



In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST – 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.

Councillor John Bryant 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.

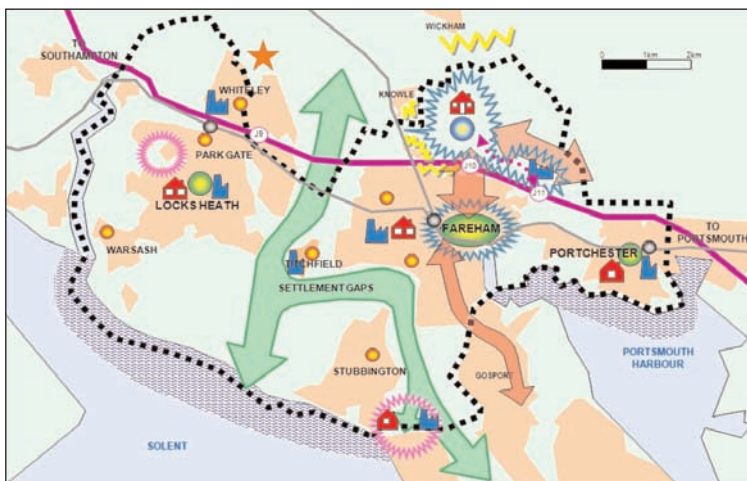
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

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."

Councillor Pam Bryant 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 to 2.30pm supporting local shops and traders at Titchfield Community Centre. Entry £3 including mulled wine and mince pies.

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

Thanks

John Bryant and Ray Ellis have thanked people in Fareham N & NW who voted for them in the June County Council elections. The County Council now comprises Conservatives 51, Lib Dems 25, Labour 1, others 1.

Vacant premises

The ground floor of Fareham Conservative Association's premises at 14 East Street is available to lease at a very reasonable rate.

For further details contact: 01329 822646

Youth project grant

The Highlands Youth Project has received a community grant of £1,800 towards the cost of refurbishing and renewing equipment and providing additional ICT and game facilities.

Beetle drive

Catisfield Memorial Hall, Saturday afternoon November 14. Call Pam Bryant on 281427 for tickets.

Best in the UK – what a FLAMEing good show!

FAREHAM Leisure Centre is the best in the UK after winning the prestigious fitness industry award – the FLAME Centre of the Year.

Awarded annually by the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), it attracted a record number of submissions from the 4,000 leisure centres nationwide.

FLAME (Fitness Leadership and Management Excellence)

Awards recognise best practice within the industry and submissions are evaluated by a team of experienced, independent assessors

Ian Cook, contract manager at Fareham Leisure Centre, said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have won the award this year. Competition was harder than ever with a higher number of entrants.

"To have won the overall accolade of Centre of Year is a great achievement for everyone at Fareham Leisure Centre."

Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We are delighted that Fareham Leisure Centre has been awarded this special award and is recognised as the best leisure centre in the UK.

"This would not have been possible without the significant amount of effort and support from many people."

Councillor John Bryant said: "We are extremely proud of our Leisure Centre. This is a great achievement for everyone at the centre."

The centre opened in the 1970s and



The best: Celebrating the top award are (l to r) Seán Woodward, centre manager Ian Cook and Executive Member for Community Connie Hockley.

was developed into a leisure centre in 1986.

In May 2005, Sports and Leisure Management (SLM Ltd) was awarded the contract by Fareham Council on the basis that SLM would implement an investment and improvement programme that would see the centre develop into one of the premier leisure locations in the UK.

Thanks to this partnership between SLM and the Council, it attracts a weekly average of 10,000 visitors of all ages from across the community.

Since the £1.3m investment into the centre, membership has more than doubled to 3,400 with a gym floor of 6,500m² and a studio of 5,000m². The site also operates 74 classes a week and the swimming lessons programme has over 1,800 children enrolled.

As part of rebranding in 2007, 25,000 customers have been issued with an Everyone Active Card and are encouraged to do a recommended 30 minutes of activity 5 times a week to achieve a healthier life.

Arts centre venue for next CAT meeting

ASHCROFT Arts Centre is the venue for the next Community Action Team meeting on November 25 at 7pm.

John Bryant, chairman of the CAT covering North, North West and East Wards, hopes many residents will attend.

CAT meetings give residents an opportunity to discuss and raise concerns with councillors and Council officers, and to offer suggestions to improve services.

Community groups can also apply for grants to help with projects to enhance their locality.

For details, call Mark Dunning on 01329 236100 or e-mail cats@fareham.gov.uk

John's duties

SINCE his re-election to the County Council, John Bryant (Fareham Town) is a member of the Police Authority and vice-chairman of the Audit Committee.

