

IN TOUCH



FAREHAM WEST WARD

SEPTEMBER
2006

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Fareham's Third Triumph This time it's GOLD !!!

Fareham has been awarded a **GOLD** and **OVERALL WINNERS** for the Large Town/Small City category in this year's South & South East In Bloom awards.

This is the third successive year that the Borough has won but the first time we have been awarded Gold as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

We will now be invited to step up and represent the southern part of the region which covers Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and East Wiltshire at the national competition next year. And there was more good news....

We were also awarded **Silver Gilt and Overall Winner for Best Countryside Park— Holly Hill Woodland Park** - together with the only regional award from the RHS, the **Britain in Bloom, RHS Biodiversity Award** which was given for all aspects of our campaign and consistent good practice and excellence throughout the borough in its parks provision in relation to its community, environment and education.

Last but certainly not least—

Fareham B.C. Horticultural Development Officer— **Matt Wakefield**—was given the **Outstanding Achievement Award** for his work in horticulture, the community and In Bloom.

Your Ward Councillors were among the first to send in congratulations to the Executive Member for Streetscene, to Matt Wakefield, all the team including our wonderful ground staff and the volunteers who do so much to help.

We were also delighted to see our Lib-Dem opposition members acknowledging the achievement as illustrated by this e-mail copied to us all..

“Well done and congratulations Matt, and everyone who works so hard this and every year to make Fareham a beautiful place to live. You make it look easy; we know a lot of damn hard work goes into both the displays and the background of good land management.”

Liberal Democrat spokesman on Streetscene and Community.

PARKING CHARGES IN FAREHAM

Forget the newspapers' scare stories

NO MAJOR INCREASE ! THAT'S FACT.

Fareham Borough Council regularly reviews its fees and charges and services. Quite rightly officers report all the options available and these the appropriate review panels have an opportunity to comment on and/or recommend changes to the ruling Executive, particularly when a particular problem has arisen.

This time the problem is Market Quay car park. The success of the Market Quay development has made this car park very popular—in fact too popular. Queues of vehicles waiting to enter are obstructing the bus station exits and the Hartlands Road roundabout. Complaints came from Police, Bus Company and HCC all of whom have asked FBC to take action to minimise the problem.

The Council are hoping to do this in the first instance by managing demand. By increasing fees in this Car Park to **£1.00 per hour (commencing 1st Nov. this year) whilst leaving others at 70p**, it is hoped that sufficient motorists will choose to park in other parks (i.e. the multi-stories) which are rarely full. It should not only manage demand, but also fund additional staff that may be needed to redirect queuing motors when the car park is full. Meantime, Council officers will look at other ways to alleviate the problems .

The only other change is that **season tickets will increase in line with inflation as is usual**. This means this annual ticket will now cost £13.00 more at £475. This still represents very good value for money, a discount of approx. 40% over **long term** parking charges for an average working year. All other charges remain as since April 2005.

The Scrutiny Board did consider the option of a small single payment fee for parking on Sundays & Bank Holidays. These in Fareham are becoming just like any other day, the town is busy and car parks generally full. **This has produced a need to provide patrol officer cover for safety & security**. After careful consideration, **in a public debate at their 4th Sept. meeting, the Executive decided to fund this extra cover in other ways**.

Cllr. Diana Harrison says “**For most people the cost of parking in the town centre will remain the same as it has been since April 2005. This is another example of Fareham keeping down the costs to the Council Tax payer—always top of our priority list.**”

RECYCLING - Fareham Tops Hampshire at 40%!!

Although there was a slight drop back to 39.5% the following month, the Executive Leader announced on Radio Solent on 1st September that Fareham had reached this target figure. This is due to the efforts of many residents in fully using the blue top (recycling) wheelie and **to the extra free service offered for the collection green garden waste. But congratulations to all our residents!**

However, the target to be achieved by 2010 is 50% so further plans are being made to support and advise residents that are unsure of what to recycle and those who do not take advantage of the recycling facilities. Owing to the success in meeting the Government target a special grant has been allocated by a Government Agency (WRAP) to further encourage recycling. This will be used to provide a monitoring and ‘door-stepping’ programme by a specialist team, to identify areas and residents with problems and provide assistance to help and advise.

You may well have read the squawks in the press from opposition members that the Council has received 400 complaints from residents over the fortnightly collections of household waste, blaming this for the appearance of flies & maggots in bins during the July heatwave.

