



In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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 Dennis Steadman 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.

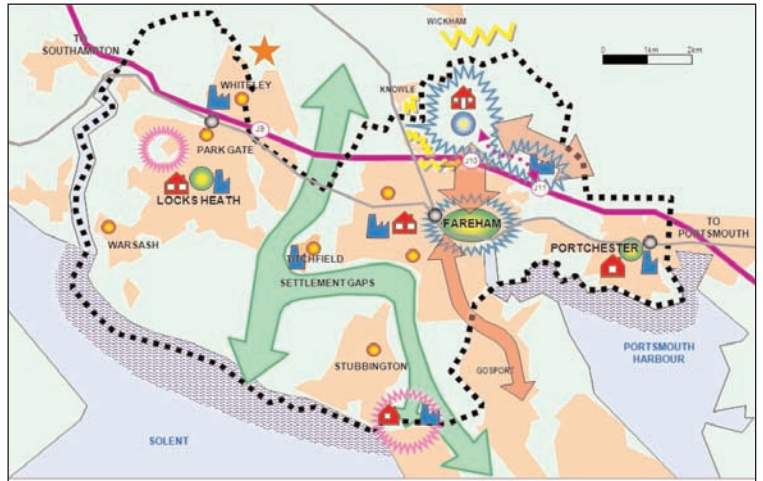
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

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 Dennis Steadman 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.

If you are a local business interested in exhibiting please contact FCA office on 01329 822646 or conservatives@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

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

A path at last

Footpath reconstruction works in Mill Road, scheduled to begin in 2009/10, was carried out in the week commencing July 20 after a long wait by residents.

Pond life grant

A grant of £700 has been given to Wallisdean Infants' School by Fareham Council to create a wildlife pond in a fenced area of woodland within the school. Work could start in 2010. It will help with lessons, particularly for pupils with little or no garden at home.

Thanks

John Bryant and Ray Ellis, who represent Fareham Town, have thanked people in South Ward who voted them back to the County Council in the June elections.

Mural lifts derelict Broadlaw Walk



Artists' inspiration to take eyes off the grim and unpleasant scene beyond the wall

RUN-DOWN Broadlaw Walk is looking at its brightest for years.

It's all due to the colourful mural painted by local artists on the hoarding in front of the derelict shopping centre.

And there are more to come.

Councillor Trevor Howard said: "Boardings around the site will have more children's murals which they painted some time ago.

"This was due to start about the second week of October."

He said a temporary community room at the back of Mitre Court was to be up and running in October and was there for all age groups to use.

"It will be a very nice venue for different activities and will even have

computers.

"But Councillor Dennis Steadman and I are appealing for volunteers to help run it."

Meantime, the chemist was due to move to new premises under Mitre Court at the end of September and the next phase of the centre's modernisation will be demolition of the old buildings opposite.

The bus stop and phone box will be relocated on Bishopfield Road.

•To volunteer to help run the temporary community room, call Trevor Howard or Dennis Steadman, and leave your names, addresses and contact details, which will be passed to Portsmouth Housing Trust.

Dennis wins seat battle and saves ratepayers a grand

THE SAGA of the derelict seat at the junction of Belvoir Close and Gosport Road has ended.

Councillor Dennis Steadman won a battle

to install the new seat removed from Broadlaw Walk and given to the Council by Portsmouth Housing Association.

He stated: "This has saved the £1,000 it

would have cost to buy a new one.

"It's an example of common-sense recycling instead of the ratepayers incurring unnecessary cost."

Action at Trafalgar follows councillor's second site visit

ANOTHER visit to Trafalgar Court followed the one in August was made by Councillor Dennis Steadman and the Council's senior housing officer to discuss any concerns tenants may have.

Several items were brought to the Council's attention.

1 Length of overgrown hedge outside 1 – 10 which will be removed and the area laid to grass. Some residents asked for it

to be tarmaced, but the Council will generally lay grass in these areas.

2 The cherry tree outside 9 and 10 was inspected and it was agreed to remove it to allow as much light as possible for the nearby flats.

3 It was also agreed that the large trees at the front of Trafalgar Court will be cut back once and will be programmed into the schedule. Work was due to begin

in early October.

4 The area of uneven concrete outside flats 9 and 10, where there is a drain, was reported to Southern Water during the August visit, but has yet to be repaired. A further urgent request was made to Southern Water.

5 The hugely overgrown vegetation around Flat 18 was highlighted and will be further assessed by the area housing estates officer, who will contact nearby residents.

£50,000 grant for new play area is welcomed

A DEPRIVED part of Fareham South Ward is to get a £50,000 grant towards a new play area.

