



In Touch

with our community

LOCKS HEATH – SPRING 2007

New drinks clampdown welcomed by police

DRINKING alcohol and misbehaving in public places could land you in trouble anywhere in Fareham.

The Council has extended its Designated Public Places Order to cover all the Borough from June 1, 2007.

Police, who found an earlier Order designating the town centre useful in reducing nuisance, backed the move.

The Council and police gathered evidence to identify other potential areas where designation would provide relief from the impact of drink-related disorder.

Highlands, central Portchester, West End and Stubbington were identified, with Hill Head and Locks Heath also causing concern.

If an Order were made for each area, a small part of the Borough would not be covered and the risk of dispersal to nearby areas would be high, hence the Borough-wide Order.

It is an offence to drink alcohol after being asked not to by a police officer. Police may confiscate and dispose of any alcohol and containers; it is an arrestable offence to disobey an officer's request.

It is **not** an offence to have a glass of wine or beer at the family picnic on the beach or in the park **unless** it causes alcohol-related nuisance, annoyance or disorder.

Fareham top choice for a happy family

WE'VE BEEN saying it for years, but now you're getting it from a renowned independent source – Fareham IS in the top six places in Britain to raise a family.

A *Reader's Digest* survey of all 408 local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales put the Borough in 6th position.

Classy Winchester came 42nd, Manchester 328th and three London boroughs at the bottom.

It was parents themselves, not councillors or officials, who came up with their own criteria.

Most important was living in a family-friendly area with good schools and hospitals, low crime rates, affordable housing and high employment.

Other factors included low flooding risk, proximity of universities, colleges, major cities, coast and country parks and climate.

The survey's findings utterly refuted a survey published by two national newspapers last October which outraged the town by placing it bottom of the list of desirable places to live because of poor employment and high crime figures.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "The results of this survey are wonderful news for Fareham. It is a really great place to raise a family, with countryside and the coast on your doorstep, along with the two larger cities of Portsmouth and Southampton close by.

"We have excellent schools and low crime rates and offer a safe and very attractive place to live.



"As well as being a great place environmentally, it is also a friendly place to live with good neighbours and supportive communities."

The Council took the *Independent on Sunday* and *Daily Mail* to the Press

Complaints commission and both printed apology letters.

Councillor Woodward added: "These letters quite clearly show that the producers of this survey made a mistake, but I am still anxious to ensure that the authors of the survey respond to us and that they explain how their data placed Fareham at the bottom of the ranking."

•Research was carried out on behalf of *Reader's Digest* by YouGov who surveyed 1,162 parents with children under 16 in February.

Colours, bayonets, drums and a famous name in Falklands parade

A VIP whose name was a top secret was to join veterans and dignitaries to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War on Saturday, May 12.

Fareham Council scheduled the official commemoration for 11am.

Shortly before, a Royal Navy guard of honour was to exercise

HMS Collingwood's right as freemen of the Borough to march through town with bayonets fixed and colours flying.

A Drumhead Service in West Street featuring the Royal Marines Band was to precede an address by the Council's Executive Leader, Councillor Seán

Woodward, and one by a veteran of the Falklands conflict.

The VIP was to open the Falklands Arch as an entrance to the town from Market Quay car park. A formal march past was being followed by a field gun display by HMS Collingwood Volunteer Cadet Corps.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Sacks appeal

Do you have your three green sacks?

A Gardeners' Fair will be held in West Street precinct on Saturday, June 9, when recycling volunteers will have a stall and provide information.

Extra green sacks will be available for collection.

School festival

Brookfield School, in conjunction with Fareham Council's Community Safety Panel, Locks Heath Centre management, the police and local churches, is holding a festival for the community on July 14 from 11am to 4pm at the Lockswood Centre.

Live music will be provided by pupils, and skate boarding, vintage cars, clowns, stalls will be among the attractions.

Focus of the event will be to promote a positive image of young people in our community.

Fewer objections

The planning application for 39 retirement apartments in Botley Road with 13 car parking spaces will be submitted in the near future.

Developers Churchill Homes have advised that very few residents attended the open day or have objected to the application.

If you have any concerns about this proposed development please let your councillors know.

Mid-summer start is forecast for roundabout improvements

MAJOR changes are planned for the Segensworth roundabout area that should reduce the queues, especially at peak times.

