



In Touch

FAREHAM WEST WARD

Conservatives

Budget Edition—2009-2010

Tory 'magic' beats all the odds for a recession busting budget Below inflation for the 6th year running!

A **RECESSION** -busting budget. That's the rabbit Fareham's Conservative 'magicians' have conjured out of the hat. Against all the odds—and that includes what Executive Leader Sean Woodward lambasted as “one of the most derisory Government grants in the country” - a below inflation rise of just 2.7% has been achieved. So the Borough share of council tax will rise just 1p a day. Less than any other Hampshire district council and lower than almost every council in the country.

Delivering his 10th budget speech, Councillor Woodward said: “In a recession it is more important than ever to achieve a below inflation council rise of just 2.7%. Services remain essentially intact and charges rise only a modest amount in line with the requirements of Fareham's residents.

“Fareham's proportion of the council tax for a band D property will be just £140.22 per year. Compare this with Gosport at over £200 and you can understand the value for money provided by Fareham Council.”

On Page Two we have set out a clear chart showing the increases for all the rate Bands. It also shows where your money goes and amazingly enough as you can the Fareham Borough Council gets in round figure 10% of the total we pay for all the many services we are required to provide, even less than Hampshire Police Authority!

Other improvements to services in response to residents' concerns included removal of the £20 charge for pest control officers to deal with domestic rat infestations. Sunday and Bank Holiday car parking charges would be changed to allow free parking up to 10.30 am in the short-stay car parks with free Sunday and Bank Holiday parking in the long-stay car parks. Charges on these days in short-stay parks from 10.30 am—4 pm. will be just £1.50 for as long as shoppers wish to park.

While other centres outside Fareham are losing shops, June will see a Debenhams department store and new multi-storey car park open in the town centre; and it will be a full Debenhams store, not just Debenhams Desire as previously thought.

Councillor Woodward added “With the country in a deep recession and many of our older residents seeing their fixed incomes eroded by decreasing interest rates, it is more important than ever that we continue to set the lowest possible council tax to give the best possible value for money.

“I am proud that we have for the 10th year been able to achieve this by constantly looking for more innovative and cost effective ways of both reducing expenditure and increasing income.”

We Keep in Touch all year round.....

not just at Election Time.....

Council Tax Bands for 2009-10	Hampshire County Council	Hampshire Police Authority	Hampshire Fire and Rescue	Fareham Borough Council	TOTAL
Band A	£678.78	£94.74	£40.20	£93.48	£907.20
Band B	£791.91	£110.53	£46.90	£109.06	£1,058.40
Band C	£905.04	£126.32	£53.60	£124.64	£1,209.60
Band D	£1,018.17	£142.11	£60.30	£140.22	£1,360.80
Band E	£1,244.43	£173.69	£73.70	£171.38	£1,663.20
Band F	£1,470.69	£205.27	£87.10	£202.54	£1,965.60
Band G	£1,696.95	£236.85	£100.50	£233.70	£2,268.00
Band H	£2,036.34	£284.22	£120.60	£280.44	£2,721.60

EXTRA GREEN WASTE CHARGES DOWN TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

CHANGES to the garden waste service will start in April 2009.

The Health and Safety Executive advised they were necessary to avoid problems of repetitive strain injury and worse. So extra staff had to be employed, adding to the cost.

Handling one or two sacks is not a problem but in some months crews are being asked to lift up to 20 tons per crew per day.

When the service was introduced in September 2005 it was on the basis that it would be cost neutral; however, in the current economic climate the Council had no option but to review all discretionary services.

It was decided to retain this popular service and that it should be free for most residents. There will be no charge for the collection of one garden waste sack. Most councils charge for this service and those which charge for extra sacks charge more than Fareham proposes.

Fewer than 50% of residents use this service at any one time and most put out only one sack. People can order extra disposable bags similar to the existing sacks at £20 for 25 sacks, which will be collected regardless of how many are put out.

CONGRATULATIONS !

TO

GHANDHI'S INDIAN TAKEAWAY

On the 20th April they are celebrating the 20th anniversary of their

Opening in

ANJOU CRESENT.

Blackbrook Road

To celebrate this they have most generously offered to donate all meals sold that evening to the Mayor of Fareham Charities which are NSPCC. Crimestoppers & Fareport talking news.