He also serves on the Regulatory Committee, and represents HCC on the Ashcroft Arts Centre Management Committee and William Price's Charitable Trust.

It's clear these changes should boost glass recycling

FAREHAM Council has launched its latest glass recycling initiative.

The Council is now responsible for emptying the glass recycling banks around the Borough, a job previously carried out by contractors.

People can now put all coloured glass in the same bin. Clear glass

must still remain separate as this attracts a higher price.

Fareham residents recycle over 2,200 tonnes of glass every year through these banks.

But Councillor Pam Bryant, chairman of Streetscene panel, who is pictured at one of the new banks, says it is estimated to be

only 60% of the total glass which could be recycled.

"I hope that these new developments will increase recycling and recover more glass from the waste stream.

"These changes will certainly make it easier for residents to recycle glass bottles and jars, and enable the Council to provide a more efficient service."





Grants to continue for good causes

VOLUNTARY and community groups will continue to benefit from a grants system set up by the County Council.

Every county councillor will be allocated a £10,000 budget to provide grants towards local schemes.

These will be available for the next two years to start projects, contribute to a community-based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or for a one-off expenditure such as new equipment – but not for ongoing running costs.

Winter schedule

OPENING times at the county's 24 household waste recycling centres reverted to winter hours on October 1. Gates close at 4pm.

Councillor John Bryant said: "HWRCs are a popular service receiving 4.5 million visits a year. We appreciate shorter winter opening hours may be inconvenient, but they are necessary for safety of customers and staff."

Got it taped? Drivers really face new parking measures

A MEASURING tape might be a useful vehicle accessory in the light of new parking restrictions.

If you park more than 50cm - that's about 1ft 8in - from the kerb, it will be classed as double parking, which means you've contravened regulations that came into force on June 1.

Fareham Council also has the power to enforce prohibition of parking at dropped kerbs without need of traffic signs or road marking.

It applies to kerbs that have been dropped to help pedestrians and cyclists. Exceptions include emergency vehicles, unloading, building works and shared drives.

Councillor John Bryant, chairman of the Planning and Transportation Panel, said: "I don't know how wardens will measure the distance. Maybe they will carry tapes. It's a

case of drivers using common sense."

Meantime, results from the first consultation for a proposed residents' scheme under the Town Centre Parking Strategy are being analysed.

A second consultation seeking residents' views in Colenso Road, Derlyn Road, Gordon Road, Grove Road, New Road and Crescent Road was under way in October.

John Bryant added: "The second consultation is to consider the details of the proposed parking scheme, including cost and validity of permits for residents, visitors, professional or trade visits.

"Residents will be asked for their views before proposals are finalised and a decision will be made by the Executive by March 2010."

Council's high priorities are on target

A PROGRESS report lists 12 high priorities among 44 actions within the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan.

These include a review of community centres, youth centres and sports pavilions to rationalise provision and modernise by 2112, which is on target.

The target to set Fareham's portion of the council tax below inflation had been met for the sixth year running and it was forecast this would be maintained.

There were minor delays with the proposed supermarket in Quay Street, but planning consents would be given soon. Detailed design and implementation have still to be agreed between Tesco and the County Council.

That's real cool

The 17th Fareham Scouts group has been awarded a community grant of £500 to help buy insulated cool boxes to keep food fresh during camps when refrigeration is unavailable.

In Bloom contest brings out community spirit

ONCE again residents in North and North West Wards did well with entries in the Fareham in Bloom contest.

Special congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Gittins who received two awards – a silver gilt for an unusual garden feature and a gold for their plantsman's back garden.

Councillor Mrs Pam Bryant said Burnham Wood residents, who entered for the first time, won a silver gilt for their community floral display.

"The project brought so many resi-

dents together. It was truly a community award," she said, thanking all who participated.

Other winners were:

Julie Armstrong, Jan Purnell, Teresa Greenwood, David Hawkesworth, Mr & Mrs Stent, Frankie Lane, Mrs Tamara Collins, Miss J Gardner, Ms K Hester, Mr & Mrs Fairhurst, Nancy Brown, L Peach, and Mrs. E Munro.

Sheltered residential awards went to Faregrove Court, Grove Road, Acacia Lodge, Trinity Street and Kershaw Day Centre, Wynton Way.

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.

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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. 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 involvement and the Council's environmental work.



Well done: Burnham Wood residents (l to r) Jan Purnell and Claire Smith are congratulated by Councillor Pam Bryant on their silver gilt award. It was the first time the community had entered.

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.

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 N & NW 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.

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.



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 Pam Bryant 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

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

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