So once again, let's get the facts right, or at least in proportion! The 400 complaints are made up of 140 names on 2 petitions, e-mails 34 (including those where no address offered) telephone calls 200, remainder by letter or via councillor. This represents less than 1% of our households in the Borough. Over 99% have made the change over successfully with excellent results on our recycling.

Di Harrison writes a little more about this on Page Two.....

*FAREHAM IN BLOOM
FAREHAM WEST WINNERS*

CONGRATULATIONS

TO
EVERYONE
FROM
YOUR WARD
COUNCILLORS

Di Harrison
Leslie Keeble



SMALL FLORAL FRONT GARDEN		
John Purnell,	87 Abbeyfield Drive	BRONZE
LARGE FLORAL FRONT GARDEN		
G. Cooper	36 Meadowbank Rd	SILVER GILT
Jean Williams	32 Meadowbank Rd	BRONZE
PLANTSMAN'S FRONT GARDEN		
Mrs.J.Freemantle	69 Oak Road	SILVER GILT
A.Hillary	152 Abbeyfield Drive	SILVER
M & K Boyes	32 Blackbrook Rd	SILVER
Chris & Colin Tait	51 Longmynd Drive	SILVER

**HANGING OR WALL BASKET and in the
CONTAINER (WINDOWBOX/TUB) categories**

G. Cooper	30 Meadowbank Rd	SILVER
Jean Williams	32 Meadowbank Rd	SILVER

PLANTSMAN'S BACK GARDEN

Chris & Colin Tait	51 Longmynd Drive	GOLD
M & K Boyes	32 Blackbrook Rd	SILVER
A.Hillary	152 Abbeyfield Rd	BRONZE

WILDLIFE GARDEN

Dory Whitfield	33 Meadowbank Rd	SILVER
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PUBLIC HOUSE—HEATHFIELD ARMS

Mr. & Mrs. Jennings		SILVER
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Thank you for brightening our days in the ward!

In Touch published by Fareham West Conservatives, 7 Oxleys Close, Fareham. PO14 3DZ and Printed by Tollwood, Unit 2, Lysses Court, High Street, Fareham

Fareham West Ward
**GRASS VERGE PARKING
BANS ON THE WAY**

As the budget allows, the Council has been working its way across the Borough, in passing Road Traffic Orders to stop vehicles parking on our grass verges. This is Phase 7.

It has now reached West Ward—and on 17th August the proposal was formally advertised with the objection deadline of 7th September. Two letters only have been received commenting generally in favour and these will be reported to the Executive Member for Planning & Transportation shortly. Subject to agreement the Order should be in place and the signs erected by the end of October.

The roads affected are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Oak Road | Priory Road |
| Blackbrook Road | Anjou Crescent |
| Jonathan Road | Southmead Road |
| Meadowbank Road | Abbey Road |
| Barnwood Road | Blackbrook Park Ave |
| Brook Farm Avenue | |
- Longmynd Drive and nearby parts of the ward will come under Phase 8. Our apologies to the residents here who are anxious to have this ban**

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Leslie and I are always proud of our ward and its residents, never more so than how you have adapted to the fortnightly waste collections and appreciated the new free green garden waste service. You have done exceptionally well on recycling

I have only received 3 phone calls of complaint, Leslie also had 3 calls + 2 letters. All these calls were during the July heatwave, when these folks were experiencing maggots in their bins for the first time. Leslie took advice leaflets to each of his and even took one load of waste to Segensworth for them; unfortunately my offers of help were rejected. Fortnightly collections were blamed but it is fact that the eggs a fly lays can hatch into maggots in just 8/20 hours, so weekly collections wouldn't be the answer if food & other 'nasties' are put in the bin unwrapped.

This was my 8th summer of only putting my bin out every other week because although I only have the small 140lt. bin, it was never more than half full, so it seemed pointless to wheel it down every week. My recycle bin is always full in the 2 weeks (helped of course by finished- with Council papers admittedly.) Excess packaging is a problem but I avoid this by not purchasing meats, veg etc. that is packaged, and by tying up the carrier bags I use as bin liners, even sneaking a piece of newspaper to wrap any particularly unpleasant 'nasty'

Help is available to you if you do have a problem, both on household & recycled waste, Ring FBC on 824341.

Cllr. Diana Harrison writes on her job on F.B.C.

As **Chairman of the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee**, overseeing the transfer of responsibility for all licences from the Justices to the local authorities, resulted in a very busy 2005. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

Chairing 40 contentious Licensing Panel hearings of conversion and variation applications, I worked closely with the Police and other responsible authorities and where appropriate, made full use of the opportunities the Act gave to heavily condition the premises licences granted.

