



## Something for all in £8m Hampshire cash surplus bonanza

**HIGHWAYS** maintenance, the rural speed limits programme and residential care homes could all share £8m extra funding from Hampshire County Council.

Savings mean the cash is available on a one-off basis to reinvest in services and reduce expected council tax increases in the next two years.

The County Council wants older residents to remain independent in their own homes for longer, but for some people this is not an option.

The Council runs 26 residential homes and an investment of £400,000 will be made to improve the quality of life in these homes.

Improvements to the condition of Hampshire's 5,000 miles of maintained roads are a top priority, with £1m for repairing potholes and £500,000 to add to the highways maintenance budget for other works.

Other proposals include £400,000 towards replacing two thirds of the street lights.

Councillor John Bryant said: "There is something for everyone in the £8m reinvestment whether council taxpayer, road user, a resident in our residential homes or an urban dweller seeking better lighting."

# All's well that ends well after multi-million revamp hits snag...

**WORK** on Fareham's multi-million Shopping Centre re-vamp has been delayed after workers ran into unforeseen pitfalls.

Several old wells, probably dating from the time when there were houses on the site, were discovered where the new multi-storey car park and Debenhams Desire store are being built.

It means Debenhams and the new car park will not be open until spring 2009, thus missing the important Christmas period.

Building works were always going to be quite tightly programmed for Debenhams Desire to open for Christmas.

Debenhams, along with other major national retailers, have 'windows' which are the dates when new stores can open to achieve their own trading goals.

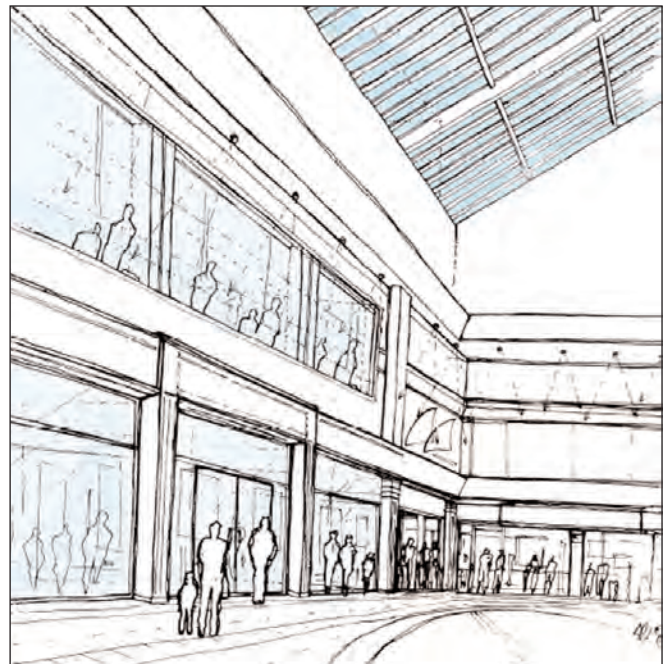
The Debenhams window reopens on February 1.

"Building control records did not show the existence of several large wells. These had to be bridged and, although this has now been successfully completed, it has caused some delay," said Centre Manager Pam Gillard.

However, store bosses remain committed to the Shopping Centre.

Robert Hadfield, of the Debenhams property team, said "I can confirm we are happy with the progress and are eager to open the store at that time in line with our current store opening programme."

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council,



**Delayed:** But bosses say Debenhams Desire, shown here as an artist's sketch, will be well/worth the wait.

Councillor Seán Woodward, said: "It is unfortunate that the wells were found but I am delighted that Debenhams remain committed to Fareham and look forward to it opening as soon as possible in 2009."

Pam Gillard added: "Shoppers are eagerly awaiting this and the other new stores.

"Although not available for this Christmas I know that Debenhams Desire will prove very popular and it promises to be a wonderful asset to Fareham when it opens next year."

## ...but this well makes fund-raising wishes come true

**ANOTHER** sort of well in the Shopping Centre proved more useful.

Rotary Club of Fareham's 'wishing well' helped raise enough cash to buy 4 scooters for Shopmobility.

Outgoing President George Cantrill (pictured with chain) and his successor, Jill Newby, presented them, helped by Fareham Borough Council Executive Leader,



Councillor Seán Woodward (third right).

