

Don't miss the bus! You can help shape Fareham's future...

THE BACK end of a bus isn't usually this attractive, but this smiling face is what you'll see if you get stuck behind one.

Facing up to Fareham's future is the Council's duty, but it wants everybody to help put together the new Borough Plan.

Ward Councillor Nick Walker said: "This is an exciting opportunity to get involved in planning our future, so using borough-wide buses to encourage community involvement seemed like an excellent way of spreading the message."

Work on Fareham's Local Development Framework (the replacement for the current Local Plan Review adopted in June 2000) is moving on apace.

This process will guide the future of Fareham for the next 20 years so it is important that residents have a chance to have their say on the options that will affect not only them but their children and grandchildren.

The future of the borough will be set out in broad terms in the core strategy, and the Preferred Options document issued during June sets out possible options that have been developed during earlier stages in the process when residents and organisations were able to respond to the Issues and Options document.

A series of one day exhibitions was set up across the borough - mostly in local shopping centres - to give as many people as possible a chance to have their say, and three workshops were held, two in the



On the buses: Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward (left) and Executive Member for Planning and Transportation Councillor David Swanbrow unveil the advert.

Civic Offices and the other in Fareham Hall.

The consultation closes on July 31.

Councillor Walker said: "It's crucially important that our residents are given the chance to tell us whether our ideas reflect their thoughts and are on the right road.

"That's why we need to highlight that they are our partners in the future of Fareham.

"During this consultation period there

were almost 20 events being held. These gave our residents borough-wide the opportunity to get involved, to see what we are suggesting and to tell us if we're heading in the right direction."

•Copies of the Preferred Options document are available at libraries throughout the borough, or at www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf.

...But the Government made sure you had to run to catch this one

JUST 48 hours' notice were given by the Labour Government that it aims to cram over 50% more houses into the South East.

A paper was published on its official website on June 21 - two days before the deadline for

public comment on the South East Plan - stating the intention to increase the original figure of 28,900 houses per year over the next 20 years to 45,000.

It would mean South Hampshire's annual total rising from 4,000 to 6,571, giving a

total of 132,000 instead of the 80,000 proposed.

Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said:

"This would be the equivalent of one extra Whiteley per year every year for 20 years in South Hampshire on top of the exist-

ing proposed figures.

"If we do not hold the line at 4,000 houses per year it is hard to imagine there being a blade of grass left in South Hampshire in 20 years time."

Public examination of the SE Plan is due in the autumn.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Councillors' duties

Councillor Ernest Crouch is Chairman Housing Tenancy Board.

He is also Vice-chairman Streetscene Review Panel and a member of the Public Protection Panel.

Councillor Nick Walker is Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee and Vice-chairman of the Planning and Transport Review Panel.

Granted

Portchester Community School has been given a £500 Community Grant towards the making of 5 Taiko Drums for use at The Portchester Arts Festival in July.

Cost of the festival is estimated at £13,500.

If you want to support it, send your responses to Janet Duggan jduggan@fareham.gov.uk.

Hospital bus passes

From July 1, Fareham bus pass holders will have free travel to Queen Alexandra and the Gosport War Memorial Hospitals.

Many Portchester residents have to make regular visits to QA and made their point "on the doorstep" during the recent elections.

The Executive considered it to be a fair point and, although the budget has already been stretched far beyond the meagre Treasury Grant awarded to Fareham for the free bus service, it was felt that hospital visits merited another £10,000 towards the cost of the service.

More safety measures on way for Delme roundabout

FURTHER safety measures are to be introduced at the Delme roundabout in the wake of a serious accident in September 2005.

Havant College student Sarah Greenwood suffered head injuries when she was in collision with a motorcycle as she crossed the A27 Eastern Way, beneath the Delme flyover.

The County Council has already taken interim steps to reduce the chances of more accidents, including coloured anti-skid surfacing and a warning sign at the viaduct approach.

A feasibility study was carried out by County and Borough officers to examine the possibility of a signalled pedestrian crossing.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said a camera was installed overlooking the recently marked out pedestrian crossing and ran all day so that traffic and pedestrian movements could be studied for peak and off-peak times.



