



Council to introduce public ban on alcohol

BOOZE in public in future and you could be arrested

A ban on drinking alcohol in designated public places comes into force in Fareham on March 1.

It will be welcomed by long-suffering residents in areas such as the town centre and may be extended.

“The aim is to control consumption of alcohol in public places and tackle alcohol-related crime, disorder and nuisance, as well as problems of under-age drinking,” said Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward.

The Criminal Justice Police Act 2001 gives councils powers to designate areas known to be anti-social drinking trouble spots.

It will be an arrestable offence for anyone caught drinking in public in a designated area to refuse to stop when ordered by police, who can also seize and dispose of any alcohol containers found in the offender’s possession.

Councillor Woodward, chairman of the Vandalism Task Force, said the council was working hard to fight vandalism across the borough.

“This latest initiative to ban drinking in public places should, hopefully, go a long way to achieving our goal.”

YES! 2009 DATE FOR FAREHAM HOSPITAL

Council makes pledge to fight Haslar sacrifice

DECADES of languishing on the waiting list are almost over and Fareham will get its community hospital at Coldeast.

But the borough will have to spend another four years in the hospital waiting room before it is ready.

And it comes at a sacrificial cost. Community hospitals at Fareham and Gosport War Memorial will mean withdrawing community services from Haslar Hospital, unless campaigners can overturn the decision.

Fareham Council came out strongly against the Haslar closure at its December meeting.

Members agreed to challenge the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust PFI (Private Finance Initiative) bid to place all acute and elective services at Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The council has written to Hampshire County Council’s Health Review Committee, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and The Save Haslar Task Force urging them to work to restore Haslar to traditional hospital status.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward said community hospitals at Coldeast and Gosport War Memorial would provide best value for the area.

“However, we believe Haslar should be transformed into a traditional NHS secondary care hospital.

“We will be lobbying the County’s Health Review Panel in



Council leader Seán Woodward (left) and Fareham MP Mark Hoban pictured at the site for the new hospital at Coldeast.

January to challenge the Queen Alexandra PFI bid, which should enable services to be shared between QA and Haslar, thus providing the best value and combination of services for the whole area.

“The QA site cannot cope with all services, whereas a two-site solution could work well.”

for emergency medical care for Portsmouth and East Hampshire and Haslar should be fully used as an elective surgical or medical centre, so all admissions booked from out-patient clinics and waiting lists would be treated there.

Haslar had all the investigative facilities needed for such work and an intensive care unit.

“No money needs to be spent on building or upgrading,” he said.

County Councillor Dr Raymond Ellis, chairman of the Hampshire Health Review Committee, said:

“Signing of a contract to rebuild Queen Alexandra Hospital using private finance is nearly a year behind schedule.

“Even if this is completed on time, I have serious reservations about its capacity to deal with the acute health needs of Fareham and Gosport.

“I have written to both the Health Minister and the Defence Minister requesting a further review of the proposed closure of Haslar.”

OPERATIONAL BY 2009

Fareham’s hospital will be operational to match the opening of the new, extended QA Hospital by April 2009. Phase 1 will offer:

- An enhanced maternity unit with birthing pool
- Beds and day care centre for the elderly
- Consultant out-patient suites providing approximately 25,000 appointments a year
- On-call facilities for GPs
- Physio/occupational therapy and speech therapy
- Diagnostic services including X-Ray

A later phase is confidently expected to provide an accident treatment centre to serve the Western Wards of Fareham, Whiteley, Bursledon, Lowford and Hedge End.

The 25-acre site has room for expansion.

Dr Richard Ashton, consultant dermatologist at Haslar for the past 20 years, backed the council. He said QA should be the centre



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Passenger aids

A real time passenger transport information system, including new bus shelters, will be provided on the A32 between Fareham and Gosport.

It will give travellers up-to-date service information via electronic message boards in the shelters.

New signs

Fareham town centre has been newly sign-posted with the most appropriate routes to local destinations and car parks.

Eight variable message signs show available parking spaces.

County cash

Hampshire County Council has allocated £2,033,000 for maintenance of roads and pathways in 2004-05. Details are available on request.

Optimistic

Progress is at last being made with the problems of the narrow footpath at the junction of Gosport Road and Mill Road.