It should also improve access to the industrial estates. The proposals include:

- Extra traffic lane on the A27/M27 link road approach
- Extra traffic lane added to the roundabout carriageway
- Widening by the A27 Park gate entry to the roundabout

- Gyratory system with one way into Barnes Wallis Road from the roundabout and one way up Segensworth Road on to the roundabout, requiring Witherbed Lane between Barnes Wallis and Segensworth Roads being reopened



Relief on the way: Work is due to start soon at Segensworth roundabout.

- Improved street lighting at the roundabout

Work should last five to six months and it is hoped to start around mid-year. There will be disruption, but lane closures will be restricted to off-peak hours.

Councillor Keith Evans welcomed the proposals but warned: "This is really tinkering and the basic problem is that there is too little investment by government in the infrastructure to support the growth in housing and car use."

'Get your act together' county councillor tells utility companies

A WARSASH councillor has demanded that utility companies get their act together.

Lack of co-ordination between the utility companies and the Highways Agency (pavements and roads) is under fire from County Councillor Keith Evans.

He said: "All around there are white markings on roads and pavements as a prelude to some utility or another digging up the road or pavement.

"Often it's one after the other and frequently destroys some good work that has been done in resurfacing a pathway or a road."

Councillor Evans has called for the agencies to speak to each other more frequently.

In practice, the Highways agency can only protect a new surface for up to 12 months (excluding emergencies), but that is not always the case.

Keith Evans added: "More needs to be done to avoid duplicate spends, disruption of traffic and pedestrians and destruction of good surfaces."

How to join your MEP's email list

SEVERAL of our MEPs send out regular newsletters via an emailing list, which can provide up-to-date information on the European Parliament.

It would be too costly to send these newsletters by post, but you can sign up to their email list. Here are the contacts:

- Nirj Diva:**
ndeva@europarl.eu.int
- James Ellis:**
jellis@europarl.eu.int
- James Ashworth:**
jashworth@europarl.eu.int

These are some of the MEPs who represent the SE Region of England and divide their time between Brussels and Strasbourg.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "I am certain you will find the newsletters of interest whatever your views on the Euro system."

Riverside homes in multi-million Swanwick Marina expansion plan

A MULTI-MILLION pound redevelopment of Swanwick Marina could centre on a new pavilion, relocation and expansion of the boatyard and new riverside housing.

Premier Marinas are introducing the plan following their purchase of the marina in 2005.

The new pavilion would feature a chandlery, restaurant with café bar, units for sales and related businesses.

Berth holders could enjoy new changing rooms in the pavilion and the old pontoons would be replaced to provide modern berthing facilities.

Boatyard operations would be relocated west of the marina, with purpose-built workshops and boat lifting and handling facilities. New jobs may be created.

52 new homes, which would need to respond to the Swanwick Shore Conservation Area, could be built at the east end and would be a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed houses and flats, with about 35% allocated as affordable homes.



Park Gate school travel plan to ease congestion

THE COUNTY Council has asked Hampshire schools to produce a travel plan, which would be vetted by Hampshire Highways and the Hampshire Road Safety Team.

Park Gate Primary School has produced such a plan, which has been approved and will shortly come into operation.

One of its features is the traffic flow in Northmore Road, Park Gate, a narrow road which is congested at school in and out times.

Councillor Mike Godrich said one of the proposals asked school bound drivers to treat Northmore Road as a 'one-way' route to the school, entering from Locks Road and leaving by Admirals Road.

This would reduce the problems created by two-way traffic near the school at these times.

He added: "It is hoped that this can be for a trial period, with your help, so that an assessment can be made."

New Fareham policing set-up aims for safer communities

SINCE the beginning of the year there have been significant changes in the way in which the Fareham area has been policed.

The officers who provide an initial response to incidents are based at Park Gate Police Station, writes Councillor Mike Godrich.

These officers are known as Targeted Patrol Teams and they provide an initial response to incidents 24 hours a day.

Community Beat Officers have been replaced with what is now called Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT).

Each of the five areas in the Borough has an assigned team, consisting of a sergeant, several constables and the new community support officers.

CSOs will patrol their areas by cycle or on foot and deal with matters that affect the lives of the residents in that area, such as youth nuisance, damage and anti-social behaviour.

SNT officers can be contacted via mobile phone for non emer-



gency matters.

This number is for issues such as passing on information, advising officers of non urgent matters on their beat and general communication involving their beat area.

If there is an officer on duty the phone will be answered; if not, the public should ring 0845 045 45

45 or in an emergency 999.