Also pictured with Shopmobility staff are Shopping Centre Manager Pam Gillard (second right) and Rotarian Tom Churchill who built the well.

Shopmobility is funded by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire Social Services.



# WARD NEWS BRIEFS

## Bin store fire

Firefighters put out a blaze which temporarily put the bin store at Garden Court out of use.

Clean up and repairs to 'careline' alarm system wiring are in progress, replacement bins on order and residents are being kept informed.

## Report bad parking

The Council is now responsible for enforcing the laws on indiscriminate parking.

This could be parking on footpaths, grassed areas on double yellow lines, residents' drives and at road junctions obstructing sightlines.

Call Parking Enforcement on 01329 236100 and an officer will deal with the matter.

## Roads priority

Hampshire County Council has approved spending £1m on road repairs.

This is a response to a residents' survey which put road maintenance as a top priority.

A further £500,000 has been allocated for temporary repairs to highways, which will enable many potholes to be filled and general road conditions improved.

## Hedge cutting

Fareham Council is responsible for maintaining 24.5 kilometres of hedges, which are cut at times to avoid disturbing nesting birds, between March and July.

If you are concerned about hedges owned by the Council not being cut, this will soon be rectified.

# Second spell at the helm for wartime naval veteran

**HE'S BACK** at the helm for another year's duty watch.

Royal Navy World War 2 veteran Ernest Crouch, who became Fareham's Mayor for a second spell in May, is in his 81st year but relishes the demanding job

The Portchester West councillor is Fareham Council's second longest serving member - he was first elected in 1979 - and has seen vast changes since he last held the office 18 years ago.

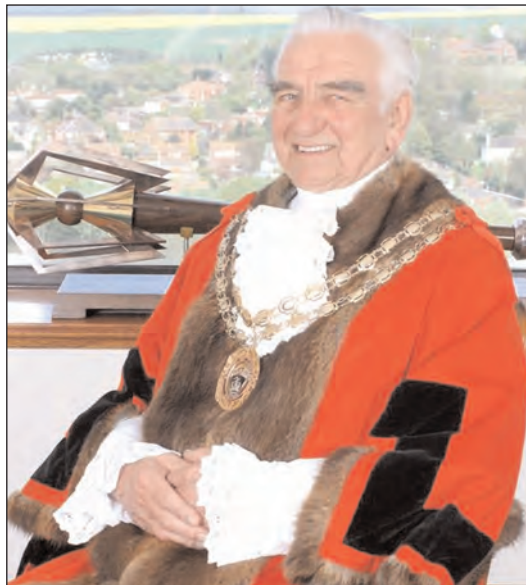
He said: "It is a privilege and an honour to have been elected Mayor of Fareham for a second term of office.

"Fareham has changed greatly since then with a great increase in the population and housing, the development of West Street Precinct and the Market Quay development, the modernisation of the Shopping Centre and leisure facilities and the opening of a cinema.

"What has not changed is the spirit of the people of Fareham which keeps us in the top ten of all sorts of official lists. Health, education, statistics for longevity of both males and females, environmental lists, the crime figures, costs of services, recycling rates - Fareham is among the leaders.

"During the year I shall once more have the pleasure of meeting so many of our voluntary institutions and clubs; the good people who give their service to others in need.

"I am always impressed by the number of unpaid and often unsung people looking after the aged and those who suffer from an alphabet of disabilities as well as those who run organisations for the development of our



young people - a whole raft of people who make Fareham a place where anyone would be proud to be Mayor. And I am."

He was born in London and joined the Royal Navy in 1943 as a signal boy, serving in HMS Hawkins in the North West Approaches until D-Day.

After VE Day, he was drafted to the Far East and met his wife, Enid, in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) where she was nursing at the RN Hospital.

They have just celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

After leaving the Royal Navy as a chief yeoman of signals in 1967, Councillor Crouch began a 24-year career in industrial management.

Throughout the 1980s he chaired the Council's housing committee, was Leader of the Council in 1994 and has served on numerous committees and outside bodies.

He and Enid have two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Meet the ancestors at new time travel site

Hampshire County Council has established a new web site 'Access Hampshire Heritage'.

It will enable you to search on line for your

ancestors or the history of the house in which you live.

You can have a peek into the past at old parish registers and wills dating back to 1600 or before.

To access this site visit [www.hants.gov.uk/archives/ahh](http://www.hants.gov.uk/archives/ahh).