Congested: Traffic queues under the viaduct where some of the proposed safety measures are already in force.

"That video survey highlighted the difficulty of crossing the South approach slip and the pedestrian problem of seeing and assessing the speed of approaching traffic," he said.

One recommendation was to install a "toucan" signalled crossing near the existing bollards. Another was to ease the peak-time traffic congestion inhibiting

traffic from Portchester by painting a yellow hatch box area at the junction of Cams Hill and the roundabout to create space on the roundabout for Westbound traffic to join.

Local councillors approved. The difficulties of working at a time that would not exacerbate the problem were mentioned and the job will not be finished until early 2007.

Council uses new act to clear binge drinkers from Portchester's streets

PORTCHESTER'S streets should soon be cleared of drunken louts whose anti-social behaviour has angered residents.

Binge drinking has often led to fighting, foul language, intimidation and vandalism, but the Borough Council is seeking to use the Criminal Justice Police Act to put a stop to it.

The Act allows public areas to be designated where it is an offence to drink alcohol after being warned by police not to do so. Refusal could mean confiscation of the drink and arrest.

Fareham town centre was designated over a year ago and police say it has been a useful measure in dealing with drink-related crime and jobs.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said the Council had first to assess the level of drinking and disorder before an Order could be made and Portchester was one area where the problem had been highlighted.

He said: "Council officers will now work with the police to investigate and make proposals about the size of the designated area.

"No offence has been committed until a police officer has requested a stop, so family picnics can be enjoyed in parks and open spaces that might be in a designated area."

A 'thank you' message from Ernest Crouch

THE ELECTION turnout of 44% was the highest in Portchester West for many years.

"My thanks to all who gave me their support and confidence to serve the ward for another four years, to my agent, Roger Harris, and the many helpers who did so much to assist in the legwork, the backroom effort and finally 'telling' at the poll.

"I also appreciate the work of members of the opposition parties and the reception of the public. "Once again, Portchester residents gave all party callers a fair hearing on the doorstep whatever their voting intentions.

"Everyone worked hard for their candidate and Portchester was unsullied by any underhand tactics.

"Whatever your politics, please remember that once elected I am everyone's councillor in the Ward for your problems and gripes, while in the wider context working for the best interests of every one in the Borough. I am at your service."

ANNUAL HOUSING CONFERENCE AT HARROGATE

Minister dodges Ernie's questions

HOUSING Minister Ruth Kelly was challenged by Portchester Councillor Ernest Crouch to come clean on government funding for infrastructure for the massive development planned for Fareham.

Councillor Crouch tackled the Minister at the annual Housing Conference in Harrogate.

He told her Fareham had no hospital, its roads were congested and there was no guarantee even the current level of housing in South Hampshire would have a proper water supply.

"Her reply was the expected ministerial evasions and, although showing she had got to grips with her new responsibilities, she made no mention of the massive planned increase.

"Like other Secretaries of State, either she didn't know or chose to keep the bad news under wraps.

"Worryingly for Portchester, it will be Ruth Kelly who is due to make the decision in mid-July about the proposed development of 230 houses off Cranleigh Road," he said.

She made much of the 'Decent Housing Standard' and reduction in use of bed and breakfast accommodation for the homeless, but made no mention of where the government proposed to put all the new housing stock that they forecast would be needed.

•The Government craftily waited until attention was focused on England's World Cup match with Sweden to give 48 hours' notice that it intended to increase the number of houses planned for the South East by 45% (see Page 1).

Company's award marks housing partnership



THE MANAGING director of Orchard Computer Services presented an award to Fareham Borough Council at the annual National Housing Conference in Harrogate to mark their long and excellent partnership.

The Housing Department has used Orchard software on its computerised systems for many years, enabling officers to make fair alloca-

tions, maintain the stock in first class condition, ensure rapid attention to calls for repair and maintenance and keep a firm grip on budgets.

Pictured is the Chairman of Housing Tenancy Board, Councillor Ernest Crouch, accompanied (left) by Mr Martyn George, the Director of Customer Services, receiving the award.

