



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – AUTUMN 2007

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 Trevor Howard 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.

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



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Relate venue

Portsmouth and Southampton Relate has procured a place at Neville Lovett School for counselling.

Sessions will be held monthly on Saturday mornings. To book an appointment phone 02792 827026.

Relate has been able to finance these sessions with on-going help from Fareham Council.

Counsellors are easy to talk to and sessions are confidential.

Councillor Trevor Howard is on Relate's executive board.

Police team

Fareham South's neighbourhood police team comprises:

Sgt Burt, Pcs John Cupper, Jim Heath, Rob Flowers, Lisa Binney, Helen Winters.

PCSOs Anne Titcombe, Gregory Sharman, Paul Godfrey.

Special Constables Michael Clarke, Martyn Crutchley, Dan Neligan and Samantha Skinner.

The team mobile number is 07757 137068. Non-emergency crime number is 08450 45 45 45.

Email: farehamsector@hampshire.ppn.police.uk.

M27 widening

Work is due to start in January to widen the M27 and will last about 10 months.

Steps will be taken to minimize delays, but it is inevitable that some will occur. There will be an exhibition in late autumn for residents to discuss the project and meet the contractors' public liaison officer.

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 met officers to discuss the problems and was assured that it would remain open.

Welcoming the news, 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*.

Safety barrier rejected, but road is resurfaced

A SAFETY barrier cannot be installed beside the Mill Road -Gosport Road roundabout due to underground services.

Councillor Dennis Steadman requested a detailed assessment of the area because residents expressed concerns after two vehicles crashed through a nearby fence.

"It was decided that a barrier was not possible due to the position of underground services and a possible reason for the crashes was the condition of the road surface around the roundabout which had become rather smooth and was not providing sufficient grip," he said.

As a result, the whole of the road area around the roundabout was resurfaced in mid August and should now have a safe surface, provided drivers observe the 30 mph limit along Gosport Road.

Councillor Steadman said the carriageway resurfacing at the junction of Redlands Lane and Fayre Road had now been carried out, with the residents being informed of the work well beforehand.

It is the policy of Hampshire County and Fareham Borough Councils to ensure that inconvenience is kept to a minimum.

The rolling programme of footpath rebuilding is continuing with the completion of the Biggin Walk area.

Councillor Steadman commented: "As I pledged at the last election, because these footpaths were in very poor condition and needed attention the concerted effort by Fareham Council and the Highways Department on your behalf is certainly paying off with the updating process and also helps improve the environmental appearance of the area."

New care scheme to provide 400 extra places

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 real alternative to residential care.

People are living 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.

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.

Council puts £100,000 into CATS kitty for initiatives

FAREHAM Council has set aside £100,000 to fund neighbourhood initiatives, residents were told when the five Community Action Teams (CATS) met in September.

Each CAT will be able to bid for resources to fund projects in their area and £30,000 has been set aside from the fund for clean and tidy neighbourhood initiatives.

Fareham South Councillor Dennis Steadman said the meeting at Fareham Methodist Church was well attended and gave residents the chance to have their say.

Presentations by the Council and police were well received and several topics raised, among them litter, speeding vehicles, grass cutting and individual concerns.

The police gave succinct answers to issues affecting them and spoke to residents afterwards about specific matters.

Residents also had the chance to complete the 'Act Now' cards distributed during meetings.

The Council has a target to reply within 5 working days to confirm action taken or being taken.

Alternatively, people can email comps@fareham.gov.uk.

Next meetings will take place in January at times and venues to be announced.

Stamp collection

USED postage stamps are being collected at Fareham Shopping Centre. Proceeds from their sale will go to The Wessex Cancer Trust.



Councillors' anger as motorists celebrate camera arson

A RECENT spate of speed camera burning on Gosport Road has angered ward Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard.

"The squeals of delight from passing motorists of all ages showed a complete lack of respect for public property or the public in general," said Councillor Steadman.

"The seemingly unchecked speed at which vehicles are allowed to drive is bringing fear at the indiscriminate manner that many drivers seem to adopt when they sit behind the wheel of a car."

Both councillors had made many appeals to the police and Hampshire Highways about speeding and have found their genuine concern because it is not possible to cater for bad driving.

Councillor Steadman said the speed camera had been repaired.

Not a brick laid yet, but demands mount for new community hospital

THE BEGINNING of the end of decades of frustration is in sight this autumn when work starts at the Coldeast site ahead of the building of Fareham's community hospital.

Hampshire Primary Care Trust promised the hospital would open in 2010, but before that one of the Western Wards' biggest housing schemes will get under way.

About 250 homes will be built on areas occupied by buildings in former and current health use.

Meantime, a case is being prepared for the hospital's annual through-put of patients. Demand appears to be heavy.

For example, an outpatients' department (acute specialities) will need to cope with a capacity of 21,000, maternity up to 2,000, older persons' mental health 2,400 individual and up to 700 group therapy appointments, with links to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Community and Primary Care Centre (minor day surgery), GP specialists, chronic disease management; out-of-hours provision, branch surgery consultations, family planning, children's

health, podiatry may need 1600 attendances.

Diagnostic Imaging (GP direct access), out-patients' consultations day care assessments will need a capacity for 15,000 X-rays and 9,000 ultra sounds.

Mobile MRI scanning will have to be catered for in future expansion.

The rehabilitation department (physiotherapy) should be able to deal with 9,600, patients annually, speech therapy 1,800 and occupation therapy 100.

In phase 2, a birthing centre will be provided if current consultations allow (see story in Page 3).

In Phase 1, Fareham Community Hospital will cover 3,450 square metres (37,136 sq ft) and Phase 2 will add another 850 square metres (9,149 sq ft).

The design will be flexible to enable future change of use and expansion if required.

All admissions to Gosport War Memorial Hospital beds will be based on clinical need not on geographical criteria.

'Old fashioned' school ma'am grasps the helm with a firm hand

THE new head of Neville Lovett School is "a force to be reckoned with" says Councillor Dennis Steadman.

Mrs Julie Taylor was been appointed after the retirement of Neil Dewhurst.

"Mrs Taylor believes in the old fashioned good manners aspect from the students and their respect for authority – something I would concur with every time – and that scholastic education must be coupled with discipline.

"I am looking forward to meeting Mrs Taylor. It will be very interesting," he said.

Neville Lovett Community School provides an array of activities including youth club for years 6 and 7, hip hop street dance classes for the under 10s, holiday activities, out-of-school club and many adult education classes.

Meeting the men who keep the borough clean

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 Trevor Howard 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.

FAREHAM SOUTH 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 South



Dennis Steadman
77 Mill Road
Fareham PO16 0TP
Tel: 01329 285667
email: dsteadman@fareham.gov.uk



Trevor Howard
44 Southampton Road
Fareham PO16 7DY
Tel: 01329 281510
email: thoward@fareham.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS Fareham Town



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



Raymond Ellis
20 Cams Hill
Fareham PO16 8RB
Tel: 01329 236127
email: raymondellis@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 have 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%).
- Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the



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

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.

"We continue to work with the police and community safety officers to reduce the low level crime and anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas."

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.

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