



In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER – AUTUMN 2009

Prosecutions follow zero tolerance enviro-crime enforcement

ZERO tolerance towards those who litter and allow dogs to foul Fareham's streets is paying off.

During 2008-09, Enforcement Team patrols issued 51 fixed penalty notices for littering, two of which ended in court after the culprits didn't pay up.

They probably wished they had as the court appearance cost them a lot more – a £50 fine, £70 costs and £15 for victim support.

In the same period, 92 cases of fly tipping were investigated, resulting in four successful prosecutions, punishments ranging from community service to fines and compensation.

Six more cases are currently being pursued.

The team also succeeded in prosecuting a youth responsible for graffiti in a churchyard.

Portchester Councillor Nick Walker said the team, introduced in 2004 to patrol the Borough to enforce legislation on a wide range of enviro-crimes, worked closely with community safety officers and police community support officers to provide an effective uniformed service.

Officers also deal with abandoned vehicles and unauthorised travellers' camps.

Planning dictators' days are numbered, pledges top Tory

FAR-REACHING legislation proposed by the next Conservative Government to put the 'local' aspect back into planning has stalled the huge 10,000 homes development in Fareham.

Labour dictated that under the South East Plan the Borough must earmark a Strategic Development Area (SDA) north of the M27 and build the houses by 2026.

But all this will be put on hold, thanks to a letter to councils from Conservative Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Caroline Spelman.

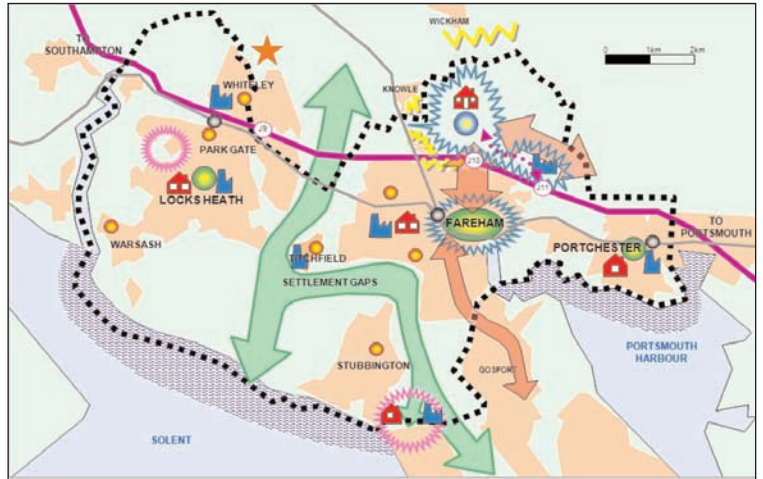
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

She stated: "A Conservative Government will abolish the bureaucratic and undemocratic tier of regional planning. This will include the abolition of the regional spatial strategies and the regional planning bodies."

Planning dictates from Whitehall civil servants, with no local knowledge or inkling of public opinion, would be replaced to make the process far more 'bottom up'.

Even better, Caroline Spelman said councils would be able to undo some unwanted planning policies forced on them by Labour.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, said the core strategy, which is key to the Local Development Framework, was to be published in October, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January and subjected to a public



Shape of things to come? The key diagram for Fareham's local development framework, but changes could lie ahead after the election.

hearing in May to decide whether it conformed to the SE Plan.

He said: "Fareham decided that if the development was to become a sustainable community that was pleasant to live in, the number of dwellings had to be much lower."

Under the system introduced by Labour, the inspector could find the plan unsound, forcing Fareham to waste most of the money spent producing its Core Strategy and start again; or worse, tell the Council it had to cram 10,000 flats and houses into the SDA, however undesirable.

"Currently, whatever an inspector decides becomes the plan and the local authority cannot change it.

"Labour used to say it would bring democracy nearer to local people. This is an example of what they meant – 'top down' planning with an iron fist."

Caroline Spelman's letter made councils who belong to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) take notice.

"They may now be unlikely to commit to taking on additional housing to make up for a shortfall in Fareham's SDA, with the possibility that the problem will disappear after the election.

"There is a strong possibility many councils currently preparing plans will delay the process until after May when, if the Conservatives win power, local planning will truly become local."

Councillor Nick Walker said: "For years people felt they had no real say in planning policy.

"If a Conservative Government is elected then that will change.

"They will be able to vote in local elections for councillors who will decide on local planning policies."

