issued and hence no income from them."



Rutting season: A resident snapped the lorry which churned this verge in Riverside Avenue, Wallington into a quagmire. Note the building materials dumped on the verge opposite.

Services agreed for Fareham's new hospital

AN AMBULANCE stand-by point may be provided at Fareham's new community hospital at Coldeast.

Discussions are taking place with the Hampshire Ambulance Service for the inclusion of an ambulance bay and service from the site.

The Hospital Planning Group agreed the schedule of accommodation on January 5 after consulting local GPs. It is planned to provide:

•Large out-patient department replacing the Sylvan Clinic with

6 consulting suites and 2 suites for ante-natal clinics.

•12 maternity beds including two delivery rooms to replace Blackbrook Maternity Home.

•Rehabilitation department with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles to replace and enhance services at Highlands Road Clinic.

•2 general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and 2 ultrasound units.

•Elderly assessment centre, with large treatment area and 2 consulting

suites.

•Older persons' mental health day hospital with 2 consulting suites, treatment room, large sitting room and 2 activity rooms.

There will be an out-of-hours and minor procedures facility serviced by GPs to save residents having to travel to Gosport or Southampton. It will include a pharmacy.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Fareham's representative to the Primary Care Trust, said Fareham would have the initial ele-

ments of a very comprehensive health service campus by 2010.

"However, the hospital will have only maternity beds. Beds for Fareham residents will be at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

"This is because of a promise, made in 1998 by the NHS management to the residents of Gosport, that if the MoD left Haslar Hospital alternate facilities would be provided in Gosport," he said.