



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST – SUMMER 2008

Something for all in £8m Hampshire cash surplus bonanza

HIGHWAYS maintenance, the rural speed limits programme and residential care homes could all share £8m extra funding from Hampshire County Council.

Savings mean the cash is available on a one-off basis to reinvest in services and reduce expected council tax increases in the next two years.

The County Council wants older residents to remain independent in their own homes for longer, but for some people this is not an option.

The Council runs 26 residential homes and an investment of £400,000 will be made to improve the quality of life in these homes.

Improvements to the condition of Hampshire's 5,000 miles of maintained roads are a top priority, with £1m for repairing potholes and £500,000 to add to the highways maintenance budget for other works.

Other proposals include £400,000 towards replacing two thirds of the street lights.

Councillor John Bryant said: "There is something for everyone in the £8m reinvestment whether council taxpayer, road user, a resident in our residential homes or an urban dweller seeking better lighting."

All's well that ends well after multi-million revamp hits snag...

WORK on Fareham's multi-million Shopping Centre re-vamp has been delayed after workers ran into unforeseen pitfalls.

Several old wells, probably dating from the time when there were houses on the site, were discovered where the new multi-storey car park and Debenhams Desire store are being built.

It means Debenhams and the new car park will not be open until spring 2009, thus missing the important Christmas period.

Building works were always going to be quite tightly programmed for Debenhams Desire to open for Christmas.

Debenhams, along with other major national retailers, have 'windows' which are the dates when new stores can open to achieve their own trading goals.

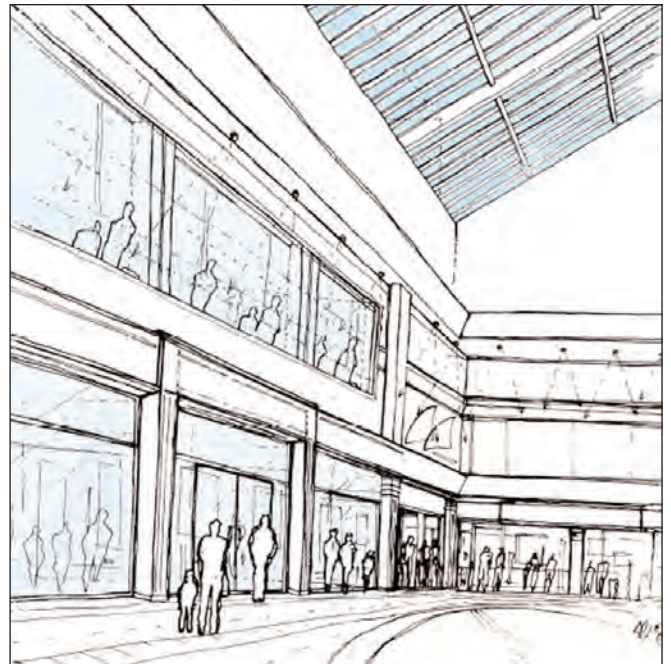
The Debenhams window reopens on February 1.

"Building control records did not show the existence of several large wells. These had to be bridged and, although this has now been successfully completed, it has caused some delay," said Centre Manager Pam Gillard.

However, store bosses remain committed to the Shopping Centre.

Robert Hadfield, of the Debenhams property team, said "I can confirm we are happy with the progress and are eager to open the store at that time in line with our current store opening programme."

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council,



Delayed: But bosses say Debenhams Desire, shown here as an artist's sketch, will be well/worth the wait.

Councillor Seán Woodward, said: "It is unfortunate that the wells were found but I am delighted that Debenhams remain committed to Fareham and look forward to it opening as soon as possible in 2009."

Pam Gillard added: "Shoppers are eagerly awaiting this and the other new stores.

"Although not available for this Christmas I know that Debenhams Desire will prove very popular and it promises to be a wonderful asset to Fareham when it opens next year."

...but this well makes fund-raising wishes come true

ANOTHER sort of well in the Shopping Centre proved more useful.

