

In Touch

Fareham West Ward

SUMMER 2007

Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss

DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre—remember we broke this news in our Spring edition.

Work on the project has started; 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; shoppers & 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 closure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper 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 bring 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 use the Civic Way Park, the new development will make it very worthwhile once the project is finished.

Councillor Diana Harrison said “I look forward to the new Debenhams which is designed especially for women.” **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 other top designer products.

Also in this edition: It’s official—No “Chip & Bin” in Fareham pledge; At 46% Fareham has highest recycling rate in Hampshire; CATs meetings Mark Hoban MP writes on Government Tax Credits System and much more...

Shuttle 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.

FREE to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.

The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and at 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

**NO 'CHIP AND BIN'
promises Fareham Council
MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham
residents' wheelie bins...**

**NO 'PAY AS YOU THROW'
either or any of the other extreme measures
practised in some parts of the country.**

Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere in the country, 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, of what-ever persuasion, 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 (of whatever colour) will, for political expediency promise to make changes. **When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met.**

Following the problems experienced by some residents during the very hot weather in 2006, volunteers are testing a food waste composting system. This uses either a 'green cone' placed in the garden in sunlight into which all food waste is deposited or a 'green joanna' similar to a normal composter, that takes food waste and all other compostable material, including shredded paper and garden waste. Both units are sealed and therefore immune to rats, flies and smells. The trial, so far, appears to be successful and it is hoped that with further grants/income from recyclables, units can be provided to residents at a high discount.

The problems experienced in the summer of 2006 were not the result of the change to Alternative Bin Collection but to the very high temperatures, during which flies/maggots can breed within 24 hours. Tests have shown that if a small quantity of Jeyes Fluid or similar is dripped around the top of the wheelie bin, this deters and counteracts smells.

Cllr. Di Harrison told me:

"I prefer to sacrifice a few sheets of newspaper from recycling to wrap food scraps and all personal hygiene 'nasties' before putting in a bin lined with a shop plastic bag—never have bought bin liners.

I have only ever put my 140 lt. household bin out fortnightly for the last 8 years and have never suffered smells, flies much less maggots. Bins are kept in the shade of a trellis covered with an evergreen clematis, therefore always in the shade."

The Editor

**FAREHAM— 46 %
RECYCLING RATE
Highest in Hampshire**

The latest recycling figures show a major increase since the introduction of Alternate Bin Collection in Sept. 2005. **At 46 % now, made up of 33% dry recyclables & 13.1% green waste, well exceeding the 2006/7 Government set target of 40%. . The vast majority of residents are now maximising the use of the 'blue top bin' and using the free green waste collection service.**

Fareham is the only Council providing this as a free service. Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and a charge of about £1 for each emptying.

FBC with about **44,000 eligible homes** has issued over **140,000 green sacks** over the past 18 months. Each household can have up to 3 sacks emptied.

A Government grant has been received to provide a door-stepping service to help and advise residents on all aspects of recycling and to help reduce the high rate of contamination in the re-cycling bins. This is paying off, the contamination rate is down from its 2006 level of 13.5% to 6.9% - a major improvement.

All residual waste from Fareham is incinerated, **no waste goes to landfill.** The incinerator produces enough energy from burning the waste to heat/light 30,000 homes.

Ward Councillors Leslie Keeble and Diana Harrison, both keen recyclers themselves, are very proud of Fareham West Ward residents and their recycling achievements -West is one of the best performing wards, they told me.

All available to you—1 x 240 litre green top household bin (for those with a 140 litre), 2 x 240 litre blue top (Recycling) bins and up to 3 green sacks.

Residents with specific problems, more than 6 in the household, medical problems, etc. can seek advice and support from the service. Ring 01329 824387 or 824389.

The Editor

**BOROUGH-WIDE DESIGNATED
PUBLIC PLACE ORDER
WELCOMED & SUCCEEDING**

On 1st June this year this order which had previously only applied to the Centre of Fareham, was extended to cover the whole Borough.

Aimed at controlling the consumption of alcohol in public places and tackling alcohol related crime, disorder and nuisance as well as problems of under-age consumption of alcohol. It is an action to reduce incidents of violence, criminal damage & anti-social behaviour by enabling the police to require a person to stop drinking and hand over anything that is thought to be alcohol, whether in open or sealed containers.

