



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – SPRING 2007

New drinks clampdown welcomed by police

DRINKING alcohol and misbehaving in public places could land you in trouble anywhere in Fareham.

The Council has extended its Designated Public Places Order to cover all the Borough from June 1, 2007.

Police, who found an earlier Order designating the town centre useful in reducing nuisance, backed the move.

The Council and police gathered evidence to identify other potential areas where designation would provide relief from the impact of drink-related disorder.

Highlands, central Portchester, West End and Stubbington were identified, with Hill Head and Locks Heath also causing concern.

If an Order were made for each area, a small part of the Borough would not be covered and the risk of dispersal to nearby areas would be high, hence the Borough-wide Order.

It is an offence to drink alcohol after being asked not to by a police officer. Police may confiscate and dispose of any alcohol and containers; it is an arrestable offence to disobey an officer's request.

It is **not** an offence to have a glass of wine or beer at the family picnic on the beach or in the park **unless** it causes alcohol-related nuisance, annoyance or disorder.

Fareham top choice for a happy family

WE'VE BEEN saying it for years, but now you're getting it from a renowned independent source – Fareham IS in the top six places in Britain to raise a family.

A *Reader's Digest* survey of all 408 local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales put the Borough in 6th position.

Classy Winchester came 42nd, Manchester 328th and three London boroughs at the bottom.

It was parents themselves, not councillors or officials, who came up with their own criteria.

Most important was living in a family-friendly area with good schools and hospitals, low crime rates, affordable housing and high employment.

Other factors included low flooding risk, proximity of universities, colleges, major cities, coast and country parks and climate.

The survey's findings utterly refuted a survey published by two national newspapers last October which outraged the town by placing it bottom of the list of desirable places to live because of poor employment and high crime figures.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "The results of this survey are wonderful news for Fareham. It is a really great place to raise a family, with countryside and the coast on your doorstep, along with the two larger cities of Portsmouth and Southampton close by.

"We have excellent schools and low crime rates and offer a safe and very attractive place to live.



"As well as being a great place environmentally, it is also a friendly place to live with good neighbours and supportive communities."

The Council took the *Independent on Sunday* and *Daily Mail* to the Press

Complaints commission and both printed apology letters.

Councillor Woodward added: "These letters quite clearly show that the producers of this survey made a mistake, but I am still anxious to ensure that the authors of the survey respond to us and that they explain how their data placed Fareham at the bottom of the ranking."

•Research was carried out on behalf of *Reader's Digest* by YouGov who surveyed 1,162 parents with children under 16 in February.

Colours, bayonets, drums and a famous name in Falklands parade

A VIP whose name was a top secret was to join veterans and dignitaries to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War on Saturday, May 12.

Fareham Council scheduled the official commemoration for 11am.

Shortly before, a Royal Navy guard of honour was to exercise

HMS Collingwood's right as freemen of the Borough to march through town with bayonets fixed and colours flying.

A Drumhead Service in West Street featuring the Royal Marines Band was to precede an address by the Council's Executive Leader, Councillor Seán

Woodward, and one by a veteran of the Falklands conflict.

The VIP was to open the Falklands Arch as an entrance to the town from Market Quay car park. A formal march past was being followed by a field gun display by HMS Collingwood Volunteer Cadet Corps.

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

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Nursery grant

The Executive member for Children's Services has awarded a Hampshire County Council grant of £50,400 to develop improved nursery provision in Fareham.

Another grant of £4,000 has been made to increase out-of-school leisure activities for young people with physical disabilities in Fareham, Gosport and East Hampshire.

Targeting crime

Fareham's crime figures indicate that criminal damage, vandalism, wounding and anti-social behaviour need to be targeted by community crime fighters during the coming year.

Areas for action were identified by Fareham Community Safety Partnership.

Cycle thefts increased by 37%, wounding by 17%, theft from persons by 17% and criminal damage by 5%, but overall crimes were down by 3%.

Longer hours

With lighter evenings and warmer weather, Hampshire household recycling centres will be open from 8am to 7pm 7 days a week until September 30.

Householders are encouraged to visit the centres at off-peak times 8-10am and 4.30-7pm to take advantage of the extended opening hours.

New youth club

A grant of £6,750 has been made by Hampshire County Council towards the launch of a new youth club in Fareham.

Now it's safer to cross at this busy junction



Safety first: The new layout at this section of the Delme roundabout.

THE PEDESTRIAN and cyclist controlled crossing at this dangerous accident spot has now been completed at a cost of £100,000.

The crossing has helped school children and elderly people to cross the road in safety, without causing additional traffic hold-ups.