..and plans to revive a 18th Century tax will go out of the window

SCHEMING Labour plans to tax you for the view from your window won't last long under a Tory government.

Caroline Spelman, who recently

exposed the tax, said her party would repeal any legislation.

Historically, it smacks of the 1766 House and Windows Duties Act, which taxed a house by the num-

ber of its windows and led to owners bricking up where possible.

But Labour would not stop there. If you have a patio, pond, pool, summer house, you're a target.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

For your diary

Saturday, November 7: Desmond Swayne MP speaking at a dinner, Lysses Hotel, High Street, Fareham. Tickets £22.50 each.

Sunday, November 29: Christmas Fair 10am to 2.30pm supporting local shops and traders at Titchfield Community Centre. Entry £3 including mulled wine and mince pies.

If you are a local business interested in exhibiting please contact FCA office on 01329 822646 or conservatives@adslmail.ernet.co.uk

Friday, March 12 2010: Chris Grayling, Shadow Home Secretary, supper at Victory Hall, Warsash, £12.50 per head.

Volunteers needed

There will be a General Election and Borough Council elections next year, and Portchester Conservatives will need help with canvassing and delivering In Touch, for which there are usually four deliveries a year.

If you can help, please call Sue Bell on 02392 384943.

Cold calling zone

Police Sgt Jerry Tremellan said Northfield Park estate could become the first area in Portchester to be labelled a 'no cold calling' zone.

Police are working with Trading Standards to achieve this.

He said it would help to reassure residents in relation to unsolicited calls and attempts to pressurise them for work.

Dee Caffari sails in to receive Fareham's top citizen award



ONE OF Councillor Ernest Crouch's final duties as Mayor of Fareham was to present a Citizen of Honour special achievement award to Dee Caffari who is the only woman to sail solo, non-stop in both directions around the world.

Dee added to her achievements in June 2009 by claiming the overall crewed monohull Round Britain and Ireland speed record, which now stands at 6 days 11 hours 30 minutes and 53 seconds.

She said: "It was particularly special to have received this award from my home town and I enjoyed afternoon tea in the Mayor's Parlour to celebrate after the medal and certificate had been presented to me.

"Whilst at the Civic Offices, I chatted to local dignitaries about sailing, the region and the importance of inspiring role models within the local community."

Council leader questioned at Portchester CAT meeting

POLICE have been active sorting out problems around Portchester, the recent Community Action Team (CAT) meeting at the Community School was told.

Since the previous meeting, Sgt Jerry Tremellan reported that a visit and presentation was carried out at the local children's centre, parking issues at King John's Avenue had been carefully looked at and Wicor School approached over coach problems.

The police had also been busy with other matters, including youths playing football in the precinct and tennis courts, and teenagers making a nuisance in the Community Centre car park

Two mopeds had been seized and the number of nuisance complaints had fallen.

Forthcoming plans included liaising with Trading Standards over a No Cold Calling Zone and a crackdown on speeding in Castle Street.

The meeting gave residents the chance to question Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, who gave a presentation of the Council's achievements over the past year.

He explained the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, which is about promoting local sustainability

and giving residents a say in how their neighbourhood is run.

Forms were available for all to complete and submit with their ideas to enable the Council to consider and put forward to the Government.

The meeting split into groups to discuss which services they felt were the 3 highest and 3 lowest priorities. This exercise took place at each of the six CAT meetings. The results will be collated and passed to the Council's Executive.

Councillor Woodward commented: "I was delighted to be able to present the Borough Council's aims, objectives, successes and problem issues to the residents of Portchester.

"There were many pertinent questions raised which I was pleased to answer.

"I was particularly happy that everyone who wished to ask a question had the opportunity and that all residents have played a part in setting the Council's priorities for the future."

Councillor Nick Walker said it was a successful meeting.

"This was an excellent opportunity for residents to get together to discuss any issues and concerns and tell us what they want to see improved in their local area. They can also find out how to bid for funding for community projects," he said.

Work starts on Lorraine's legacy for the disabled

WORK has started on Phases 1 and 2 of a disabled access alongside Fareham Creek at Cams.

A local disabled woman, Mrs Lorraine Herrington, made it possible by winning various grants

£120,000.

Sadly, Lorraine did not live to see the scheduled 1.5-mile path started earlier this month.

These boots are made for walking

THE WALKING to health programmes for October and November are now available.

