



In Touch

with our community

LOCKS HEATH – WINTER 2007

Doggone it!
Don't let
your pet get
carried away

COLLAR your dog or microchip it – that's the message from Fareham Council.

Strays can be a nuisance, but there is a service offered by the Council to people who find lost pooches.

The out-of-hours collection and kenneling service has been extended and can be contacted between 5.15pm and 10pm by calling 0800 374485 in a normal working week.

A tagged or microchipped dog will be returned speedily to its owner who will have to pay a fixed fee.

But if Bonzo makes off a second time, it will be kenneled at the owner's expense.

The dog will be kept for 7 days in kennels, then found a new home.

Executive Member for Public Protection, Councillor Arthur Mandry, said:

"We hope to be able to reunite stray dogs with their owners or find them a new home as quickly as possible."



All set for another Tory below inflation budget

'We manage to do more with less'

FAREHAM'S Conservative Council will again be the envy of neighbouring authorities when it sets a below-inflation council tax without reducing its excellent services.

A rise of about 3% will mean average Band C householders will pay less than £118 a year for the Borough's services or £88.50 for single occupants.

Hampshire County Council takes the lion's share which, with demands from the Police Authority and Fire and Rescue, is likely to see Band C properties paying an extra £50 a year.

Consistently prudent management achieves these very low rises year on year, despite the Government paying Fareham one of the lowest grants in the country.

Conservatives always look for the best value for taxpayers' money by finding innovative ways of increasing income and reducing expenditure, while continuing to improve services.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted that we have again been able to minimise the impact of council tax on our residents."

"We have yet again been able to produce a budget which is balanced, improves services and seeks an increase from residents which is below the level of inflation."

"The average household in Fareham pays less than £2.30 per week for the high quality services of Fareham Borough Council."

"That sum is viewed with envy by many residents of surrounding districts. We manage to do more with less than almost any other council in England."



Open: The new customer service centre at the Civic Offices and (left) Executive Leader Seán Woodward working flat out for low Council Tax lost over 2 stone after handing over the refurbished Leisure Centre.



How we spend your money

The Council has a capital programme of £22m over the next 5 years. Its plans include:

- Improving 14 public conveniences £400,000
- Neighbourhood fora suggestions £100,000
- Improvements to council footpaths £50,000
- Play strategy projects £50,000
- Green Flag status for parks, woodlands £30,000
- Osborn Road multi-storey car park £100,000

The Council spends £38m annually on revenue services and improvements include:

- Community football development officer £10,000
- Tree Survey £40,000
- Business continuity planning £20,000

These come on top of improvements for this year, which included 5 new skateparks, mobile CCTV unit, new community centre at Fareham Methodist Church, £2m for enabling social housing for rent

Fareham's commitment to equality for the disabled

DISABLED residents and the groups that support them have been influential in creating a new Disability Equality Scheme for Fareham Council.

The scheme, now available on the Council's website, underlines Fareham's determination to

achieve equality of opportunity.

The Council will ensure there is no discrimination against the disabled and will identify training to enable officers and members to recognise and accommodate the needs of our disabled community.

A disability equality working

group, involving disabled residents and staff, will be set up.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "We were determined to ensure the actions we committed to were ones that would make a very real difference to disabled people, their families and carers."

Happy New Year! We keep *In Touch* throughout - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Education workshop

Two MPs will hold an Education Workshop at the Wallington Community Centre on Saturday, March 3 from 9.30am to 12.15pm.

It will be chaired by Fareham MP and Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury Mark Hoban, with Havant MP and Shadow Education Minister David Willetts as special guest.

It's a must for any parents concerned with education matters.

For more information or to reserve a place ring Tina Ellis 01329 822646 or 843936.

Protests ignored

An estate of up to 350 homes off Hunts Pond Road has been given the go-ahead, despite angry objections over the access.

Fareham Council adopted the development brief for the 27-acre (10.9 hectares) site near the junction with Warsash Road.

Residents were upset that the two main access points to the estate were off busy Hunts Pond Road and not Warsash Road.

The developers indicated they wanted 40 to 45 per hectare, giving perhaps between 310 and 350 dwellings, of which about 40% would be classified as affordable housing

Social event

Locks Heath Conservative Branch is having a skittles match on March 10. If you are interested phone for details on 01489 579193.

Mike and Ruth respond to residents' road safety pleas

SPEEDING drivers using Admirals Road, Park Gate as a rat run have sparked a petition to the County Council to take action.