Rotary Club of Fareham's 'wishing well' helped raise enough cash to buy 4 scooters for Shopmobility.

Outgoing President George Cantrill (pictured with chain) and his successor, Jill Newby, presented them, helped by Fareham Borough Council Executive Leader,



Councillor Seán Woodward (third right).

Also pictured with Shopmobility staff are Shopping Centre Manager Pam Gillard (second right) and Rotarian Tom Churchill who built the well.

Shopmobility is funded by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Social Services.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Hedge cutting

Fareham Council is responsible for maintaining 24.5 kilometres of hedges.

Hedges are cut at times to avoid disturbing nesting birds, between March and July.

If you are concerned about hedges owned by the Council not being cut, this will soon be rectified.

Looking lovely

Fareham is once again looking splendid with this year's floral displays.

We have 131 hanging baskets, 97 floral troughs and 800m² of displays which are all sponsored. There are 700m² of displays, mainly in parks and cemeteries.

Following our success in the South East in Bloom last year when we won 'Champion of Champions', we are awaiting results of this year's judging which took place on July 4.

Come and join us

New members are welcome to join Fareham North and North West Branch.

If you want a more social atmosphere, we have a wide variety of events to suit all tastes at reasonable prices.

Next branch event will be the annual supper in the autumn, which is always a sell-out, so book early.

The Conservative Association will be holding the annual ball on September 20.

For information about membership please call Tina Ellis at the Association's office on 01329 822646.

Council invites reluctant traders to join £1m revamp

Further measures in pipeline for High Street, Quay Street junctions

IMPROVEMENTS costing £1m to Fareham's West Street are now almost finished, but a few traders are still dragging their feet.

Substantial progress has been made and several more private frontage owners agreed to take part in the scheme, including the Post Office.

Unfortunately, a few private owners have not agreed to participate but the Council still hopes that having seen the improvements to the surrounding area they may change their minds and sign up to the scheme.

Councillor John Bryant said: "A decision had to be taken earlier in the year to concentrate on the large areas of paving, as the Council was required to spend the £1m Local Government money before the end of March.

"This meant that the complex work at the junctions of Trinity Street was bypassed, but this work is now nearing completion."

There have been problems with the light columns; the original intention was to install them before the paving works, but large numbers of shallow underground services were discovered in the street.

Special column roots and revised column fixings have had to be designed before the works are complete.

The new colourful banners on the lamp columns, which are designed to brighten the improvements, have been sponsored by many local traders.

Meantime, a feasibility study is being



That's better: John and Pam Bryant view the West Street enhancements.

undertaken into the improvements that could be made to the junctions of West Street with High Street and Quay Street by Hampshire County Council Environment Department.

It is also hoped that improvements can be made to the west end of Fareham's main shopping street and conservation area in accordance with the Town Centre Area Action Plan in the Local Development Framework.

Measures to reduce traffic speeds and improve facilities for pedestrians, plus pavement and forecourt improvements to shops, should in time enhance the setting to historic buildings.

Removal of unnecessary street clutter will improve access to open space and create a better street scene with tree planting.

Fareham's crime victim figures show dramatic fall

CRIME showed a dramatic fall in Fareham last year.

Councillor John Bryant was delighted that there were 900 fewer victims of crime in 2007.

Fareham had a crime detection rate of 28.5% – second best borough in the force.

Calls from the public to police were 7,650 fewer (down 55%) and neighbourhood priorities are really being tackled, particularly parking, anti social behaviour, speeding and littering.

"Our local police areas have undergone tremendous change during the past couple of years but are now looking forward to some stability within the area, with many of the local police officers and community support officers recognised as familiar faces as they patrol our area," he said.

The Council and Fareham police officers meet regularly to discuss issues, such as making the town safer, anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime and speeding.

"We can all help by informing the police of any issues that affect us by calling at the mobile police station in West Street precinct on the first Thursday of each month between 10am and 3pm," he added.

Security doors

AFTER consulting Nashe House residents about the installation of a security door system, many have queried the need and benefit to them if work is carried out.