Surveys had shown that in the 12-hour period about 400 pedestrians and 125 cyclist cross at this location.

It is situated on the westbound on-slip from the roundabout to the A27 Eastern Way, where the carriageway has been narrowed to one lane at the

crossing point, with full signage and anti-skid surfacing to the approach.

A pedestrian/cyclist controlled crossing light has also been added to the existing signals at the eastbound off slipway to the roundabout.

In addition the nearby footways have been widened to accommodate cyclists.

This is yet another example of how the Conservative controlled County Council makes the environment safer and more secure for our people, and also responds positively to local concerns.

Sharon brings deprived kids a little 'Luxory'

SHARON Hard was so moved by the plight of children in an Egyptian nursery school she decided to help them.

Sharon, who lives in Fareham South ward, discovered the children at Luxor had no government funding.

They rely mainly on donations from British holidaymakers and the goodwill of local people, probably just as poor.

The nursery is run by inspirational teacher Hamida Ahmed and has 65 children aged two to six, who have no real toys, but still seem give visitors an angelic smile.

Sharon's family are now caught up in it, with son Sam and friend Josh



Stannard walking 100 miles from Windsor Great Park to Gunwharf Quays to raise funds.

Sharon went on a sponsored diet losing two stone and, with the help of friends, raised over £1,000.

She, family and friends plan to raise more cash by holding car boot sales during the summer and would welcome items which could be sold or

taken to the nursery.

Donations can be made by contacting Sharon on 01489 898465 or 01329 285279; her email is: shazzahard@aol.com

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "The work that Sharon and family are doing is magnificent and no praise is too high.

"Please help this family and become part of something worthwhile."

Problems, complaints? We're here to help, say councillors

SINCE the last *In Touch* all letters, emails, phone calls and verbal messages that Dennis and I have received about residents' problems or complaints have been noted, writes Councillor Trevor Howard.

"Thank you for informing us of your problems. It is important that we know and can then act on them as soon as possible.

"We also like to know who you are so that we may contact you if we need any more information, also to let you know the outcome.

"We have a problem when you send us letters with no name or phone numbers. However, if you write to us and say you do not want your name mentioned then that is what we will do."

He assured residents that all messages were taken seriously and he and Dennis Steadman tried to deal with them promptly.

"We go to the appropriate officer and usually they will write, phone or email if they know your number or your address."

From June 2 2007, a surgery will be held, initially for a six-month trial period, on the first Saturday of the month at Neville Lovett School in St Anne's Grove.

"Come along," added



Regeneration proposals for run-down Broadlaw Walk

PORTSMOUTH Housing Association has recently acquired the run-down Broadlaw Walk shopping precinct and wants to revamp it.

PHA is a charity which specialises in the regeneration of urban areas such as Broadlaw Walk and has been working closely with Fareham Borough Council which has indentified the area as a priority.

Redevelopment of Broadlaw Walk would provide a new shopping area, affordable housing, improved space and a community facility.

Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard, who have been kept informed of developments, recently attended a meeting with the development officer of Portsmouth Housing Association, Mr John Waterfield, and the head of strategic housing of Fareham Council and other officers.

"These proposals look very exciting and would completely transform the whole site.

"There will be 57 flats and about 7 retail outlets and it is expected that the housing will be split, with 50% at lower cost for purchase and the remainder for renting," said Dennis and Trevor.

Before the PHA submits a planning application, it will carry out some local consultation on the proposals which will possibly be held during May 2007, together with a questionnaire on 6 key areas:

- The proposed housing scheme
- The shopping proposals
- Open space in the precinct
- Community facilities
- Community safety
- Any other issues you may have.

Consultations will comprise three sessions in vacant units at the end of Mitre Court. It is important that residents attend so their views are discussed; a website will be set up so you can view the plans.

Staff from the PHA, the Council and ward councillors will attend to discuss the key areas.

Dennis keeps promise as long-running saga of Mill Road is finally resolved

MOVES TO safeguard pedestrians' safety at the junction of Mill Road and Gosport Road have now come to fruition.

The much widened footpath is finished and the road closed to traffic coming from Gosport Road.

This has been a long-standing concern and the cudgel was first taken up by Mrs Carole Steadman when she complained to Hampshire Highways in 1994 as a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator but it was rejected as there was no funding available.

Carole tried again in 1996 by appealing to the Police Authority but they refused to back her plea as they had not been notified of any pedestrian accidents there for a three-year period so it did not meet the criteria at that time.