And another petition was handed to Fareham Council calling for a pedestrian crossing in Centre Way, Locks Heath.

Admirals Road residents responded to pleas from the school crossing patrol officer and 57 signed the first petition.

The road is often gridlocked by the volume of traffic, leaving no space even for the officer to help parents and children to cross to Park Gate Primary School.

Councillor Mike Godrich said the situation was acute and the petition also demanded signs saying 'No stopping'.

He said: "Park Gate Primary School has a travel plan in place which highlights the need for upgraded crossing points in



Stranded: This break in the Admirals Road traffic wasn't enough to allow Mike Godrich to cross safely.

Admirals Road.

"The site has been inspected and improvements can be made. Fareham Council's Executive proposed that action should be taken on this issue at a recent meeting."

The petition to the County Council was accompanied by a request for funding to upgrade the site and for inclusion in the Safer Routes to School Programme.

It also called for pedestrian dropped kerbs at this location, advance warning signs to be upgraded and SLOW markings painted on the road.

Meantime, the other half of the Godrich partnership, Ruth, collected a petition of 50 signatures which she presented to Fareham Council demanding a crossing from the doctors' surgery, day care centre, Genesis and the bus stop.

At present, the elderly, infirm and parents with young children risked a busy road to reach the Lockswood Shopping Centre.

"The petition will go to the Executive shortly and hopefully something will be achieved," said Councillor Mrs Godrich.



Marooned: Ruth Godrich prepares to risk life and limb to cross Centre Way from the surgery.

Vandals deprive Locks Heath elderly of lifeline

YOBBS robbed hundreds of elderly Locks Heath people of use of their minibus when they vandalised it.

The Communicare bus, which takes about 1,100 senior citizens a week to luncheon clubs and the shops, had several windows smashed.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "The damage is costly to repair and the minibus was out of service for some time while the windows were replaced."

"Many of these people are disabled and rely on this minibus to make visits, meet their friends and get some

respite from their normal environment."

He said graffiti had also been widespread and was expensive to get rid of.

He blamed drunken youngsters for the vandalism.

Volunteers drive the minibus and the preparation and serving of meals and fund raising are all done by volunteers.

"It is a disappointment to them and distressing to the elderly who will miss their trips," added Councillor Godrich, who appealed to the public to report any vandalism they witnessed to the police.

Skatepark is a big success

YOUNG people asked for skateparks to be provided across the Borough.

The one at Locks Heath Centre has been a great source of enjoyment and exercise for many youngsters.

It is away from residential properties and provides a safe environment for our skate boarders.

Major tree survey will protect public safety

RISKS to the public, particularly from the more frequent storms, should be reduced by an operation to survey and map trees in Fareham Borough.

Fareham covers an area of over 18,000 acres (nearly 7,500 hectares) and the Council is responsible for hundreds of trees and hedgerows within the Borough.

The tree survey, as part of the risk management process, aims to identify Council-owned trees which are a high risk.

While much work has already been undertaken and many trees are on the corporate mapping system, the next stage is to determine whether any action to limit or mitigate the risk is needed as a result.

Councillor Mike Godrich said: "While trees are an asset to our environment both ecologically and aesthetically, it must be recognised that with constant movement and the risk of fungal infections, judgements must be made to safeguard the public and property.

"Sometimes, councillors get complaints from residents or the public that a branch or indeed a tree has been cut down.

"Distressing as this is, when the Council gets advice from tree specialists that a risk assessment infers danger to the public, then action to ensure the health and safety of the public must be paramount.

"While I accept that this risk assessment is a professional judgement, there have been instances of people being injured or worse in storm conditions.

"This is something the Council is looking to prevent."

Celebrating 10 years of community care

LOCKS HEATH Day Care Centre recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and has proved its worth over the years.

Councillor Mike Godrich said it started as a vision by several local people, some of whom had moved on while others, although still supporting the centre, took a less active role.

It started in a rented building on the Coldeast Hospital site, but gained support for the current building at Lockswood which provides for up to 100 elderly people a week, who are helped with communal activity in the morning followed by lunch and further activity.

More activities are on offer at Genesis



GENESIS, our local youth project, is attracting more and more young people, says Councillor Ruth Godrich (pictured)

Under the guidance of Kay Castonguay more activities are taking place.

Councillor Godrich says the centre is used very well and includes a state-of-the-art recording studio where expert advice is given to groups on making recordings and where some can develop DJ skills.

In December, the young people entertained many senior citizens in the area with a successful tea party, which was supported by the local police and Hampshire County Council and greatly enjoyed by the guests

Warning over new child car seat laws

NEW LAWS on children's seats fitted in cars came into force in September.