Understandably, the public were very apprehensive of the prospect of longer licensing hours and where there was clear evidence of noise, anti-social behaviour etc. strict conditions were imposed to improve the management of pubs etc. not only for the extra hour or so applied for, but all of the evening, every evening. In addition, 2 troublesome premises were closed down completely.

Landlords responded well and with approx. 6 weeks to go to a year since the Act came into force, the Council has had no appeals or calls for review of any one licence to date.

Indeed the police and many residents have reported that there has been considerable improvement on previous problems and 2006 is therefore proving somewhat calmer. I am grateful to my excellent licensing officers and legal team for their tremendous support and very hard work in that hectic year and achieving this excellent result.

My committee is also responsible for the licensing of taxi-drivers, both Hackney and Private Hire, & earlier this year we introduced comprehensive knowledge tests and other safeguards on new applicants. Existing badge holders must also take this test when applying for their annual renewal. I feel strongly that it is vitally important to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents when they use these services.

With that safety in mind, we have amended the council's policy to allow signage on private hire vehicles in the borough, limiting it to the company name, number and wording pre-booked only in addition to the FBC Badge.

2006 also brings the need to formulate the Council's policy on the Gambling Act 2005 which comes into force in 2007. At present the Council is consulting with a wide range of interested parties. The policy document must be in place by January 2007. I will ensure it is before Full Council in December for approval. Whilst the responsibility for operating and personal licences remains with the Gambling Commission, **Premises Licences will be under local authority control.**

The Licensing & Regulatory Committee is also responsible for Bylaws. In June we at FBC passed a bylaw banning people jumping or hanging off the 50ft. A27 Bridge that straddles the River Hamble at Swanwick and the two boroughs of Fareham and Eastleigh. But until Eastleigh Borough Council followed suit several weeks later, the law could not be applied.

The Police have long campaigned for a law to stop the dangerous antics of youngsters leaping from the bridge. It was an exceedingly dangerous practice and I am glad we were able to assist in preventing irresponsible youngsters putting at risk the life and limb of innocent users of the river.

Di Harrison

WONDERFUL RE-ELECTION RESULT AS MEMORABLE MAYORAL YEAR DREW TO A CLOSE

Cllr. Leslie Keeble was re-elected to Fareham Borough Council in the May elections with a further increased majority. The full result was:

Leslie Keeble (Con) ..	1763	2473 people voted,
Lib. Dem.	.. 495	that's a 46% turnout,
Labour	.. 215	the highest in the
Con. Majority ..	1268	Borough.

Across the Borough, we held all our existing seats, many with increased majorities, and only narrowly missed gaining two more. The Council (31 seats) remains firmly in Conservative control with 22 seats, Lib Dem 9, Lab.0.

During their 2005/6 year in office Leslie and Mrs.Christine Keeble as Mayoress, carried out in excess of 400 engagements. In addition they raised a record £42,000 for their charities, The Rainbow Centre and R.N. Benevolent Fund.

Leslie told our editor

"I owe so much to the electors who have supported me since I first stood in 2000 and thus gave me the opportunity to achieve the honour of serving as Mayor.

"That was a memorable year in our lives and we wish to thank all those in the ward who supported our Charity events in so many ways. Quite overwhelming at times."

Leslie is now back in harness as Chairman of the Scrutiny Board together with serving on the Best Value Panel, Streetscene Review and Audit Committees.

"As I always have I look forward to representing all the residents of Fareham West, regardless of political persuasion." he concluded.

The Editor

SADNESS AS BLACKBROOK BIRTHING CENTRE CLOSSES

Cllr. Leslie Keeble provides this latest information.

At a meeting of the East Hants, Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trusts on 26th July, the following changes were approved:

To reprovide only the Midwives led clinic on Mondays and the Consultant led clinic on Thursdays and an office for the Community Midwives at Cedarwood in St. Christopher's Hospital in Fareham. Two clinical rooms will also be kept in readiness for emergency drop-ins. Services already accommodated in Cedarwood House will be transferring into Teekew house at St. Christopher's.

All parent craft classes and other groups will be transferring to the Oak Meadow Children's centre in Tewkesbury Avenue, Fareham. All these change were to be implemented by 7th September 2006.

Any queries or for further information, please contact Leslie on (01329) 845339

The Editor