The Park Gate West team covering Locks Heath, Park Gate, Titchfield Common, Warsash, Sarisbury, Whiteley includes (top l to r) Sgt Dave Spacey, Pc David Coleman, Pc Geoff Tarvin; (bottom l to r) Pc Jackie Wild and PCSO Emma Barlow.

Compost those documents and don't leave a shred of evidence

MOST PEOPLE use kitchen roll to wipe surfaces and our hands, but this paper cannot be recycled because it is polluted; nor can shredded documents.

What to do with this matter?

Both are ideal for composting.

"They rot down nicely and maintain your confidentiality. This is what my family does with kitchen paper and shredded documents," said Councillor Ruth Godrich.

The Council sells composting bins at promotional prices and will deliver to your door. For information telephone Customer Services on Fareham 01329 236100 and ask for details about composting.

LOCKS HEATH 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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Our man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

IN THE last edition of *In Touch*, I wrote about the importance of education and the seminar that I was to chair at the beginning of March.

I am delighted to say that we had an excellent turnout and a first class discussion. We had a broad cross-section of local people including governors, head teachers, teachers, parents and employers.

What I found interesting was the degree of consensus achieved from such a diverse audience and this was expressed in three main themes.

The first was the fundamental importance of getting the basics right. We could not allow children to leave school without having mastered English and maths. Basic skills are fundamental to living and working in a society that is increasingly dependant upon technology.

The second point was the need for a balanced curriculum. Whilst we must get the basics right, children need a broadly based education too. There was a concern that the emphasis on league tables and targets is skewing what is happening in our schools. There has to be time for music as well as maths!

The third theme was to recognise that every child is different and their needs vary. At every level of ability, education should be tailored to meet individual needs. Concern was expressed about the support available for children with special needs and for the most able. This led to a discussion about the choices available for young people at 16 and 18: making sure a wide range of academic and vocational courses is offered to meet the needs of those wishing to continue in education.

In an increasingly demanding world, we need to ensure that our young people are well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. As I visit local businesses, I see the increased pressure that there is for skills, but education is about much more than turning people out ready for work. As the expectations on our schools increase, it is vital we give the support that they need as they change to meet these pressures.

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Double yellow peril alert



WATCH OUT! Fareham has almost doubled its corps of parking wardens.

And they have orders to stick one on you if you infringe regulations.

The crackdown follows the Council taking over full responsibility for parking enforcement from the police, which now covers on and off street parking.

It aims to discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability and to make sure there is safe passage through the borough.

There are currently eight parking attendants, including one supervisor, but this figure will rise to 15 with two supervisors.

From April, enforcement is taking place seven days a week with wardens working a



Just the ticket! But not if you're on the receiving end from one of Fareham's 15 parking attendants.

shift system

They can now to slap a penalty charge notice on any car parked in a no waiting area, an area of single or double yellow lines and they are managing off street car parks and issuing residents' and visitors' permits.

New community action teams promised £100,000 to tackle grass roots issues

FIVE community action teams will be set up across Fareham to encourage more grass roots public participation in shaping the borough's future.

The Executive agreed the principle as part of the Community Engagement Strategy which should be ready for consideration in June.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Service, Performance and Improvement, said the aim was to develop greater emphasis on neighbourhood working and community engagement so local people could have more influence over local services and a greater capacity to tackle local issues for themselves.

"Fareham has always been a council committed to providing good quality services for the local community. This success has been built on a good relationship between

elected members and the local community," he said.

Community action teams, will offer the opportunity to:

- Strengthen the power of local councillors to act as advocates and leaders of the communities that they represent
- Provide information of interest and relevance to local communities, hear residents' views and provide feedback on issues raised
- Permit communities to bid for extra funding to be used on specific projects in their area
- Enable people to raise specific issues of local concern with the appropriate people

Meetings of the community action teams will be held at various venues throughout each neighbourhood and last no longer than two hours.

They will be attended by

ward councillors and will be championed by a council chief officer to provide a senior profile and ensure that any follow-up action is treated with the appropriate level of urgency and importance.

Representatives of other agencies such as the Police, Hampshire County Council, and the Primary Care Trust will also attend.

The Council will set aside a central budget of £100,000 in 2007/8 for neighbourhood initiatives and councillors will work with their community action teams to put forward bids for projects in their area.

It is proposed to appoint two new community engagement officers, supported by a community assistant, to assist the teams.

Action teams will be set up in Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, Western Wards and Fareham Town.

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