



In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER – 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 and several environmental improvement schemes.

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.

Ferneham Hall

The main auditorium hall will be closed until February 28 while work is done to replace the suspended ceiling.

The new ceiling will greatly improve the acoustics in the hall. The outer rooms – the Octagon lounge, the Meon room and the bar area – will remain open for normal use.

Cans for trees

Northern Junior School, who won a gold award in the 2006 Fareham in Bloom contest, have gained another prize.

The company that recycles aluminium cans has given Fareham 125 trees – one for every tonne collected – and all are going to the school in recognition of pupils' keen interest in the environment and their school grounds.

A new conservation area will be developed and 1st Portchester Brownies will use a £500 community grant to build a pond.

Waste disposal chalks up a hole new meaning here



A BIG white hole in Portsdown hill at Warren Farm just north of the M27 swallows thousands of tons of waste.

Fareham alone produces 40,000 tons annually, 40% of which is recycled.

Councillor Ernest

Crouch said: "It is not the intention to fill this vast chalkpit with waste, but to use it for waste transfer."

Planning consent was given by the County Council for a large hangar-type building at the bottom of the pit which will be used to sort

and bale waste.

The waste will then be trucked out, some to incineration and the rest to holes in the ground elsewhere.

Fareham Council expressed its concerns about the number of vehicle movements on the short stretch of Military Road between the private haul road and the pit entrance.

There was also the possibility of noise and smell.

"We are assured the building will be out of sight, no vehicles will come through Downend, no waste will remain in the building for more than 24 hours and little, if any, noise will be heard at normal ground level," said Councillor Crouch.

Panel heeds Portchester residents' complaints in wake of traffic surveys

IMPROVEMENTS are in the pipeline to streets north of the A27 in Portchester after traffic surveys were carried out in response to residents' complaints.

The surveys, which covered traffic volumes, speed and parking, were carried out in peak and off-peak times in 2005. The County Council provided accident data..

Portchester Councillor Nick Walker, vice-chairman of the Planning and Transportation Review Panel, represented residents' views when the panel discussed the report last autumn.

It stated that a speed survey carried out over a week near Laverock Lea showed an average of 30.8mph northbound and southbound.

Further along Dore Avenue, where there had been five reported accidents between February 2002 and February 2005, speeds averaged 36mph eastbound and 36.6 westbound.

Councillor Walker said: "Police have had Dore Avenue as a speed enforcement site, but speeding was not an identified factor in any of the accident records.

"Three of the five accidents occurred at the junction of Dore Avenue and Hill View Road, one at the junction of Dore Avenue and Linden Lea and the last between the railway bridge and The Crossway."

The Panel agreed the following recommendations:

1 Better signs at the junction of Hill View Road and Dore Avenue to impress on drivers in Dore Avenue that they do not have right of way. Road marking will be enhanced at the Hillview Road junction. These works have been started and an anti-skid surface is being laid.

2 Measures to be considered at the junction of Buriton Close and Dore Avenue where it was observed that eastbound traffic tends to cross over the central white line at the sharp bend, forcing westbound (uphill) traffic to the kerb.

3 Waiting restrictions at the junction with Froxfield Gardens. Many residents have complained about parking near this junction. Waiting restrictions will also be considered for Buriton Close.

Budget may not stretch to embrace schools' safe travel plans

TRAVEL plans have been submitted for the Northern Infant and Junior Schools, alongside the Dore Avenue report.

The main concern was the worry about safety while walking to these schools.

Councillor Nick Walker said traffic islands would be considered in Dore Avenue, but there were heavy demands on the County's budget under the Safer Routes to School initiative.

"This idea could be applauded for safety reasons and would help reduce traffic speeds; the counter argument is that it will need yellow lines either side of these islands to allow for visibility.

"This will further reduce car parking spaces along Dore Avenue which will inevitably lead to more cars being parked in the already overcrowded side roads.

"The travel plans for Northern Junior and Infant School are attempting to address the school dropping and picking up times which are of concern to many residents.

"Your views on the installation of traffic islands to allow safer pedestrian routes to schools etc would be appreciated so that I can start to look at possible alternative funding," he said.

Council finds no need for traffic calming measures

F A R E H A M ' S Executive debated a petition from Cranleigh Road residents who requested traffic calming.

Their street is the approach road to Wicor sports fields and the skate park. The site is patrolled by the police and their community reassurance team who had made numerous visits and not seen any major problems.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said speed surveys done in January 2006 showed no problem and there had been no injuries related to speeding vehicles.

It was noted that surveys did not match the times when car enthusiasts use the road and it was agreed to do more surveys in the summer. Officers would investigate how to reduce the use of the recreation ground.

Owner's bid to keep the access nobody wants



Unwanted: The council says the temporary road at Winnham Farm will be a blot on the countryside unless it is removed.

A LANDOWNER is trying to take advantage of a temporary access which Fareham Council permitted to a railway company.

Siemens Transportation requested the temporary road from Downend Road to the railway so that heavy equipment could be located for work they wished to do on the line.

The Council granted it on condition that the road was removed and the land reinstated to its former condition on or before the end of last October.

The landowner promptly submitted an application to allow him to keep the access road.

As it was temporary, the Council refused, stating there was no overriding need to retain it and that the road resulted in "a significant visual impact on the countryside to the detriment of the rural character and appearance of the area."

Now, the owner has appealed and the Secretary of State has appointed an Inspector to hold a hearing.

No date has yet been received but residents who originally submitted an objection will be notified and their objections will be considered by the Inspector.

Too costly to revert to weekly bin emptying in hot summer months

MAGGOTS and foul odours infesting bins last summer caused demands for a return to weekly waste collections.

But Fareham councillors say there's no need and it would add to council taxpayers' bills.

The Streetscene Panel reviewed the policies for refuse and recycling.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said: "We all remember the problems with maggots during the hottest summer on record last year and there was a lively debate on a motion that the Council revert back to a weekly collection of non-recyclable waste for three summer months this year.

"A thorough investigation of all the facts, figures, forecasts, costs and opinions had been made by the officers.

"Ultimately, it was found that less than one in a hundred residents had complained and that the cost of changing back for the summer was estimated at £279,000, which equates to another £7 on the council tax."

A persuasive argument was that residents had now become well used to the routine collections and that the recycling rate had reached the target of 40%.

A short-term change would lead to confusion. The panel accepted that there was no case to revert back.

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

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.....
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Your name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Tel Email

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

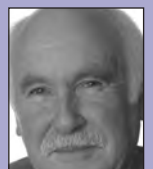
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Your man in Westminster



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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Telephone: 01329 233573
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 antenatal 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.