

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.

Councillor Pam Bryant 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

Stamp collection

Used postage stamps are being collected at Fareham Shopping Centre.

Proceeds from their sale will go to The Wessex Cancer Trust.

Call 01329 822506 for details.

Go Bananas

The Banana fitness suite at Fareham Leisure Centre is a popular venue for people of all ages.

A sports therapist is on hand to advise on health matters and there is an aptly named 'Body Fusion on Form' massage and sports injury clinic.

Waste

Collection of bulky-waste items can be arranged by ringing the Council's Customer Service Centre (01329 236100).

There is usually a charge for the service ranging from £24 for a single item to £53 for half a lorry load. Fridges and freezers cost £10 per item.

Blankets

Hampshire Trading Standards is concerned that old electric blankets will be used by the elderly as heating alternatives.

Every year more than 1,000 house fires are started by electric blankets and cause 20 deaths and 150 injuries.

Free safety checks are offered at locations across Hampshire and people, particularly the elderly, are urged to book a slot.

Call 01962 833625/6 or email electricblankets@hants.gov.uk to book your free check.

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 (pictured outside) met officers to discuss the problems and was assured that it would remain open.

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*.

County's care scheme will help 400 elderly to preserve independence

OLDER people across Hampshire will benefit from the creation of Extra Care Sheltered Housing after the County Council agreed to invest in the scheme to provide 400 extra care places.

Extra Care will offer the elderly the safety of care and support available on site where they live, 24 hours a day, according to people's assessed needs. Individuals will have the added security of either renting, owning or part-owning their own flat or bungalow within a scheme of similar units.

In addition there will be communal facilities where people can participate in a range of activities.

In partnership with district councils, the County Council aims to commission 400 additional places in Extra Care between 2008 and 2013.

Half the the places will be created through four new build schemes and the remainder by contracting for and enhancing existing schemes.

Extra Care housing will not just respond to those who have retained most of their independent living skills, but will also enable people to have the choice to live in their own homes until the end of their lives – a very real alternative to residential care.

People are living for longer in Hampshire and the Office for National Statistics forecasts that in 2008 the county's over 65s will total 223,900

and by 2025 that figure will have risen to 322,300.

The number of over 85s will total 31,200 in 2008 and 52,300 by 2025.

The County Council has to find cost effective support options to meet these demands and Extra Care housing is a viable alternative to residential care as it can attract alternative capital and revenue funding. Many councils and registered social landlords face difficulties as their sheltered housing stock is out of date, inaccessible and often poorly located.

Extra Care is seen as a modern alternative to sheltered housing as well as to residential care.

County Councillor John Bryant said: "Extra Care will provide the older people of Hampshire with more choice and most importantly they have the option of retaining their own front door and their independence.

"For some people, residential care may be the best option, but we want to ensure that, wherever possible, people have the option to stay in their own homes.

"Greater use of community services including extra-care housing, intermediate care services, community equipment, intensive support at home and support for carers, has enabled more people to be cared for closer to home and to continue to live in their own homes for longer."

Colourful borough basks in blooming treble victory

WHILE it was a superb result for Fareham to be chosen Champion of Champions in the South and South East In Bloom competition, there were some fantastic winners in the Council's own In Bloom contest.

As the borough had won for three consecutive years, it was placed with the other top entries into a Champion of Champions category.

As well as being over-all winners, Fareham again received a gold medal. Judges looked at the glorious floral displays and at the tidiness of the borough.

'Fareham in Bloom' winners from North and North West Wards included Mr J Purnell, Mr & Mrs Coates, Mr & Mrs Bowles, Teresa Greenwood, Jane Da Santos, Les Peach, Mr & Mrs Parker, Mrs Munro, Mrs Collins, Mr S Crowe, Mr G Gittins, Dr & Mrs Hillam, Frankie Lane, Mrs P Knight, Ms Hester and Mr Westbrook.