After a site visit by Councillor Dennis Steadman, County Councillor Ray Ellis, Hampshire Highways Chief Engineer and the Transportation Manager, investigations are to be carried out into a possible scheme.

Devices will now be installed to monitor traffic volumes.

"We may well have success in the not too distant future," said Councillor Steadman.

Residents will be consulted.

Generous parents help pay for new sports hall

A SPLENDID new indoor sports arena has been opened at Cams Hill School - thanks to 66 generous parents.

They came to the rescue because no money was forthcoming from Hampshire County Council.

However, the County did arrange a hefty loan, supplemented by a grant from the Price Trust and partly by the parents making monthly gift-aid payments.

The result is a hall large enough to take seven badminton courts.

But head teacher David Wilmot will not be letting things rest there.

He has already embarked on a project

to add changing rooms and a fitness area which can be used for community lettings as well as school activities.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said the County was supporting the school's bid for the additions and enhanced facilities for wheelchair users.

"The new studio will be eminently suitable for a fitness suite, aerobics, dance and drama, line dancing and other community activities.



Admiration Pupils use the new badminton courts as head David Wilmot shows an impressed Councillor Crouch the new sports arena.

"A wish list of furniture, equipment and fittings has been drawn up, for which Mr Wilmot already has plans," he said.

Councillor Crouch added: "The relentless drive for academic excellence by the head teacher and his staff, supported by families who prize their children's school, has resulted in this superb covered sports arena which has achieved the government's Sportsmark Award."

Help run this club and get a social life



ANYONE interested in running a local club?

Cams Alders Social Club was not used to full potential and the community group that ran it decided to close down and hand over the building in Alexander Grove to the council.

Since then, ward Councillors Trevor Howard and Dennis

Steadman have been negotiating to have the hall reopened and refurbished so local groups can use it.

The council does not object to helping with the cost of reinstating the club.

"But we need participation of local people or groups to come forward who would like to use and run it as an independent body," they said.

Hostel fears are allayed

FEARS over the hostel at 101 Gosport Road have so far proved unfounded.

Martin Budd, who took over from Councillor Dennis Steadman as spokesman for the residents' protest group, met representatives of Two Saints Housing and the housing department to discuss potential problems.

They came away reassured.

Councillor Steadman praised the help Martin gave to the group and said there was great confidence in hostel staff who were always ready to talk to residents

Borough's streets blighted by the litter louts



Appalled Councillor Dennis Steadman **PICK up a packet or two and help save the council a lot of money.**

Litter louts cost the council a fortune to clean up their mess. Litter and rubbish disposal costs Fareham £670,000 a year. "This works out at £17 for each rate-paying resident.

"I am appalled at the sight of our streets being blighted by indiscriminate dropping of litter by

people who care nothing for our area or our country," said Councillor Dennis Steadman.

He blamed all age groups for dumping bottles, plastic bags, beer cans, sweet wrappers and other rubbish.

"I have to telephone the council's cleansing department at least twice a week to request roads are litter picked," he said.

Four litter wardens were now operating in the borough with the power to impose on-the-spot fines.

There had been a significant fall in dog fouling since the patrols began and he hoped this would continue with other litter.

"There is a small contribution we can make.

"Suggest to your children to put sweet papers etc in their pockets, then in a dustbin at school.

"Adults might just pick up the discarded beer can or paper bag we see on the ground around our houses and put them in their own bin, taking care to use protective gloves.

"It takes only a few minutes of your time."

Recalling the Keep Britain Tidy campaign from a few years ago, he added:

"What a difference that made to people's lives and the pride we had seeing the results."

New pontoon is opened



FAREHAM Sea Scouts have a new pontoon at their Lower Quay headquarters, thanks to grants from Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council.

Pictured at the opening recently are County Councillor Ray Ellis (left) and Fareham Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward.

Footpath restoration progressing
WORK is progressing on restoration of footpaths in long-neglected walks off Bishopsfield Road. "The work looks excellent," said Councillor Dennis Steadman, who has pushed for it.

FAREHAM SOUTH & EAST 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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name
Address
..... Postcode.....
Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

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Your man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

RESTORING school discipline is one of my top priorities as Shadow Schools Minister.

In a recent poll, over 70% of respondents thought it was getting worse.

