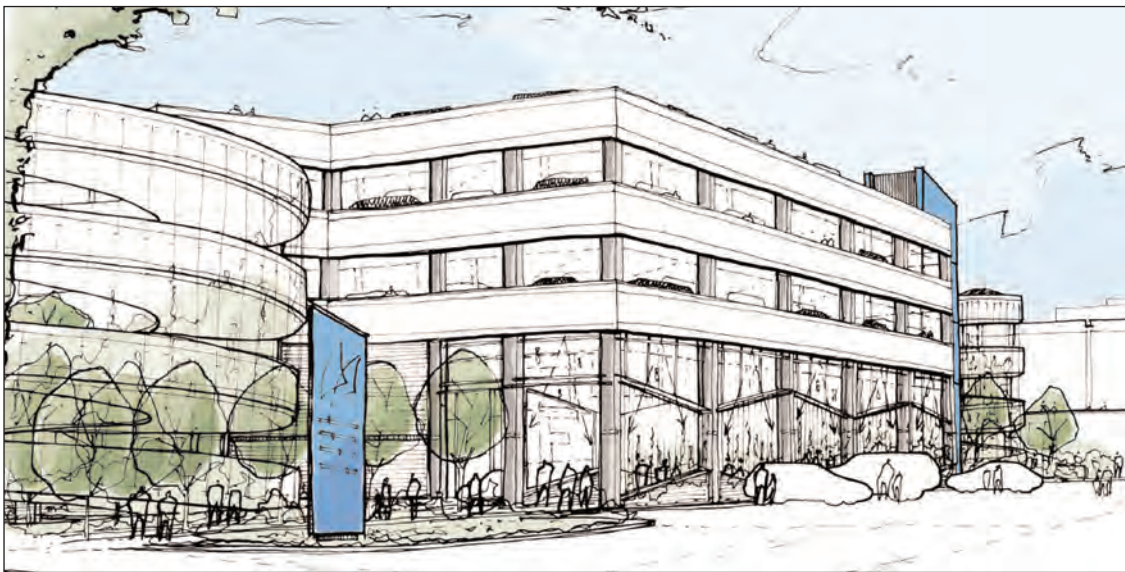


## Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

## Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



**New look:** An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

**DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.**

Work on the project has started and 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 and shoppers and 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 clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle 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 bringing 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 park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor Ruth Godrich 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 top fashion designer products.

- It 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.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and 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.

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**



**Locks Heath on-line**

If you would like to get "on-line" with members of the community in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere to discuss issues about living in Locks Heath, Hampshire or any other topics of interest then there is only one place to go. Log on to:

Locks Heath Community Forum at [www.locksheath.moonfruit.com](http://www.locksheath.moonfruit.com) (ignore the hyphen).

**Committee work**

Your ward councillors, who regularly attend full council meetings, serve on the following committees:

**Ruth Godrich**

Community Review Panel (vice-chairman); Licensing and Regulatory affairs; Scrutiny Board (deputy); Genesis Youth Project; Brookfield Community Campus; Local Development Framework.

**Mike Godrich**

Audit (chairman); Housing Tenancy Board; Street Scene Panel; Appeals (chairman); Service Improvement and Review Panel (deputy); Fareham and Gosport Mind; Locks Heath Day Care Centre

**Fears over tower loss sparks public concern**



**Packed:** Residents turn out in force at the public meeting and (inset) Locks Heath Shopping Centre tower which is under threat.

**WIDESPREAD concern over plans by the owners of Locks Heath Shopping Centre to demolish the landmark clock tower brought 400 residents flocking to a public meeting in the Community Centre.**

It was called and chaired by Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Council, and attended by Western Wards councillors, directors of shopping centre owners Stockland Halladale, their architects, the shopping centre manager and planning chiefs.

Plans include several

new shops, a KFC drive-thru restaurant and turning the area behind the clock tower into a disabled car park. There were fears the car park would have a time limit and no free parking, and that the Council's proposal for a public swimming pool and private fitness facility would be lost.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "The meeting showed the real concerns of residents in Locks Heath about aspects of Halladale's proposals.

"I urge all concerned people to respond to the planning department's consultation when the

plans are submitted and to make sure that their ward councillors receive copies of their letters."

When it comes to the committee Councillors Ruth and Mike Godrich will express residents' feelings received via emails, letters, telephone calls, personal calls and speaking to people in the Shopping Centre.

The public can address the committee and those wishing to do so should phone the Council Customer Services on 01329 236100.



**No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council**

**MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.**

Nor will the Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said: "Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, 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 parties understand it is essential in the interests of the environment and energy saving to encourage and increase recycling.