Despite an offer by the then owners of 99 Gosport Road to give up part of their front garden to allow widening of the footpath, it was again rejected by Hampshire Highways for the earlier reason – lack of funds – plus a preservation order.

In May 2000, Dennis Steadman became the first Conservative councillor to represent Fareham

South for many years and found that there was much work to be done.

He said: "I made the footpath problem my first priority and began an onslaught on Highways to have the situation rectified.

"This was the first of my pledges on becoming a councillor, but I soon realised that it was going to be a long journey."

In 2003, he and Carole started a petition and soon collected over 200 signatures.

Photographs were presented with the petition to Hampshire Highways. These were noted but the question of funding again precluded any action.

"Eventually in 2006, with the help of Councillors Seán Woodward and Arthur Mandry and others, I managed to get this project agreed to and a date set for the work to start."

It took place in February 2007, 13 years after initial overtures were made.

"Local residents and pedestrians say it is now a pleasure to walk along the new footpath and with the 'exit only' system there is a much greater feeling of safety.

"I look upon it as a promise I kept," he added.

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

IN THE last edition of *In Touch*, I wrote about the importance of education and the seminar that I was to chair at the beginning of March.

I am delighted to say that we had an excellent turnout and a first class discussion. We had a broad cross-section of local people including governors, head teachers, teachers, parents and employers.

What I found interesting was the degree of consensus achieved from such a diverse audience and this was expressed in three main themes.

The first was the fundamental importance of getting the basics right. We could not allow children to leave school without having mastered English and maths. Basic skills are fundamental to living and working in a society that is increasingly dependant upon technology.

The second point was the need for a balanced curriculum. Whilst we must get the basics right, children need a broadly based education too. There was a concern that the emphasis on league tables and targets is skewing what is happening in our schools. There has to be time for music as well as maths!

The third theme was to recognise that every child is different and their needs vary. At every level of ability, education should be tailored to meet individual needs. Concern was expressed about the support available for children with special needs and for the most able. This led to a discussion about the choices available for young people at 16 and 18: making sure a wide range of academic and vocational courses is offered to meet the needs of those wishing to continue in education.

In an increasingly demanding world, we need to ensure that our young people are well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. As I visit local businesses, I see the increased pressure that there is for skills, but education is about much more than turning people out ready for work. As the expectations on our schools increase, it is vital we give the support that they need as they change to meet these pressures.

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Double yellow peril alert



WATCH OUT!
Fareham has almost doubled its corps of parking wardens.

And they have orders to stick one on you if you infringe regulations.

The crackdown follows the Council taking over full responsibility for parking enforcement from the police, which now covers on and off street parking.

It aims to discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability and to make sure there is safe passage through the borough.

There are currently eight parking attendants, including one supervisor, but this figure will rise to 15 with two supervisors.

From April, enforcement is taking place seven days a week with wardens working a



Just the ticket! But not if you're on the receiving end from one of Fareham's 15 parking attendants.

shift system

They can now to slap a penalty charge notice on any car parked in a no waiting area, an area of single or double yellow lines and they are managing off street car parks and issuing residents' and visitors' permits.

New community action teams promised £100,000 to tackle grass roots issues

FIVE community action teams will be set up across Fareham to encourage more grass roots public participation in shaping the borough's future.

The Executive agreed the principle as part of the Community Engagement Strategy which should be ready for consideration in June.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Service, Performance and Improvement, said the aim was to develop greater emphasis on neighbourhood working and community engagement so local people could have more influence over local services and a greater capacity to tackle local issues for themselves.

"Fareham has always been a council committed to providing good quality services for the local community. This success has been built on a good relationship between

elected members and the local community," he said.

Community action teams, will offer the opportunity to:

- Strengthen the power of local councillors to act as advocates and leaders of the communities that they represent
- Provide information of interest and relevance to local communities, hear residents' views and provide feedback on issues raised
- Permit communities to bid for extra funding to be used on specific projects in their area
- Enable people to raise specific issues of local concern with the appropriate people

Meetings of the community action teams will be held at various venues throughout each neighbourhood and last no longer than two hours.

They will be attended by

ward councillors and will be championed by a council chief officer to provide a senior profile and ensure that any follow-up action is treated with the appropriate level of urgency and importance.

Representatives of other agencies such as the Police, Hampshire County Council, and the Primary Care Trust will also attend.

The Council will set aside a central budget of £100,000 in 2007/8 for neighbourhood initiatives and councillors will work with their community action teams to put forward bids for projects in their area.

It is proposed to appoint two new community engagement officers, supported by a community assistant, to assist the teams.

Action teams will be set up in Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, Western Wards and Fareham Town.

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