



**Conservatives**

# In Touch

*with our community*

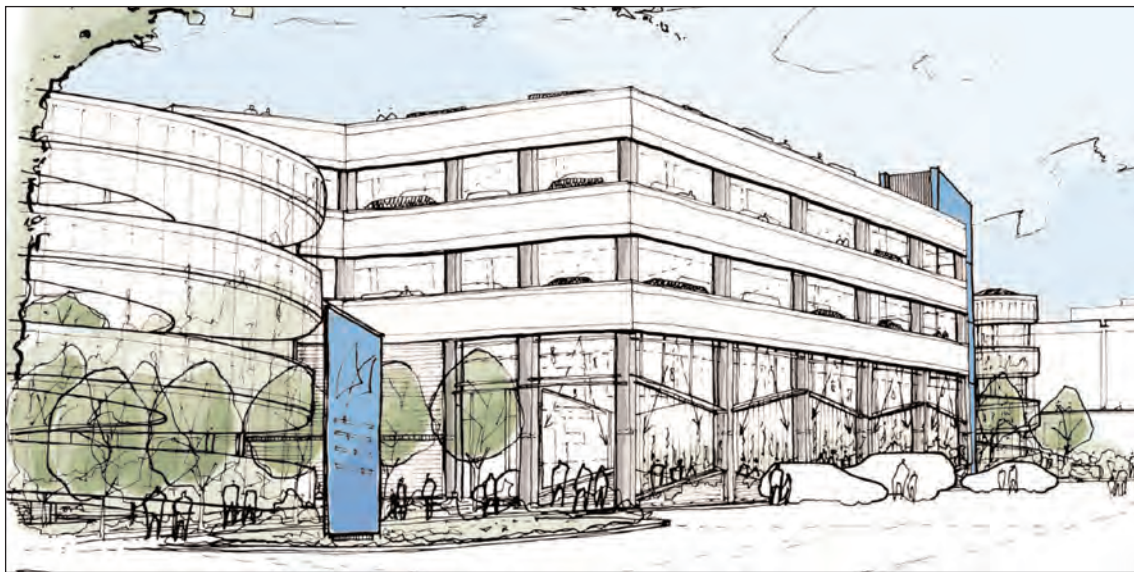
FAREHAM SOUTH – SUMMER 2007

## Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

## Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



**New look:** An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

### DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor Trevor Howard said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is a useful addition to the town centre."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Ferneham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.

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



# WARD NEWS BRIEFS

## Action team

Fareham town wards residents are invited to the first meeting of the Community Action Team (CATS) in Fareham Methodist Church, Queen's Road on September 17 at 7pm.

Five CATS groups led by ward councillors were set up to offer residents the chance to find out what is proposed for their area and discuss grass roots issues.

Council officers, County Council, police, Primary Care Trust and the Local Strategic Partnership representatives will also attend.

## Achtung!

Sprechen Sie deutsch? You can learn if you join the the Fareham-Pulheim Association, which is seeking new members.

Apart from exchanges with the German twin town, events include social evenings and language classes.

If you're interested, contact Trevor Howard.

## Busy councillor

Trevor Howard has been busy since the last *In Touch*, helping in matters such as evictions, dumping, untidy gardens, bad roads, dog bins, overhanging trees, lack of buses in Longfield Avenue.

He is looking at ways of helping young people and has spoken to some asking what they want. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

Reminder: Your ward councillors are available at the surgery on the first Saturday of the month at Neville Lovett School 10am-noon.

# Residents triumph over 'intolerable' test centre plan for Cams Alders

**CONTROVERSIAL plans for a vehicle test centre on acres of recreation land at Cams Alders were thrown out by Fareham planners.**

The decision on July 11 was applauded by a 30-strong deputation of residents.

Over 700 objectors signed a petition and an action group had been formed to fight it.

The Planning Development Control Committee's decision was unanimous on environmental, traffic and pollution grounds.

Ward Conservative Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard described it as a ploy to get even more development in the future and declared it must be stopped at all costs.

The plan was submitted to Fareham Council by the chairman of Fareham Town FC and the Ralls Group.

At first sight, their idea to upgrade the football pitches and provide two smaller pitches for community use within the club's boundary looked commendable.

"But it comes at a cost, with substantial loss of precious community recreation land and intrusion of building the vehicle test centre, with all the implications a highly commercialised venture on an area designated as open leisure would bring," said Councillor Steadman.

"Recreation land and leisure facilities are in very short supply in the Fareham South area with land being swallowed up by the building of houses and flats."

Action committee chairman Rob



**Staying green:** This recreation space adjoining Fareham Town's ground would have been lost.

Brailey was delighted. He told the committee the noise and effect on people's lives would be intolerable.

Councillor Steadman said the effect of having a test centre on this site would be devastating, with increased daily vehicle movements to well over 400 adding to the already heavily congested local roads.

Higher levels of pollution would be added to the current levels of carbon monoxide which probably already exceeded regulation levels.

"This application has been presented by the Ralls Group to the residents as a 'benefit to the youth of Fareham'.