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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Your name
Address
..... Postcode.....
Tel Email

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

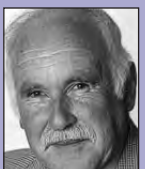
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Your man in Westminster



By Mark Hoban MP for Fareham

The Government used the World Cup to bury bad news. They sneaked out proposals to build 45,000 houses a year in the South East on the day England played Sweden.

No wonder they wanted to hide this as it would mean in South Hampshire alone building 130,000 houses over 20 years compared to the current plans for 80,000. The scene is being set for the Government to overrule these plans and force through higher numbers and when I asked the minister who has the final word on this to rule it, she refused.

We know we need more houses in the South East: people are living longer and more of us are living on our own. These factors push up the demand for houses.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people to get on the housing ladder because of rising house prices. New homes are inevitable, but who should decide how many are built?

At the moment, the final decision about how many houses will be built in our community will not be taken by local councils, despite the work they put into developing plans.

A minister sitting in Whitehall will decide how many houses will go in Fareham and how many of them will be built on brownfield sites (including back-gardens) and greenfield sites.

I think this is wrong. It is time that local people had a much greater say over development. You and I will have to live with the consequences of development, not the civil servants and ministers sitting in Whitehall. We will have to deal with the traffic jams from the front door to the school gates to the office car park, when Government fails to spend enough money on the roads needed to support all the extra housing. It is right that we have a stronger voice in those decisions so that we can decide how best to meet the needs of our community.

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

Fareham tops county waste recycling table

FAREHAM residents have wasted no time in helping the Borough Council to meet Government recycling targets.

In fact, householders have responded so well that the Council has exceeded the 30% target.

In the quarter to April, a figure of 37.8% was achieved – the highest in Hampshire and one of the best in the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Executive Member for Streetscene, commented:

“This is due to the efforts of many residents in fully using the blue-top recycling wheelie bins and to the extra free service offered by the collection of green waste.”

However, the target to be achieved by 2010 is 50% so further plans are being made to support and advise residents who are unsure of what to recycle and those who do not take advantage of the recycling facilities.

Owing to the success in meeting the Government target a special grant has been allocated by a Government agency (WRAP) to further encourage recycling.

This will be used to provide a monitoring and ‘door-stepping’ programme by a specialist team.

The team will identify areas and residents with problems and provide assistance to help and advise.

There are about 90 blocks of flats or maisonettes that are currently

unable to be properly serviced due to inadequate space or difficulty of access.

Priority is being given by the Council to resolving these problems and the ‘door-stepping’ team will also be involved.

All new flat developments in the Borough are required to meet guidelines on space and servicing for waste management.

Some residents have requested extra green sacks, which can be provided up to a maximum of 3.

These will be collected by the ‘dusties’.

However it is not possible to collect green waste in anything but the bag provided.



Not the way to do it: ‘Dusties’ will only collect garden waste that’s in official green bags.

WHAT’S AVAILABLE TO YOU

1 x 240 litre green top bin (for those with a 140 litre)

2 x 240 litre blue top bins (for recycling)

Green garden waste sacks

Ring 01329 824387 or 824389.

For further information, call Councillor Brian Bayford on 01489 880740

Memorial plaque returned to war hero’s family

SEVERAL plaques once hung on the walls of the Civic Office reception area before the reconstruction of the ground floor.

Oldest of the plaques, which used to be on



Twin pride: Betty (left) and Molly with brother George’s plaque.

the wall in the old Westbury Manor council chamber, was instituted by NALGO soon after the war to commemorate George Salisbury, a member of the former

Urban Council’s treasury department, who was killed in action.

George had been a choirboy at St Mary’s Church, Portchester, and on the outbreak of war volunteered for the RAF and qualified for aircrew as an observer.

He was posted to the Middle East and was lost flying on a mission from Aden on March 20, 1941.

George’s twin sisters, Mrs Molly Burton and Mrs Betty Ash, still live in Portchester and when the ground floor of the Civic Office was stripped, they asked if their brother’s memorial could be given to the family.

Councillor Ernest Crouch was pleased to return it to Molly and Betty who will ensure that it will remain in the family as a proud and honoured memory of a gallant young man.

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