



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST – 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.

New ceiling

Fareham Hall's auditorium will be closed until February 28 while a new acoustic ceiling is fitted.

The rest of the building will be open as usual for functions in the Octagon Lounge and Meon Room.

Moving

Fareham Community Action will move HQ to 163 West Street from March 2008 following an offer made by the Borough Council.

Chairman Ian Adamson said they were delighted with the offer which would help to provide a high profile in promotion of community involvement.

Parking abuse

Drivers who abuse disabled parking bays could be fined up to £1,000.

Police, traffic wardens and parking attendants now have powers to demand to see blue disabled badges.

New skate parks are 'cool' youngsters tell councillors



Well used: One of Fareham's new skate parks gets the once over from Councillor Pam Bryant.

YOUNG people summed up their appreciation to Fareham Council for providing five new skate parks across the Borough – COOL!

Members of Fareham Youth Council gave a presentation at December's full council meeting, including a short film showing how well the skate parks were being used.

Youth Council chairman Tom Fyfe explained to councillors that he was speaking on behalf of the young people to say thank you for providing the skate parks.

Users of the skate parks were asked by the Youth Council what they thought of the parks and asked to write their comments on A4 sheets.

Comments ranged from simple statements of 'cool' to more detailed thoughts on the positive effect they

have had for the area's youth.

The skate parks are situated at Wicor in Portchester, Stubbington recreation ground, Church Road, Locks Heath, Meadowside Leisure Centre in Whiteley and in the recreation ground next to the Leisure Centre.

Councillor Pam Bryant said the short film and presentation was excellent.

"We are always being told that local youngsters have very few facilities so it was good to have some positive feedback from the users of these new facilities.

"Youth groups and residents were all consulted before building the skate parks, and while there were some initial problems in Park Lane when the facility opened, the youngsters seem to be using them well and enjoying themselves," she said.

County Council wasting no efforts to reverse 'dustbin of Europe' slur

BRITAIN is the 'dustbin of Europe'. We dump more household waste into landfill than any other country in the European Union.

But Hampshire County Council is working hard to reverse that trend.

Its innovative partnership for dealing with waste has meant the county now leads the country for putting the least amount of waste into landfill.

Councillor John Bryant said: "Residents of Hampshire can be proud that we put the least amount of waste into landfill of anywhere in the UK.

"We are top of the league because the County Council had the vision to invest heavily in some of the best recycling and disposal facilities in Europe.

"We also formed a unique partnership called 'Project Integra' where we work with district and borough councils and the private sector to create an innovative joint waste management strategy.

"This partnership has given us internationally acclaimed integrated solutions to managing waste."

Most of Hampshire's non-recyclable domestic

rubbish is now safely incinerated at very high temperatures to generate energy that is put back into the national grid.

He added: "Last year, we recycled or recovered more than 81% of Hampshire's waste and we generated enough electricity to power 40,000 homes.

"However, last year we had to spend £43m on managing waste and these costs are projected to go up by 17% over the next three years."

•Fareham is the top performing recycling authority in Hampshire with a rate of around 40%.

Shades of pink make for a little light reading

Fareham Library, the busiest in Hampshire, reopened at the beginning of January following refurbishment.

While it was closed the ground floor was redecorated, new carpets and a new counter were installed.

The new decor in various shades of pink has brightened up the building.

It had been planned to do the work later in 2007, but flooding after heavy downpours, brought the work forward.

It was part of a county-wide programme to create a new generation of libraries with better buildings, wider range of services and more interactive workshops.

Free guide to care homes is available

THE ANNUAL 'Guide to Residential Care' published by the County Council is available free to anyone who needs advice about finding the right care home in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

It is essential for anyone looking for long-term or respite care, listing over 600 residential and nursing homes and providing information about each home.

If you want a copy call freephone 0800 028 0888. Copies are also available from the County Council's four information centres, Adult Services, Libraries, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, main hospitals and Age Concern offices.

Campaign to catch doorstep criminals

HAMPSHIRE County Council is to back a Crimestoppers campaign that aims to raise awareness about doorstep crime.

Anyone who has been contacted by suspicious callers - not just victims - should report such incidents. Callers who do not want to talk to the police directly, can phone 0800 555 111 anonymously.

A grant of £3,000 will contribute toward the cost of publicity material for the 'Doorstep Crime Project'.

The County Trading Standards service has formed a quick response team that aims to catch doorstep criminals in the act. Anyone who wishes to alert them should call 01962 846316.

Older residents can find more information on how to deal with unwanted callers in the Safe and Sound booklet. Call 01962 869765 for a copy.

Take the path to fitness with the Mayor and Mayoress to boot

THESE BOOTS are made for walkin', runs the famous Nancy Sinatra song.

Hopefully, one of these days yours will walk all over Fareham's country paths.

Mayor and Mayoress Councillors John and Pam Bryant, whose numerous dinner engagements during their year make walking one of their top priorities, set an example on New Year's Day.

They walked the path from Funtley to Knowle, which starts near the Miner's Arms and has just been upgraded by the County Council.

Signs have been improved and sturdy stiles and gates installed. Improvements are promised for other paths near Knowle Hospital which are a bit of a plodge at present.

John and Pam say Fareham Council's health development team run a programme of guided walks around the Borough.



Doing it in style: The Bryant family go through a gate on the upgraded path.

"Whether you want to improve your general health, to keep fit, control your weight or recover from a period of ill-health, walking can help," they say.

More information from health development officer Katie Rom on 01329 236100 email: krom@fareham.gov.uk

Sore footnote: You won't get blisters if you follow the boot grades - 1 boot for beginners, 2 boots for improvers, 3 boots for the fighting fit.

Transport of delight at cash boost award

EXCELLENT! That's the government's rating of Hampshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP).

It has rewarded the County Council with an extra £1.5m to spend on transport initiatives in 2007/08.

Only four out of 19 highway authorities in the south east were awarded the top rating for their LTPs.

An extra £1.1m has also been awarded for highway maintenance, bringing the total pot of government grant and borrowing approval to just over £16m for the next financial year.

County Councillor for Fareham Town, Cllr John Bryant, said: "Our excellent LTP rating is well deserved and testament to the hard work of our staff delivering services in a difficult financial climate.

"This money from government will enable us to continue our efforts to improve the county's roads and pavements.

"Top of my list is safety, as we continue our excellent work in reducing the number of deaths and serious injury on Hampshire's roads."

What a healthy town

FAREHAM adults are in the top 25% of the nation's physically active people.

A survey carried out on behalf of Sport England says 23.1% of over 16s exercise regularly.

Over 350,000 people were surveyed across Europe, at least 1,000 in each of Hampshire's local authority areas.

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 2814
email: john.bryant@hants.gov.uk

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**

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 be 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.