It is also possible to visit Hampshire's Military History at [www.defence-offtherealm.co.uk](http://www.defence-offtherealm.co.uk).

## Nick says 'thank you' to Portchester West voters

**NICK WALKER** thanks voters who returned him to the Borough Council in May with over 60% of the vote.

He said: "I pledge that I

will continue to do my very best for the residents of Portchester and will work for all residents regardless of whether they voted for me.

### RESULT

<b>Nick Walker (Con)</b>	<b>1410</b>
Lib Dem	609
English Dem	167
Labour	156
Majority	801

# Fareham 'a healthy place to live' says survey

**A RECENT** survey by Department of Health shows Fareham has better health indicators than the England average.

It has low levels of deprivation, crime and child poverty.

Male and female life expectancy is high and early deaths from heart disease and cancer are less than the England average and are improving further.

Fareham does have some deprived areas, mostly in North West and South Wards, but even here it is only present in the third pentile of the most nationally deprived areas.

Fareham East and Portchester have some parts in the second pentile of deprivation.

Fareham's remaining wards show least deprivation and here life expectancy for men is 81 years and 85 years for women, whereas in the most deprived it is 76 and 82 respectively.

Of adults who smoke (17%), the death rate is low, at about 170 annually. The number of children classified as obese compares with the national average.

## New guide for shopkeepers

**A NEW Underage Sales Newsletter** is being distributed by Hampshire Trading Standards officers to shop owners in an effort to improve compliance.

It contains information, advice and details of the law on the sale of controlled items such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

## New county directory lists trusted traders

**IT'S EASIER to find a trustworthy trader, thanks to Hampshire County Council's new 'Buy With Confidence' directory.**

Containing easy-to-follow colour-coded categories, the directory offers a range of companies.

Organisations can only join the scheme after being checked by the County Council's Trading Standards team for trustworthiness and compliance with the law.

With so many traders now approved by Trading Standards, residents can enjoy greater peace of mind, knowing that the services offered are reliable and of a high quality.

Copies of the directory are available from libraries and information centres, or by calling Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

## Failure to meet fire safety rules leads to centre first floor closure

**CRUMBLING** Portchester Community Centre has been dealt another blow after failing to meet fire regulations.

The Community Association was unable to raise enough money to carry out an upgrade of the escape route from the first floor of the building.

Hampshire Fire & Rescue served an Enforcement Notice on the Community Association in December to do the work.

It will be necessary to close the first floor on or before August 31, 2008.

Fareham Borough Council's Executive has already awarded £53,000 for essential maintenance and repairs at the Community Centre.

It will shortly consider a further report requesting extra cash to pay for alterations to the ground floor accommodation for those sections or user groups displaced by closure of the first floor.

Subject to the Executive approving the request, it is hoped the works will be completed by August 31.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said: "As many of you will be aware, the building is showing signs of its age and poor design, and as a result of the increasing maintenance and repair costs associated with the building, the Council has decided it will be closed pending demolition when the lease expires in 2011."

"The Council is very aware of the



**Crumbling:** Centre manager Sarah Moss shows Councillor Crouch where it's coming apart.

importance of this well-used community asset and has established an advisory group (consisting of ward councillors, trustees and officers) to explore opportunities for funding the building of a new community centre in Portchester.

The Advisory Group recently held its first meeting to start planning for a replacement centre."

Centre manager Sarah Moss will shortly be consulting all sections of the Portchester Community Centre.

Information provided by users will be used by the advisory group to inform the likely costs and options for building a new community centre.

## Allowances increased in bid to recruit foster carers

**THE CAMPAIGN to find new foster carers is being supported by Wave 105 radio station and other organisations are being sought by Hampshire County Council.**

To support carers, HCC has recently increased foster care allowances and skill training opportunities in recognition of the important job they do.

If you feel that you can help in any way with fostering, whether it is short or long-term or even providing respite for other carers, please contact the Foster Care Line 0845 6035620 or visit the web site at [www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk](http://www.fostering.hampshire.gov.uk).

Carers are needed from a wide range of cultural, religious, ethnic and social backgrounds.

# 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 ward councillors.**

### ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Your name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode.....

Tel ..... Email .....