Walks are graded by boots to represent the level of fitness of each walk.

One boot: mostly flat with some slight inclines, footpaths, route distance 1 to 2 miles with no stiles.

Two boots: moderate inclines, footpath and grassland, routes range 2 to 3 miles.

Three boots: some steeper inclines and stiles, footpaths and grassland ranging from 3 to 5 miles.

The walks are held in different parts of the Borough covering Park Lane, Wallington Village, Fareham High Street, Portchester crematorium to Portsdown Hill and Fort Nelson. No booking is required and they are open to everyone regardless of age or fitness.

Community Councillor Connie Hockley, said: "This programme is very valuable to the local residents with many health and sociable benefits for all the participants".

Gardening service for the elderly

A NEW gardening support service is available for residents aged 60 or over – thanks to Hampshire County Council's well-being strategy.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said a consultation of Hampshire residents showed this was a top concern.

The service will be provided by the Shaw Trust, which has more than 20 years' experience in horticulture and will provide up to six visits per year.

A basic service will be offered at reduced cost to those who receive a means-tested benefit and at standard rate to others.

For details, contact the Shaw Trust 0845 604 4643 or email to: grounds.maintenance@shawtrust.org

£1.7m priority replacement for worn-out community centre

PORTCHESTER is a step closer to getting a new £1.7m Community Centre to replace the present building that is long past its sell-by date.

Fareham Council's Executive agreed at its September meeting that it was the best option to replace it with a well-designed modern building.

It stemmed from a vision the Executive agreed last December to review community buildings in each Community Action Team area across the Borough.

At that time, the Executive approved phasing of the review process to give Portchester priority.

The Community Association's lease expires in March 2011, when the centre will close pending demolition.

The Executive agreed in principle to issue a new three-year lease to the Association which will allow it to occupy the premises during the run-up to its closure, with an option to terminate.



Hopefully, the ramshackle building will stay together that long because a condition of the new lease is that it will not need any more capital expenditure by the Council and presents no health and safety problems.

Council officers prepared a further report outlining the options and implications of funding the 900 sq metre replacement, which was approved.

Meantime, an advisory group has been also set up to explore funding needs.

The group is chaired by Councillor Connie Hockley and comprises Association trustees, ward councillors and officers of Fareham Borough and Hampshire County Councils.

Parents can claim free school meals

PARENTS can complete a form and return it to the County Council's catering service to claim free school meals.

The catering service can easily check whether parents are eligible via a national system called 'the hub'.

It ensures pupils who are eligible receive their free meals faster, and reduces the administrative burden on schools.

County Councillor Ray Ellis said the most important thing was pupils' taste.

"We are always seeking to hear your views on provision of menus," he said.

Parents and pupils can rate the meals and comment at www.myschool-lunch.co.uk/hampshire/parents/menu-vote.

Step up for Nordic Walking...it's poles apart from other outdoor activities



NORDIC walking is one of the highlights of an autumn programme for retired people run by Cams Community Club in partnership with Fareham Council.

Cams Hill School, Shearwater Avenue is the venue for four activities, which have attracted finance from Return to Sport and Hampshire County Council's Extended Service Funding.

However, booking is essential. This can be done Mondays to Fridays 9am to 3pm by calling the numbers given below.

Tuesdays at 11am – ICT (Computers and internet) and library access. Refreshments on sale afterwards in a newly refurbished dining hall. Participants should report to reception on

arrival, sessions last for one hour. To book, call 01329 231641.

Wednesdays at 10.30am – Nordic walking course. Nordic Walking uses specially designed poles (free of charge) to enhance natural walking. It is a technique similar to the upper-body action of classic cross-country skiing. Refreshments are also available after the walk is complete. Each walk lasts for up to one hour. To sign up for this 8-week course, call 01483 503414

Wednesdays at 2.45pm – Seated exercise to music. These

fun sessions include functional movements to music that aim to improve and increase strength, mobility and flexibility. Sessions last for 45 minutes. Call 01329 231641 to book your space. Cost: £2.50 per session including refreshments.

Thursdays and Fridays at 11am – Arts sessions. To book, call 01329 231641 Cost: £2.00 per session (all art materials included).

For general information about the club, contact Cams Hill School on 01329 231641.

PORTCHESTER 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 councillors.