What a wonderful gesture!

A good example of why Leslie and Di are so proud of Fareham West residents.

During the evening the Mayor and Mayoress Cllr. Ernest and Mrs. Enid Crouch will be visiting the take-away on a number of occasions, and so will your councillors Council duties permitting.

**Telephone orders for meals welcome
On 01329 842183**

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL WOES TAKEN TO WHITEHALL

Fareham's Executive Leader, Councillor Sean Woodward, and Member of Parliament Mark Hoban, have taken their strong concerns over how the nationwide concessionary fares scheme penalises some local authorities to Whitehall in a meeting on Thursday 5th February. They met with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Paul Clark MP, to raise Fareham's concerns that for some local authorities the funding allocated to operate the nationwide concessionary travel scheme was insufficient.

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council Cllr. Sean Woodward, said:

"Government funding for the concessionary travel scheme is woefully inadequate for authorities like Fareham. We act as a transport hub, with Gosport residents changing services in Fareham and us then picking up the tab for their journey. I wanted to make this point in Whitehall."

Following the meeting Cllr. Woodward commented further: "The Minister announced at our meeting that the Department for Transport will be carrying out a national consultation to gain an appreciation of the size of the problem and possible solutions./ I welcome this consultation, but the funding problem of concessionary travel in Fareham is acute and needs action now. We only raise around £5,000,000 from our residents in council tax and around 20% of that is being used for fund bus passes for our older residents. The Government has given inadequate funding to Fareham Borough Council. Inadequate because we need to pay for the bus journeys of most of Gosport's older residents as well as Fareham's.

Fareham's MP,, Mark Hoban, added: "We pressed the minister to act so that we only pay a fair share of the bill for free travel. He understood the arguments we made. It is now down to the Government to turn words into action"

Our man in Westminster

by

**Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

The recession brings its own pressures on different aspects of life. Whilst we often think about its effect on employment in the private sector, we don't take into account the effect on Government finances.

The money the Government receives from taxes falls as fewer people work and company profits are slashed. At the same time, there are additional pressure to increase spending.

We see this affecting the Police. The deteriorating economic position will have an impact on crime levels. There has already been an increase in burglaries, which is borne out by figures in Fareham. It is a Hampshire wide issue and the police are cracking down on it with Operation Nemesis.

But the police are faced with squaring the circle of increasing pressures on costs, a lower increase in their income from Government and a limit on how much they can increase council tax, while meeting the expectations of the public that there will be no cuts in the number of front line officers. We need to lift some of the burdens which get in the way of putting police on the beat.

When I've been out on the beat, the police have complained about form-filling and paperwork. When an arrest is made it is not just the alleged criminal who is detained at the station. Cut the form filling and we can put more police on the beat.

In these difficult times when there will be more demands on public services, we need to look at the changes we can make in our schools hospitals, councils and police service to get the best value for money.

More bang for the buck!

**You may contact Mark via his office
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN
Telephone 01329 233573**

Fareham Conservative Association
FAREHAM WEST BRANCH

Social events

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

On Sunday 18th January some 93 adults and children joined together for a terrific Indian Buffet Curry Lunch at CAFE TUSK, West Street, Fareham. Just look at the happy faces (opposite column)

The choice of dishes available was overwhelming and some of us had difficulty coping with a sweet as well. The motto of Café Tusk seems to be that no one should go away hungry and none of us did.

Following the meal our MP Mark Hoban gave a short thank you speech and then proceeded to draw the raffle which as always had an array of super prizes.

The event was supported by many Councillors including your ward ones, your Council Executive Leader and all of the Conservative Association Officers plus of course many of our valued branch members.

The next social event, all of which fund our In Touch newsletters, will be our 10th annual BBQ on Saturday 4th July, so be sure and put this date in your diary. For more details please ring Leslie on 01329 845339.

Note from Cllr Di Harrison.
My congratulations to Leslie for organising this original and so successful social function I am so sorry that I was in too much pain at the time to attend myself. Seem to be on the mend now. *Di Harrison.*

Contact your Councillors:

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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Town Division has 2 County Councillors

Cllr. **John Bryant**, 14 Highlands Road, Fareham.
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