In an edition of *In Touch* last year, Councillor Dennis Steadman referred to the provision of play areas in localities which were lacking such facilities.

Councillor Steadman is delighted to report that the area selected in Fareham South is Crossfell Walk, which it was felt needed the investment to enhance the area and give children a place to meet friends and play in a safe environment.

He commented: "I am very happy to report that the funding has been agreed and will be provided from 2010/2011. It's a project that I have been following closely."

The cash comes after Fareham Council expressed an interest for Playbuilder Funding, which is being distributed by Hampshire County Council to support the development.

Councillor Steadman promised there would be consultation with residents, ward councillors, children and young people, the police and the Council's Community Safety Team.



FLAME burns brightly at the Leisure Centre

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

Awarded by the Fitness Industry Association, it attracted a record number of entries from the nation's 4,000 leisure centres.

FLAME (Fitness Leadership and Management Excellence) Awards recognise best practice and entries are evaluated by expert assessors.

CCTV control centre upgrade will make Fareham even safer

CCTV forms an integral part of the Council's Community Safety Strategy in reducing the fear of crime and incidence of criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

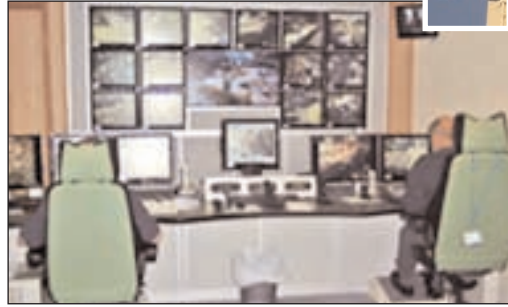
It plays a significant role in reducing crime and disorder, increasing community safety and public reassurance, as well as assisting the police in investigating crime.

Fareham has 38 cameras across the Borough and has just completed a major programme to refurbish all the cameras and upgrade the control centre, including provision of digital recording facilities.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, so the police can be alerted to

crimes in progress and video footage produced as court evidence.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "CCTV is one area where the Council is working with organisations such as the police as part of the Fareham Community Safety Partnership."



Watching: The control room is manned 24 hours a day. **Inset:** A camera outside the Shopping Centre.

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 and youth centres and sports pavilions to rationalise provision and modernise by 2112, which is on target.

Planning consent will be given soon for the Quay Street supermarket, although details still have to be agreed between Tesco and the County Council.

South Ward's gardeners earn accolades for brightening up the town

FAREHAM in Bloom has had another tremendous year with 22 awards going to Fareham South Ward residents and another to Neville Lovett School.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "The achievements of these residents deserve our gratitude in their efforts to make the area a more attractive place." Winners were:

Small floral front garden – Gold and overall winner, Mrs Blandford, St Michael's Grove; silver gilt, Mrs C Spelling, Redlands Lane; silver, Mr N Lamport, Coombe Farm Avenue; bronze, Mr J Carpenter, Alexander Grove.

Large floral front garden – Silver gilt and overall winner, Mrs Sharp, Mill Road.

Plantsman's front garden – Bronze, Mrs W Fox, Coombe Farm Avenue.

Hanging or wall basket – Silver gilt, Mr and Mrs Blandford, St Michael's Grove.

3 containers – Bronze, Mr and Mrs Blandford.

Floral display with baskets or containers – Silver gilt, Mr and Mrs Blandford; silver gilt, Mrs M Sharp, Mill Road.

Unusual garden feature – Bronze, Mrs R Clothier, Redlands Lane.

Floral back garden – Silver, Mr J A Carpenter, Alexander Grove; silver, Mr H

Gasser, Redlands Lane; silver, Mrs M Sharp, Mill Road; silver, Mr J Pullinger, Coombe Farm Avenue; bronze, Mrs R Clothier, Redlands Lane.

Plantsman's back garden – Gold and overall winner, Mr N Lamport, Coombe Farm Avenue; gold, Ms J Bruster, Paxton Road; silver, Mr H Wonham, Paxton Road; bronze, Mrs W Bundy, Coombe Farm Avenue; bronze, Mrs B Staley, Coombe Farm Avenue.

Wildlife back garden – Bronze, Mr N Lamport, Coombe Farm Avenue.

Schools' gardening project – Bronze, Neville Lovett School, St Anne's Grove.

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.

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Our 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. And 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



Winners: Heather Othen (left) receives the outstanding contribution award from Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins, who is pictured (right) with Connie Hockley after presenting ranger Mark Trigwell with the gold award for best countryside park.

involvement and the Council's environmental work.

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.

"If you are a keen gardener and are not involved in our 'In Bloom' competition, then think about entering in 2010."

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 South 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.

The first fix of mechanical and electrical work is 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," reported Councillor Dennis Steadman.

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