Winners for warden-run and sheltered residential homes receiving silver gilt awards were Collingwood House and Acacia Lodge, with Fareham Day Services in Wynton Way receiving a bronze award. Community floral display winners included Fareham Bowling Club who won a silver gilt.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "Well done to you all. It's good to know that we have so many keen gardeners in our area, giving a great glow of colour to the locality."

A teaching 'pack lunch' encourages healthy diet

TEACHING packs on nutrition and labelling have been introduced to help pupils aged 11-16 to be FoodSmart.

Hampshire Trading Standards say the packs are a fun way to help students to eat healthily.

FoodSmart is a complete educational pack with a lesson plan for teachers and provides information on food legislation and helps pupils to understand what goes into what they eat.

It advises on nutritional matters and suggests simple ways that fat, salt and sugar consumption can be reduced.

County Councillor John Bryant said: "It is important that we help young people to learn how to eat a balanced diet, especially with obesity levels increasing.

"It ties in with work being carried out by the County Council's school meals provider, HC3S, to educate and encourage children to eat a balanced diet."

Fareham's the place if you want to live longer

FAREHAM is a healthy, affluent area where people can expect to live longer than the average for England, although pockets of deprivation exist.

Health Profile 2007 gives a snapshot across the Borough and is designed to support action by the council and primary care trusts to tackle inequalities and improve people's health.

However, there are differences between income groups.

While overall poverty in Fareham is below average, over 5,600 people are dependant on means-tested benefits and 1,700 children are living in low

income households.

The level of statutory homeless households in Fareham is above the national average, but early deaths from heart disease and strokes are lower.

Smoking is blamed for 165 deaths a year, one in five residents is obese, fewer than one in three eats healthily and only one in eight takes the recommended level of physical exercise.

Local priorities are to cut smoking, reduce obesity, improve sexual health. Indicators say health in Fareham is good when compared to England. A low proportion of people in Fareham rate their health as 'not good'.

Meeting men who keep Fareham clean and tidy

SEVERAL councillors toured the Wallington depot to speak to employees who keep Fareham's streets cleaned, bins emptied and flower beds in superb condition.

Councillor John Bryant said it was interesting to see some of the new equipment and the high standard now required under Health and Safety regulations.

It included new mowers which should keep the grass off the pavements and clear the clippings



that caused many problems with the old machines.

Photo: A Council worker shows Councillor Bryant and Councillor

Leslie Keeble a new road sweeper which should do a better job than the old one which had served the Council for many years.

Snail's pace is plenty to cut child accidents

TEN children were killed or seriously injured on roads in Hampshire last year.

County road chiefs have unveiled a snail as the new logo of a voluntary campaign to get drivers to slow down near schools.

It is hoped the signs will be outside schools by spring 2008 as part of the '20-is-Plenty' campaign.

Over the last three years there have been 791 accidents within 500 metres of a school where at least one of the casualties was a child under 16.

County Councillor John Bryant (Fareham Town) said the logo was likely to appeal to youngsters.

He said: "This is a voluntary campaign and we hope to get all schools signed up so drivers can be educated rather than regulated to drive at speeds not exceeding 20mph outside schools at the start and finish of the day."

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST 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 ward councillors.

WARD COUNCILLORS Fareham North



John Bryant
14 Highlands Road
Fareham PO16 7XL
Tel: 01329 281427
email: cllrbryant@fareham.gov.uk



Pamela Bryant
14 Highlands Road
Fareham PO16 7XL
Tel: 01329 281427
email: cllrbryant@fareham.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS Fareham Town



Raymond Ellis
20 Cams Hill
Fareham PO16 8RB
Tel: 01329 236127
email: raymond.ellis@hants.gov.uk



John Bryant
14 Highlands Road
Fareham PO16 7XL
Tel: 01329 281427
email: john.bryant@hants.gov.uk

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 given 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.

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

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%).



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

•**Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the way they were dealt with.

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.

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 N & NW Conservatives, 14 Highlands Road, Fareham PO16 7XL and printed by Chameleon Print, Unit 3, Palmerston Business Park, Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1DJ.