"Some opposition parties will promise to make changes, but once in power and faced with the realities, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07.

After problems experienced during the 2006 heatwave, a food waste composting system immune to rats, flies and smells is being tested by volunteers.

Problems were not caused by the change to collection rotas, but the high temperatures in which flies and maggots breed within 24 hours. Tests proved that Jeyes fluid or similar dripped around the top of the wheelie bin deters flies and counteracts smells.

**Cemetery check for danger memorials**

**A SURVEY of all memorials in St John's cemetery will be undertaken by the Council during October.**

This is a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive to reduce possible injury to visitors and workers.

Any memorial found to be unstable will be temporarily secured or laid flat to prevent it toppling over and the Council will try to notify owners.

**In the main, gas work was more like guess work**

**EVERYTHING was set for major footpath improvements to be carried out at Chestnut Way, Locks Heath during June and July.**

Then at the last minute, the gas men came to call on the Council.

Southern Gas declared they also wanted to carry out mains work in the same area, so the footpath had to be

Contact with grave and memorial owners is often lost, ownership of exclusive right of burial may need upgrading or owners may have moved.

Contact the cemeteries officer if you have relatives buried at St John's.

Cemetery records can be searched on the Borough Council's web site [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)

postponed until September.

County Councillor Keith Evans said: "This is an improvement because normally the gas or electricity companies dig up the roads and footpaths after major improvements.

"In this case it is just luck – yet another example where more co-ordinated planning is required."

# Tumbledown changing rooms' £50,000 facelift

**IMPROVEMENTS** to Locks Heath Sports and Social Club's changing rooms are on the way at last.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "What we really need is a demolition and rebuild. Unfortunately this will have to wait, but not be forgotten.

"Right now we have £50,000, which will be spent over July and August in refurbishing what we have."

Councillor Mike Godrich said the club could trace its history back to 1894 and had played a significant role in local sporting life.

In the early 1950s young stalwarts of the football and cricket clubs joined together and built the changing rooms.

"Today the changing rooms are in a poor state and need considerable improvement to meet modern standards."

Work will last about six weeks, but access will be maintained to the scouts' and social club premises and disruption kept to a minimum.



**Ramshackle:** It will soon be all change at the Locks Heath changing rooms.

## New law allows councillors to speak on voters' behalf

**THE LAW** bans councillors from voting in committee and full council on items in which they have a prejudicial interest.

Until recently they could not stay in the room or speak to the matter.

However, new legislation means they can now present residents' views, but must not vote, and must leave the room before the matter is discussed or voted upon.

Councillors Ruth and Mike Godrich say constituents may consider this far from ideal, but it is a great improvement.

"Many residents will link this to planning, but it applies to issues which come before other committees," they stated.

Ruth and Mike live in High Oaks Close, and were hitherto barred from speaking to a committee on a local item in which they had a prejudicial interest.

Added Mike: "We can now present residents' views, we can't vote and must leave before discussion so we don't influence other committee members."

# County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

**VOLUNTARY** organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets that the County Council has aimed at supporting voluntary organisations and community groups.

Fareham Warsash County Councillor Keith Evans said:

"These grants are intended to benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, local environment projects, community safety etc."

"It is an excellent move by the County to recognise the critical importance of local knowledge when assessing many of these applications."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available on the Hampshire website at [www.hants.gov.uk/grants](http://www.hants.gov.uk/grants)

Organisations and groups can apply by requesting an application form from Councillor Evans or by downloading a form from the grants website.

However, applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or groups affiliated to a political party or from lobbying organisations.

## 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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**Four 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 showed 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 fewer 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 financial 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  
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email: mail@markhoban.com**

# Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

**THOUSANDS** packed the town centre to cheer **Baroness Thatcher** when she came to **Fareham** to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the **Falklands 25 years ago.**

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



**Marching in memory:** Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



**Lest we forget:** Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

## Council offers chance to public to air views

**AN INITIATIVE** designed to ensure the Council understands community needs will start in Fareham in September.

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) led by ward councillors, will be set up to meet across the borough.

The CATs meetings will be held from 7pm to 8.30pm and the local venues are:

**Titchfield** – Wednesday, September 19 at Titchfield Community Centre

**Western Wards** – Tuesday, September 25 at Sarisbury Green Community Centre

Executive Member for Service Performance and Improvement, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, said:

"These neighbourhood meetings offer our residents

an excellent opportunity to find out about developments we're proposing for their communities, as well as discussing local issues.

"It will give us the chance to hear from the public and for them to hear from us and, hopefully, make a difference."

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