"What nonsense! The benefits of the new pitches would be used by the footballing fraternity from all over the county to the detriment of the local residents and is really only being used as a ploy to get a commercial development started on green land.

"You can imagine that in a few years time the Ralls Group will put in for an extension to their empire."

He added: "This is the Wooden Horse of Troy. We are stifled with new houses and flats with more in the pipeline and we are so short of leisure land just to breathe."

## Top marks for head's 22 years' service

**NEVILLE LOVETT Community School head teacher Neil Dewhurst has put his books away and retired after 22 years' service.**

He came to Fareham as deputy head in 1985 and took charge in 1990. Under his guidance the school has had 3 successful OFSTED inspections and received many well deserved accolades for its achievements.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "We should offer our gratitude to Neil and wish him a very happy retirement."

Meanwhile, Fareham Community

Police want to start a youth centre at the school on Monday evenings.

It could be split into two sessions with years 8 and 9 attending from 6pm to 8pm and years 10 and 11 from 8pm to 10pm, with a trial run on the first two Mondays of the summer holidays.

If the youngsters show interest, regular sessions could start from September. Volunteers are needed to help run it.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "It's an excellent idea, it could help form a better relationship with the police."

# No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council

**MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.**

Nor will the Borough Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the other extreme measures practised elsewhere.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said:

"Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, have exaggerated the problems and suggested that voters should support any opposition party offering to change the service.

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all political parties understand that it is essential in the interests of the environment and the saving of energy to encourage and increase recycling.

"It is accepted that some opposition parties will promise to make changes. When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the 40% target for 2006-07.

## Extra police

**A sergeant, three officers and two or more community police are now patrolling South Ward.**

Councillor Trevor Howard said he had been around the estate to see what they do.

"I'm surprised at the numbers I have seen. So all your phoning of 101 numbers does have an impact."

# Youth leader Tom 'hangs about' to get streetwise

**IT WAS a daunting task just going up to kids hanging around street corners and chatting to them.**

Even more so when you're their age and trying to get their views on local issues.

Tom Fyfe, last year's chairman of Fareham Youth Council, writes:

"It was something I dreaded at first as, like most people, I unfortunately stereotyped others.

"Then, on the 5th of October with my support workers in the Youth Service, I began taking part in 'street-based' work.

"This is where the Youth Council talks to young people throughout the borough to get their views.

"The first place we visited was outside Bugden's in Stubbington where we knew there was a high chance of people 'hanging about' there.

"When we started talking to them, the stereotyped views I held were dispelled."

Tom says they were friendly, engaging and had real concerns on local issues and were glad to see somebody asking for their opinions on matters such as skateparks and alcohol.

"We also asked them why they were hanging around outside Bugden's and they said it was safe there because of the lights from open shops. Nowhere else, even the skatepark, was well lit.

"The papers create something known as 'moral panic', an exaggerated one-sided view, which is stereotyping young people and creating fear among different parts of society to such an extent that a group of young people cannot 'hang out' without making the bystanders nervous."

outside a shop without making the bystanders nervous."

**•Councillor Dennis Steadman comments:**

"Tom is the youngest member of Fareham South Conservative Association and agreed to write the article to outline his thoughts on the issues affecting the relationship between young persons and the older generation.

"I feel that this is a real look into the world that we do seem unable to penetrate.

"Maybe it will broaden our thinking."



**Tom Fyfe:** 'I dreaded it at first.'

# County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

**VOLUNTARY organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.**

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets that the County Council has aimed at supporting community groups.

County Councillors for Fareham Town John Bryant and Ray Ellis said: "By giving each councillor a budget, they can use that knowledge to benefit local people through providing grants for community initiatives."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at [www.hants.gov.uk/grants](http://www.hants.gov.uk/grants)

Organisations and groups can apply by requesting an application form from John Bryant or Ray Ellis or by downloading a form from the grants website.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or affiliated groups or from lobbying organisations.

## Urgent move to ease A32 traffic

**REJECTION of the light rapid transport system to connect Fareham and Gosport with Portsmouth has made improvements to traffic flow on the A32 even more urgent.**

It is proposed to examine traffic light frequency and to improve roundabout traffic flow during the next months. Quay Street and Gosport Road roundabouts need to be seriously re-modelled and are being examined by traffic engineers.

## 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**

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

**•You may contact Mark via his office  
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# Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

**THOUSANDS** packed the town centre to cheer **Baroness Thatcher** when she came to **Fareham** to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the **Falklands 25 years ago.**

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



**Marching in memory:** Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had

the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



**Lest we forget:** Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

## £1.3m boost to brighten the drab end of town



**SHOPKEEPER Mark Bizley discusses plans for a facelift for the tatty end of West Street with Councillor John Bryant.**

Traders and shoppers have welcomed the £1.3m regeneration project to provide new pavements, trees, seats and street lighting.

There will also be improvements to junction crossings for pedestrians along the whole of the Golden Mile.

Councillor Bryant said: "It will benefit everyone and hopefully make this part of

town vibrant with shoppers all year."

Planning is under way, with work due to start this autumn and completion next summer. The bid for the money was organised via the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

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