As a result, the proposed work has been put on hold.

Hospital start scheduled for January 2009

FAREHAM'S new community hospital goes for planning approval during the summer with a programmed building start at the Coldeast site in January 2009.

The public consultation recently undertaken by the NHS was mostly well received, although there was disappointment with the lack of maternity and in-patient beds.

The first phase is

planned to be operational in early in 2011.

One of the key aims is to bring together a wide range of healthcare professionals within one building to support and enhance the delivery of patient care in the Fareham area.

To achieve this, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) has consulted staff involved in the development of the service, with workshops and user group meetings.

Phase 1 will deal only with outpatient treatments.

Maternity beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook, may be provided in Phase 2, although Fareham is the only area in Hampshire with a predicted rise of 15% in the birth rate, compared with a decrease of 14% for Gosport and similar decreases in other neighbouring areas.



New county directory lists trusted traders

IT'S EVEN easier to find a trustworthy trader, thanks to Hampshire County Council's new 'Buy With Confidence' directory which now features record numbers of members.

Containing easy-to-follow colour-coded categories, the directory offers a range of companies, from home repairs to motoring.

Organisations can only join the scheme after being checked by the County Council's Trading Standards team for trustworthiness and compliance with the law.

County Councillor John Bryant said: "With so many traders now approved by Trading Standards, residents can enjoy greater peace of mind, knowing that the service offered by each business or contractor is reliable and of a high quality."

Copies of the directory are available from libraries and information centres.

Voters show increased confidence in Tory administration



COUNCILLOR John Bryant thanks the 1,714 residents who voted for him to continue representing their views on Fareham Borough Council.

He took 72.2% of the poll, proving local people are satisfied with the Conservative administration.

He has since been appointed chairman of the Planning and Transportation Panel,

which deals with future planning strategy and environmental and highway improvements.

Sheila Tavendale, who thanks the 778 residents who voted for her, did not win Fareham NW, but still took 40.3% of the poll – a 12% increase for the Tories over the 2006 figure.

•Photo shows John and Sheila discussing future plans for the ward.

Citizen of Honour award for Alfred (92)

HE'S 92 and is still working for the Fareham East Scouting District.

Alfred Breeze has worked with the Scouts for over 75 years and his loyalty and dedication to help young people and the wider community.

His lifetime of service to others earned him one of the Borough's 2008 Citizen of Honour awards.

The awards recognise and congratulate many Fareham people who unselfishly do things for the benefit of others.

This year's recipients received their awards at the Mayor-making ceremony.

Among the winners was Valerie Rossiter for her work with the Parkinson's Disease Society, Heather Othen who is the Lead Co-ordinator of Fareham in Bloom.

North West Ward residents, including Alfred Breeze, took this year's

other two adult awards.

A popular award winner was the delightful school crossing lady, Sylvia Roseworn.

Not only does she escort children safely across the busy Highlands Road at the junction with Kennedy Avenue – a task she has diligently done for over 30 years – but she goes beyond the call of duty, remembering every child's name as well as their carers, always with a friendly ear to listen and a cheerful smile whatever the weather.

There were two recipients of the Young Citizen of Honour Awards.

Amber Horton (4 to 8-year-olds) rescued a young friend from the sea as he was out of his depth on a family day at the beach.

In the 9 to 18 category, Micah King received his medal for supporting his mother in caring for his young brother who is severely autistic.

Traders get underage sales guide

A NEW Underage Sales Newsletter is being distributed by Hampshire Trading Standards officers to shop owners in an effort to improve compliance.

It contains information, advice and details of the law on the sale of controlled items such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

The booklet is designed to remind shop staff of their duty to ensure age-restricted products do not fall into the wrong hands and to reinforce any training by the retailer that is already in place.

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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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

I AM DELIGHTED that, following pressure from local people, the County Council has decided to save Brownwich and Chilling and drop it from the list of proposed sites for gravel extraction.

It was a great result and was the consequence of local people coming out in force to protest, coupled with robust logical arguments.