WARD COUNCILLORS – Portchester West

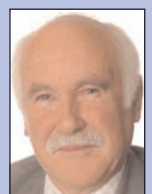
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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

You have to make difficult decisions in your life, which require a sacrifice today to achieve a better tomorrow. Do you go to college to get more qualifications or straight into work; or sacrifice nights out to repay debt or save for a deposit?

We announced tough decisions on spending at our Party Conference this month to secure our future. Soaring borrowing by Gordon Brown means we spend more on interest on Government debt than on schools or our armed forces. If this continues, we will put the economy at risk, so we must make difficult decisions today for a better tomorrow.

Everyone must do something because we are in this together; freezing public sector pay helps protect up to 100,000 frontline jobs; and deferring the retirement age secures the restoration of the link between state pensions and earnings.

Government debt arises from spending and borrowing too much. Government does too much. Take the case of the two police officers wanting to share child-care, where rules prevented them doing the right thing for their children.

David Cameron spoke very powerfully about enabling us to achieve our full potential. He wants government to support those who need it, but to get the state to step back so that families and communities can do the right thing.

It means scrapping targets that hold back doctors from giving us the care that we need, but making sure that those on low incomes who want to work aren't losing 96p of every £1 they earn to the tax man. If we get through the difficult times ahead, we have a bright future. Only leadership and determination will get us on the right track.

•Contact Mark via his office:
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email: mail@markhoban.com

Fareham's flower power brings national competition invitation

NOW Fareham is up with the big boys. Next year, it's Britain in Bloom for the sixth times top award winners.

The Borough's fantastic winning streak in the South and South East In Bloom competition resulted in an invitation to take part in the prestigious national contest in 2010.

"Naturally I said yes," said delighted Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward.

Britain in Bloom, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, is one of the largest events of its kind in Europe.

Back to this year's competition. As overall winners for the sixth year running of the Large Town/Small City category, it was the first of four gold medals on the day.

And more successes followed. The sensory garden won gold in the Best Small Park category, Holly Hill Woodland Park collected a gold as winner of the Best Countryside Park and the pupils at Northern Junior School, Portchester again took gold as winners of the Schools' Category.

And just to gild the lily, Fareham's Tourist Information Centre won a new award presented by Tourism Southeast to reflect how well parks and visitor activities are promoted.

Congratulating the winners at the awards ceremony in Brighton, Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley hailed it as a spectacular success, much of it due to the tireless work of volunteers and parks staff.

She said only 15% of marks went to floral displays, the rest came from community



Winners: Heather Othen (left) receives the outstanding contribution award from Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins, who is pictured (right) with Connie Hockley after presenting ranger Mark Trigwell with the gold award for best countryside park.

involvement and the Council's environmental work.

She praised Mrs Heather Othen for winning an outstanding achievement award.

"Like all our volunteers, Heather works with dedication and passion to help ensure Fareham's entry into In Bloom scores top marks."

This was echoed at Ferneham Hall on September 8 where sponsors, competitors and residents met to celebrate the end of the 14th Fareham In Bloom year, which again showed a record number of entries.

Connie Hockley said it was the largest community activity in the voluntary sector and the gardening competition was the culmination of months of hard work by everybody involved.

"If you are a keen gardener and are not involved in our 'In Bloom' competition, then think about entering in 2010."

Thanking those who ensured In Bloom worked so well, she added: "It is hard work, but it is fun too, so if you feel like becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with me."

Chance for deaf to try new technology

A DEAFPLUS bus will be trialled in Fareham town centre from November 30.

It comes at the request of Council Leader Seán Woodward and will contain equipment demonstrating aids for deaf people.

The charity DeafPlus has a contract with the County Council for its early intervention service, which provides



120 half-hour sessions a year across Hampshire.

The free service gives the deaf the chance to try the latest technology.

A matter of degree

THE dangerously overloaded bin shown here would not be collected.

But Councillor Keith Evans firmly denied that the Council operated a closed-lid policy.

"We apply common sense, so in practice a bin will be collected even with the lid open to 40 degrees," he said.



Work on Fareham's community hospital progressing fast

FAREHAM'S community hospital at Coldeast is taking shape fast.

Exterior masonry work, the fascia and most of the cladding are finished and windows installed.

Susan Bell said the first fix of mechanical and electrical work was well under way and installation of soft flooring and internal decorating had begun.

"Exterior landscaping and

formation of the bell-mouth to Brook Lane should start soon," she said.

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