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

### WARD COUNCILLORS

#### Portchester West

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## Your man in Westminster



By Mark Hoban MP for Fareham

I AM DELIGHTED that, following pressure from local people, the County Council has decided to save Brownwich and Chilling and drop it from the list of proposed sites for gravel extraction.

It was a great result and was the consequence of local people coming out in force to protest, coupled with robust logical arguments.

What impressed me about the campaign was that it was a real team effort. It was kick-started by CAMELSolent, a group of local residents who came together to make sure that people were aware of the plans. They set up the public meeting at Brookfield School where hundreds turned up to hear about the plans and voice their concerns.

This led to the County Council being deluged with responses to its consultation. I was sent copies of 300 responses out of a total of nearly 2,000 and I was struck by the strength of the arguments.

There was a real sense of passion as people wanted to safeguard one of the last undeveloped stretches of Solent coastline. In making these representations, residents had the support of their Borough and County councillors as well as mine. By working as a team, we persuaded the County Council to change its mind.

This was a genuine consultation and the County Council did not go into this with its mind made up.

For those who are cynical about consultations, dropping Brownwich and Chilling as well as Pickwell Farm shows what can happen. Hampshire, like any council, gets its fair share of brickbats so for this decision it deserves a bouquet!

Thank you to all those who made their voice known. Your hard work and commitment secured this haven for generations to come.

•You may contact Mark via his office 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN. Telephone: 01329 233573 email: mail@markhoban.com

## He's full of beans...



Tucking in: James Harrison (11) makes short work of breakfast while his mum, Louise, ensures the empty tins go into the blue-top recycling bin.

### BEANZ meanz energy.

Baked beans on toast will provide you with calories; the tin they came in will save enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours if you recycle it.

Recycling paper, tin, glass, aluminium and plastics saves 60% to 70% energy.

Fareham remains at the top of the Hampshire league for recycling with the most recent percentage at 44.3%.

An advisory campaign to

provide extra information to residents who are still unsure of what to recycle, started earlier in the year.

National newspapers have printed 'scare stories' about rats, plastic bags and recycling material going to India or China where it is buried.

This may be the situation in other parts of the country, but not in Fareham, where there has been no increase in vermin infestation.

Fareham collects only material for which there is a UK recycling market.

All other waste goes to the SE Hampshire incinerator to produce energy to heat and light 30,000 houses a year and none goes to landfill.

A major campaign is being promoted by Project Integra (a consortium of 14 Councils in Hampshire) to recycle tins.

If in doubt ring the Council 01329 236100.

## Recycling bin's full of tins



# Oh Gord, now it's a Brown bin tax

### GORDON BROWN'S failing Government is trying to lure Conservative-controlled councils into introducing a bin tax.

Even Labour's optimistic assessment admits it would cost at least £72 a year and add to the misery of families already struggling to meet soaring living costs.

But despite repeated Downing Street briefings that such a tax would make the Government even more unpopular, Labour is pushing ahead with the plan.

Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "It's just another cynical Labour attempt to tax families more by stealth, but with a thick coat of greenwash."

Initially, five pilot schemes will adopt these new taxes; the Government predicts that the taxes will be extended to two out of three homes.

Ministers have written to every council inviting them to take part in such schemes.

Councillor Woodward responded: "This is a trap to attempt to entice Conservative councils into supporting the Government's deeply unpopular plans."

Ministers maintain such schemes could be 'revenue neutral', but councils across the country warned the Government's figures do not add up, due to the administration, collection and enforcement costs of a new tax, as well as the need for lockable bins.

The Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management warns that with overall council tax bills remaining the same, either householders who recycle will pay a proportionally larger slice – in the Irish Republic costs of 300-400 Euros (£240-£320) are not uncommon for waste collection – or other services might have to be reduced.

Bin taxes will lead to a surge of fly-tipping and back-



Browned off: Maybe it's time to recycle him

yard burning and will give perverse incentives to people to dump their rubbish, stuff it in neighbours' bins or contaminate recycling bins.

In the Irish Republic, 4 in 10 households now burn their rubbish, causing 73% of all dioxin emissions.

Under Labour's plans, civil amenity sites will have to remain free for household waste, so more people will drive to the local tip to avoid the tax, increasing carbon emissions and congestion.

Councillor Woodward added: "The Government should be working instead with councils to extend recycling collections and make it easier for all households to go green."

"There is certainly a role for incentives, but not for taxes or charges."