What impressed me about the campaign was that it was a real team effort. It was kick-started by CAMELSolent, a group of local residents who came together to make sure that people were aware of the plans. They set up the public meeting at Brookfield School where hundreds turned up to hear about the plans and voice their concerns.

This led to the County Council being deluged with responses to its consultation. I was sent copies of 300 responses out of a total of nearly 2,000 and I was struck by the strength of the arguments.

There was a real sense of passion as people wanted to safeguard one of the last undeveloped stretches of Solent coastline. In making these representations, residents had the support of their Borough and County councillors as well as mine. By working as a team, we persuaded the County Council to change its mind.

This was a genuine consultation and the County Council did not go into this with its mind made up.

For those who are cynical about consultations, dropping Brownwich and Chilling as well as Pickwell Farm shows what can happen. Hampshire, like any council, gets its fair share of brickbats so for this decision it deserves a bouquet!

Thank you to all those who made their voice known. Your hard work and commitment secured this haven for generations to come.

•You may contact Mark via his office
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He's full of beans...



Tucking in: James Harrison (11) makes short work of breakfast while his mum, Louise, ensures the empty tins go into the blue-top recycling bin.

BEANZ meanz energy.

Baked beans on toast will provide you with calories; the tin they came in will save enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours if you recycle it.

Recycling paper, tin, glass, aluminium and plastics saves 60% to 70% energy.

Fareham remains at the top of the Hampshire league for recycling with the most recent percentage at 44.3%.

An advisory campaign to

provide extra information to residents who are still unsure of what to recycle, started earlier in the year.

National newspapers have printed 'scare stories' about rats, plastic bags and recycling material going to India or China where it is buried.

This may be the situation in other parts of the country, but not in Fareham, where there has been no increase in vermin infestation.

Fareham collects only material for which there is a UK recycling market.

All other waste goes to the SE Hampshire incinerator to produce energy to heat and light 30,000 houses a year and none goes to landfill.

A major campaign is being promoted by Project Integra (a consortium of 14 Councils in Hampshire) to recycle tins.

If in doubt ring the Council 01329 236100.

Recycling bin's full of tins



Oh Gord, now it's a Brown bin tax

GORDON BROWN'S failing Government is trying to lure Conservative-controlled councils into introducing a bin tax.

Even Labour's optimistic assessment admits it would cost at least £72 a year and add to the misery of families already struggling to meet soaring living costs.

But despite repeated Downing Street briefings that such a tax would make the Government even more unpopular, Labour is pushing ahead with the plan.

Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "It's just another cynical Labour attempt to tax families more by stealth, but with a thick coat of greenwash."

Initially, five pilot schemes will adopt these new taxes; the Government predicts that the taxes will be extended to two out of three homes.

Ministers have written to every council inviting them to take part in such schemes.

Councillor Woodward responded: "This is a trap to attempt to entice Conservative councils into supporting the Government's deeply unpopular plans."

Ministers maintain such schemes could be 'revenue neutral', but councils across the country warned the Government's figures do not add up, due to the administration, collection and enforcement costs of a new tax, as well as the need for lockable bins.

The Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management warns that with overall council tax bills remaining the same, either householders who recycle will pay a proportionally larger slice – in the Irish Republic costs of 300-400 Euros (£240-£320) are not uncommon for waste collection – or other services might have to be reduced.

Bin taxes will lead to a surge of fly-tipping and back-



Browned off: Maybe it's time to recycle him

yard burning and will give perverse incentives to

people to dump their rubbish, stuff it in neighbours' bins or contaminate recycling bins.

In the Irish Republic, 4 in 10 households now burn their rubbish, causing 73% of all dioxin emissions.

Under Labour's plans, civil amenity sites will have to remain free for household waste, so more people will drive to the local tip to avoid the tax, increasing carbon emissions and congestion.

Councillor Woodward added: "The Government should be working instead with councils to extend recycling collections and make it easier for all households to go green."

"There is certainly a role for incentives, but not for taxes or charges."