Councillor Ruth Godrich, who is chairman of Fareham Road Safety Council, said all parents should be aware they face a £30 fixed penalty or maximum fine of £500 if they do not obey the law.

It states that all children under 4ft 5in (1.35m) must wear seat belts or appropriate restraints, ie baby seats, child seats, booster seats or cushions.

If you are uncertain, you can check by visiting the Road Safety website www.thinkroad-safety.gov.uk

She also said that the County Council was short of school crossing wardens.

"While most schools have regular wardens, many do not. These wardens are trained, uniformed ladies and men who safely escort children and parents across busy roads."

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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Your man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

IF WE ARE to be successful in the 21st century we need to get our education system right.

We will not be able to compete successfully with India and China, unless we have a highly skilled workforce. Despite the excellent work that takes place in our local schools, colleges and universities, more needs to be done.

In early January, new league tables were produced which show that less than half of 16-year-olds in Hampshire get five good GCSEs including English and Maths. I know from talking to local businesses how important it is for them for children to leave school with a good grasp of basic skills.

International studies show that while we do well as a country with the proportion of young people going to university, we lag behind our competitors when it comes to the number of young people staying on at school or college at 16. I am not sure whether the answer is to raise the school leaving age to 18 as the Government proposes. Will young people bother to go to college if they do not feel that the courses on offer are worthwhile?

Ruth Kelly's decision to send her son to a private school because of his particular educational needs also caused controversy in January.

People will have their own views on whether she was right to do this as a mother and a senior politician, but I know from my postbag that the help and support we give to children with special educational needs is an important issue.

You will have your own views, as a parent, a teacher, a student or an employer and I want to give you the opportunity to air them at a meeting we are holding on March 3 with David Willetts, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education. Details are on Page 2 of this In Touch. I hope you will come along to debate and discuss these issues so that you can influence the future of education in our community.

•You may contact Mark via his office
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email: mail@markhoban.com

16 wardens to target verge and double yellow parkers

PARK on a double yellow or sink your wheels into a grass verge in Fareham after this April and there's a high chance you'll be booked.

Sixteen full-time parking wardens will be appointed to enforce 'no waiting' restrictions across the borough.

The Council will take over parking enforcement from the police whose duties end after April 2007.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Connie Hockley said the County Council would have imposed a private contractor had Fareham not decided to take over the responsibility.

The aim was to bring uniform standards and flexibility to street regulations and the new set-up would also allow the Council to consider residents' parking schemes.

"Regulations are usually

imposed after complaints by residents of indiscriminate or dangerous parking.

"Verge parking orders have also been given a warm welcome by local people who do not wish to see their grass verges reduced to a rutted quagmire, with possible damage to services beneath the

surface," she said.

She denied it was just another Council money-making scheme.

"If the rules which are imposed for the benefit of the majority are complied with, there will be no fixed parking penalties issued and hence no income from them."



Rutting season: A resident snapped the lorry which churned this verge in Riverside Avenue, Wallington into a quagmire. Note the building materials dumped on the verge opposite.

Services agreed for Fareham's new hospital

AN AMBULANCE stand-by point may be provided at Fareham's new community hospital at Coldeast.

Discussions are taking place with the Hampshire Ambulance Service for the inclusion of an ambulance bay and service from the site.

The Hospital Planning Group agreed the schedule of accommodation on January 5 after consulting local GPs. It is planned to provide:

•Large out-patient department replacing the Sylvan Clinic with

6 consulting suites and 2 suites for ante-natal clinics.

•12 maternity beds including two delivery rooms to replace Blackbrook Maternity Home.

•Rehabilitation department with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles to replace and enhance services at Highlands Road Clinic.

•2 general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and 2 ultrasound units.

•Elderly assessment centre, with large treatment area and 2 consulting

suites.

•Older persons' mental health day hospital with 2 consulting suites, treatment room, large sitting room and 2 activity rooms.

There will be an out-of-hours and minor procedures facility serviced by GPs to save residents having to travel to Gosport or Southampton. It will include a pharmacy.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Fareham's representative to the Primary Care Trust, said Fareham would have the initial ele-

ments of a very comprehensive health service campus by 2010.

"However, the hospital will have only maternity beds. Beds for Fareham residents will be at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

"This is because of a promise, made in 1998 by the NHS management to the residents of Gosport, that if the MoD left Haslar Hospital alternate facilities would be provided in Gosport," he said.