Early in August the Police reported to us that since June, the number of amounts of alcohol that have been seized have reduced and this has reflected in the fall in anti-social /rowdy behaviour and crime overall. The Police are of the opinion that the word has now got round and although it is possible that some of the drinking may have gone 'under-ground' overall drinking in public places has gone down. The type of alcohol has also changed, there is far less drinking of spirits and more of lager, cider and some alco-pop type drinks.

In the same report, the Police told us that in the first 6 months of this year they have carried out **207 test purchases on Licensed Premises in Southern Hampshire. They have caught 50 premises** both for on and off sales, the majority being for off sales. **Some premises failed the test twice** but according to the Police, **none in the Fareham area in that 6 months period.**

However, a few in Fareham were caught in 2006, the of course the Test Purchases 'stings' are an on-going thing. Premises caught more than twice in total are likely to find the Police calling for a review of their licence.

The Smoking in public places ban which came into force on 1st July, has caused a small increase in complaints of noise etc. from nearby residents—all of which are investigated by our conscientious and hard working Licensing and Environmental Health officers and the Licensees are advised. It is very early days on this .

As Chairman of the Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee and Chairman of all Licensing Panel Hearings, I was delighted to hear of the success of the DPPO. I and my colleagues will continue to take a very serious view of breaches of any licence in our determination to ensure Fareham remains a safe and healthy place to live and work

Cllr. Diana Harrison.

**COUNCIL OFFERS CHANCE TO PUBLIC
TO AIR VIEWS**

AN INITIATIVE designed to ensure the Council understands community needs starts in September in Fareham

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) led by Ward Councillors, are being set up to meet across the borough. The five teams will follow the County Council Divisions.

Fareham West Ward is part of the **Fareham Town Neighbourhood area** . The first meeting is on:

**MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
FAREHAM METHODIST CHURCH
QUEENS ROAD, FAREHAM
7—8.30pm**

**Meeting to be chaired by Cllr. John Bryant
Also attending a FBC Chief Officer
Plus of course your Ward Councillors and
Hopefully and most important
SOME OF YOU**

**FAREHAM WEST SAFER
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

Because keeping our ward and residents safe, we are happy to publish contact details of all the excellent team, together with other important contact numbers.

Sergeant 2340 Nigel BURT (nigel.burt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC2737 John CUPPER (john.cupper@hampshire.pnn.police.UK)

PC3753 Jim HEATH (james.heath@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC 23497 Rob BLOWERS (robert.blowers@. As above

PC 237 Lisa BINNY (lisa.binny@ .As above

PC22314 Helen WINTERS (helen.winters@ .As above

PCSO 13354 Ann TITCOMBE (susan.titcombe@ As above

PCSO 13349 Greg SHARMAN (gregory.sharman@ As above

Team Mobile - 07757 137068

Other numbers..

Emergency response (24 hrs) .. **999**

08450 454545 - Crime reporting (non emergency) 24 hrs

101 - Anti social behaviour (24 hrs)

**For Parking complaints - Fareham Borough Council on
01329 236100**

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 show 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 few 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 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
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 OBN
Telephone: 01329 233573
Email: mail @markhoban.com**

**Fareham Conservative Association
FAREHAM WEST BRANCH**
are holding a

LUNCH TIME GARDEN PARTY

12 NOON—2PM

at

1 VERYAN, FAREHAM

(by kind invitation of Harry & Jean Kewish)

**Lovely garden setting—in the conservatory and
house if weather is unsociable !**

TICKETS—JUST £5 per person.

to include all beers, wines and soft drink options
and interesting little eats

Tickets limited to 50 for comfort.

**Available from Leslie Keeble and
Di Harrison as shown below.**

Contact your Councillors: why not keep this and Mark Hoban's office number (left) handy with your phone book?

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Fareham West Ward

Cllr. **Leslie Keeble**, 173b Highlands Rd, Fareham PO15 5PR

Tel. 01329 845339.

Cllr. **Diana Harrison**, 7 Oxleys Close, Fareham.
PO14 3DZ

Tel. 01329 847427.

HAMPHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Town Division has 2 County Councillors

Cllr. **John Bryant**, 14 Highlands Road, Fareham.
PO16 7XL

Tel. 01329 281427

Cllr. **Ray Ellis**, 20 Cams Hill., Fareham.
PO16 8RB

Tel. 01329 236127

In Touch is published by Fareham West Conservatives,
7 Oxleys Close, Fareham, PO14 3DZ
And printed by
Tollwood, The Depot, Wilmott Lane, Gosport. PO12 3RY