Poor discipline lowers teachers' morale and disrupts learning. The Government has failed our schools by being too soft.

Parents need to play their role in restoring standards. We should have home-school contracts, whereby parents and pupils sign up to a school's rules and it is clearly stated that a breach of contract could lead to a child being excluded.

Decisions to exclude pupils are second guessed by appeals panels, who can reverse a decision which the head teacher thinks is right. We will scrap them.

The Government recently announced plans to force schools to admit disruptive children excluded from other schools. We will stop this.

Pupils who are excluded need support, too, and we will introduce Turnaround Schools to replace Pupil Referral Units. Unlike Pupil Referral Units, Turnaround Schools will be full-time, focus on behaviour and learning the basics, and follow an established curriculum. Attendance and performance will be monitored.

Finally, teachers deserve protection from false, malicious claims against them. Only about 5% of allegations against teachers prove to be true. Too many careers and lives are destroyed by false accusations. Conservatives will give teachers anonymity until they are charged with an offence.

By being soft on school discipline, we are harming the chances of children who want to learn. Disruptive pupils can stop others from learning and teachers' time is spent tackling their behaviour rather than helping those who want to get on. Let's give every child a chance by restoring school discipline.

•You may contact Mark via his office
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County Hall savings needed to cushion council tax rise

Whitehall's 4.9% grant not enough

HAMPSHIRE County Council should get 4.9% more from the Government towards providing services next year – still not enough to cover costs

So the council is already looking at ways of cushioning council tax rises by cutting expenditure through increased efficiency.

"While it's too early to say what the impact of the settlement will be on the budget, it is clear that the extra funding is to keep council tax as low as possible, rather than spending more money on services," commented County Council Chairman

John Bryant (Fareham NW). "While the Government has given us a 4.9% increase in grant, we will still need to find 40% of our budget from council tax."

Pressures on the budget were huge. Spending on social care must increase to cope with increasing numbers of frail elderly people and vulnerable children.

Government has also told Hampshire to increase school spending by 4.9%. Waste disposal is another burden.

Councillor Bryant said the extra Government cash would not meet the rising costs, so departments have been asked to look for savings up to 17% (about £9m).

"Over the last three years we've made efficiency improvements of £12m, but at the same time we have lost a massive £29m in



John Bryant: 'Government has manipulated the figures'

Government grant."

The Government had based its grant on 1991 census data for the second year running, but it had itself admitted that Hampshire lost around £7.5m a year through the out-of-date figures - equal to 2% on council tax.

Planning changes forced on council

GOVERNMENT changes to planning law are forcing Fareham Council to increase housing densities and making it harder to refuse developers without risking costly appeals.

And 90% of planning applications will shortly have to be decided by planning officers and not the elected councillors.

Whitehall says residential development should provide 30-50 dwellings per hectare (12-20 per acre) and the council will need good grounds to refuse.

Most decisions are already made by the officers when there are no objections, but to meet the 90% target some will be decided by officers regardless of objections.

To safeguard democracy, Fareham Council has agreed a system to allow the Planning Development Control Committee to decide before the publicity period expires.

If you have a serious objection, you should not only write to the Planning Department, but make sure you send copies to **both** ward councillors.

However, they may not ask for a committee hearing unless there are solid planning reasons for objecting.

The Council is now very careful about refusing applications because it could land taxpayers with a big bill and kill any chance of impos-

ing conditions if the developer wins an appeal.

It is possible the size and design are out of keeping with the area and could be refused, but if that is not the case and people still do not want the development, it leaves the committee with three choices.

- 1 Approve the application as it stands
- 2 Approve but impose conditions
- 3 Reject it

If they opt for the third choice and there are insufficient grounds for refusal, the developer will certainly appeal and he can choose the format:

- A 'paper' appeal – done with an exchange of correspondence with an inspector
- Informal inquiry – both parties sit down at a table and thrash it out with an inspector
- Full hearing – developer knows he has a strong case and will call in legal experts

Losing a full planning inquiry will mean the council has to pay the developer's legal expenses and court costs, which could total £20,000 – equal to 0.5% on the council tax.

So the committee may have to disregard public opinion and allow an unpopular application, but at least members can impose conditions which mitigate some objections.

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