



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

FAREHAM SOUTH – 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

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.

Helpers wanted

Your ward Councillors, Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard, run a South Ward branch of Fareham Conservative Association.

If anyone would like join us or know more then ring Dennis or Trevor.

We are looking for volunteers to help us deliver a small number of *In Touch* to each household in Fareham South about four times a year.

"We will be most grateful for any help," they stated.

Pollution monitoring

The County Council is giving Fareham funding to buy its own equipment to allow the continuous monitoring of the pollution levels of carbon monoxide along parts of the Gosport Road.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "The Council has a statutory duty and a working party has been set up to alleviate the problem as soon as practicable."



Sunk: O2 wanted a mast on the roof.

Outmanoeuvred, Outgunned, Outwitted...

OUTRAGEOUS!

Another bid by mobile phone company O2 to erect a giant mast in Gosport Road has foundered.

After a resounding defeat in their earlier efforts to site it outside the historic Town Quay House, former home of Lady Emma Hamilton, O2 switched their target to the hostel opposite at 101 Gosport Road.

They tried to get planning consent to put the mast above the

hostel's roof, which brought another public outcry.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "This application was wholeheartedly rejected by the hostel staff, led by Mr David Joyce and supported by the Operations Manager of Eastleigh Housing.

"This leaves O2's attempts dead in the water and I feel we owe a debt of gratitude to Eastleigh Housing Corporation and the staff at the hostel, particularly to David Joyce, for their support."

Councillor Steadman said the staff had

thought not only of the wellbeing of the hostel, but had set an example for future similar ventures in Fareham.

Historic note: Town Quay House, a listed building, was built in 1720 and Lady Hamilton, Lord Nelson's paramour, is reputed to have lived there.



Scuppered: O2's plan would ruin this aspect.

Asbestos discovery and no takers seal the fate of Cams Alders Social Club

RECENT reconstitution and resurfacing work carried out to inner footpath and the sad demolition of asbestos-ridden Cams Alders Social Club has in part changed the face of Alexander Grove.

The inner footpath had been in a bad state for many years and an approach was made to the Highways Authority in May 2006 to bring the standard up to what the residents of the Grove deserved.

Cash was set aside and the scheme was started in early November 2006 to the delight of the residents who had waited so long.

The Social Club was a different matter because for many years it had not been used to full capacity.

The ageing residents responsible for the running and upkeep decided to close it and hand over the ownership to Fareham Borough Council.

Much work was undertaken by the Council's Community Section to try to find an organisation or persons who would take over the running of the building and responsibility for repairs and upkeep.

After 18 months of attempts by Councillors Dennis Steadman and Trevor Howard and the Community Section to find a willing organisation, it was decided to close it.

Asbestos was then found within the structure so there was no alternative but to demolish it and return the site back to a natural environment, which was done recently.

Councillor Steadman commented: "I still feel a sadness for the loss."



Condemned: Asbestos in the structure was the nail in the coffin for Cams Alders Social Club.

Trevor's tour reveals a tidy ward

THERE'S only one way to get to know the ward and its people and that's on Shanks' pony.

Councillor Trevor Howard has tramped most of the streets talking to residents and noting any problems.

He said: "I was pleased to note at the time of my inspection most of the areas were clean and tidy, considering it was just after the holiday.

"A few areas needed attention and were reported the same day.

"I found a few recycling bins the were contaminated. This means that the council has to pay for every such bin and if too many are like this it could affect the council tax."

Plans are hatching to improve safety at Mill Road danger junction

MOVES to safeguard pedestrians' safety at the junction of Mill Road with Gosport Road have begun to hatch.

Work to widen the footpath and close entry from Gosport Road should start in late February 2007.

A delighted Councillor Dennis Steadman, who has fought a long cam-

paign to make the junction safer, said advertising of the order was completed in December without objections.

He said: "It will obviously be a very popular and most welcome project and is the one that has always been at the top of my list of pledges because it will benefit a section of society that does tend to get forgotten, namely the pedes-

trian."

Meantime, delays in painting white line hatching at the nib of the kerb where Mill Road enters on to the roundabout have been resolved.

The contractor was unable to meet the November date, but Hampshire Highways carried out the work in January and apologised for the delay.

Volunteers test new green cone to cut food waste

ENTER the green cone to get in on food waste recycling act.

Volunteers in Fareham South Ward are testing a new 'green cone' food waste composter over the next 6 months.

The sealed system is claimed to dispose of food waste without flies or vermin gaining access. If successful it would remove large amounts of waste from the green wheelie bins.

Councillor Dennis Steadman said: "Problems are still being experienced with flats where there is considerable pollution of the recycling containers.

"Extra advice will be given to these residents to avoid the cost of dealing with contaminated bins.

"There will be a 'door-step' advice service on recycling and help will be available to deal with problems experienced during the summer heat wave."

Plan to rid Broadlaw Walk of crime and deprivation



RUN-DOWN, crime ridden Broadlaw Walk is to be redeveloped soon by Portsmouth Housing Association.

Councillors Trevor Howard and Dennis Steadman contacted the police and housing association to ask to be involved.

Councillor Howard said: "They have agreed and we will be invited to all stages.

"At present, it is all talk, viewing, making a rough plan of what can be done and taking into consideration problems there have been recently."

Residents will be invited to

participate.

He said everybody wanted a safe environment – not an easy task – so they must put their heads together.

He added: "The police are visiting Broadlaw Walk as often as possible day and night and it appears to be working at present."



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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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
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email: mail@markhoban.com

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



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.

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."

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 antenatal 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.

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