



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER – WINTER 2010

Summer start for residents' town centre parking plan

THE LONG awaited parking scheme for residents living in and near Fareham's town centre should be in place this summer.

The Borough Council undertook two consultations to try to make it acceptable to most.

An exhibition in Ferneham Hall enabled residents to discuss the plans with officers and give feedback.

Changes were made and modified proposals were sent out for consultation in the autumn.

A street-by-street analysis allowed the scheme to be tailored to residents' preferences as far as possible, some roads having a permit system and others restrictions on when and where vehicles can park.

Existing schemes in King's Road and Queen's Road will be incorporated.

Arrangements will be made for essential services that have to visit in permit scheme roads and there will also be temporary parking permits for visitors.

It is hoped it will be running by the end of July, but the Council will review it during the first 6 months of operation.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said although the scheme must be self-financing, it was not intended to be a way for the council to raise money and permit costs would be kept as low as possible.

Council volunteers answer the call of the community



COUNCIL staff take a rest from clearing snow at the Rainbow Centre car park at Cams Alders.

'The Three Amigos' (l to r) Tony Hopkins, Paul Carter and Charlie Read gave up their lunch breaks to help centre staff and volunteers.

It was one of countless examples of how people across the Borough rallied in true community spirit.

County Council budget figures

Council tax for Hampshire County Council will be increased by 1.9%

Police Authority's tax will rise by 2.9% and the Fire Service's by 1.8% This gives a total bill for a band D property in Fareham of £1,385.73, an increase of £24.93.

Zero rated: Tories find the 'holy grail' of top value for lowest tax

HOW DO they keep doing it year after year?

Fareham's Tory councillors have set another record low budget.

This time a **ZERO** rise.

The Borough Council's element at £140 for a Band D property remains almost the lowest in England.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward explained: "I am often asked how we achieve the holy grail of good services with a low council tax, despite a low government grant.

"My reply is always that we seek to do more with less, using innovative means to save money without damaging the frontline services on which our residents depend."

Delivering his 11th budget speech, he said the average property in Fareham was band C which would continue to pay just £125 a year.

Borough Council services cost only 34p per day per household.

"Contrast that with nearest neighbour Gosport, which charges 44% more than Fareham despite receiving double the grant per head from the government," he stated.

Several districts in Hampshire hide their council tax rises by passing services to parish councils to run, but Fareham cannot do that as it has no parishes.

Nearby parish councils, Whiteley for example,

have raised their tax by 250% in just 3 years.

"Most district councils receive far more in government revenue support grant per head of population than Fareham, yet we still have a low tax.

"Despite having a high tax rise, most are sacking staff and slashing services – we are maintaining and, in a number of cases, improving our services."

Pressures facing the Council are similar to those experienced by many families, but on a larger scale – costs rising and income not increasing or, in the case of interest on savings, actually dropping.

The fall in interest rates, while good news for those with mortgages, has seen the Council's income on its investments fall by up to £1,000,000 per year.

Every £40,000 lost equals around a 1% council tax increase to make up, so the fact that there is no increase is even more remarkable.

The Council agreed the following as part of the budget:

- £500,000 to a Matched Funding Account to which organisations in the Borough can bid to fund capital schemes. For every £1 of council taxpayers' cash, it means £2 to £3 of worthwhile schemes such as new school sports facilities, sports club houses etc.

- £15,000 for flashing 30mph speed limit reminder signs to use as requested by residents.

- £1.3m to the capital programme to enable refurbishment or replacement of sports pavilions and community centres.

CCTV upgrade means you WILL be caught on camera

THERE will be no escape for criminals captured on CCTV at Fareham's upgraded control centre.

Digital cameras and displays can record at up to 25 images per second; 12.5 is more than enough for

successful prosecutions.

Police at Fareham and Park Gate can log into the system to save time investigating incidents.

It features unique mapping and display of camera locations across the Borough. New keyboard and

joystick controls enable operators quickly to control cameras independently.

Extra cameras to be connected include 5 for the new rapid bus route, 2 for Broadlaw Walk and 2 for the Quay Street Tesco store.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Play ranger

A recent appointment to the leisure staff in Fareham is Paul Carter, the play ranger.

His job is to organise and supervise play activities for children and young people.

He will listen to the young people, then liaise with other services to provide opportunities for safe and free play, outdoors and indoors..

Contact Paul on 01329 236100 or email, pcarter@fareham.gov.uk.

Cash for repairs

Home improvement grants of up to £5,000 are locally available for elderly and vulnerable people; these may be supplemented by interest free loans from Push 4 Safer Homes.

These are additional to Warm Front grants, which are available to replace heating systems and fit insulation.

Details available from www.push.gov.uk/4safer_homes or by calling 0800 519 1717.

Paedophile vetting

A new vetting system for people working with children could cost the County Council £6m.

The revised anti-paedophile rules are likely to apply to thousands of staff whose police and employer records will be taken into account during the vetting.

Farm downloads

You can now download Hampshire Fare's 2010 directory containing details of your nearest farm shop and the dates of local farm markets from www.hampshirefare.co.uk.

Downend pong's days are numbered as Veolia pulls out

FOUL SMELLS emanating from the Downend site have led to increasing numbers of complaints from residents.

But it looks as though they won't be getting up people's noses for much longer.

Residents say it's been going on for 9 years and many have suffered sore throats and breathing problems and are convinced there are long-term effects.

But they will be delighted to learn that operator Veolia will not be renewing its licence after planning consent ends in June 2011 and will start winding down operations from December 2010.

Things have got so bad that Fareham MP Mark Hoban is involved and has been briefed by the Environment Agency.

But expert opinion is that the Downend pong may be objectionable, but not harmful. Staff are regularly checked and have shown no ill effects.

Meantime, the Environment Agency made 17 visits since the last meeting of the Downend Liaison Panel and one full day's site audit.

Complaints rose from 164 in September to 226 in October, of which 21 had been substantiated.

Two routine monitoring visits were made to the site, but no planning breaches were recorded, stated Councillor Nick Walker after attending the latest panel meeting.

A vehicle was reported for not following the lorry routing agreement which had been passed to the County Council by the Environment Agency.

All vehicles, except local road sweepers and delivery vans, must use the private haul road from junction 11 on M27.

Residents should note date, time, vehicle description and company name, then HCC can check records on site and identify offending drivers. Veolia says its lorries are fitted with tracking systems, which makes it easy to track drivers not sticking to the route.

Some complaints had been substan-

tiated, even at a time the site was not operating.

Site improvements had been made, but more should be done as the EA was considering enforcement, prosecution options and further operational changes.

It was stated that a combination of factors exacerbated the situation – larger stock of product (about 12,000 tons is kept on site), temperature fluctuations and wind direction.

The Agency ordered Veolia to produce an odour management plan and to investigate monitoring protocol, and it has continued to press the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for advice, but the HPA is awaiting further data from the local Health Trust.

Despite residents' health fears, the Environment Agency is not looking at long-term health risks as that is the job of the HPA, which may also have to look at whether gases are a problem.

The EA investigated aspergillus and said it would take action where it could, but at Downend Veolia had complied with the licence, made changes when requested and worked with the Agency to improve.

In response to a letter from Fareham Council, 500 complaints forms were returned from 140 addresses and passed to the Agency

Councillor Walker said the Council tried unsuccessfully to get a response from the HPA regarding issues raised, probably because it had been concentrating resources on swine flu.

He said environmental health officers dealt with statutory nuisance, but could not answer queries about the effect of gases from composting on health.

Once Veolia quits the site, it will be restored in line with current planning unless another use is suggested, but it will not be composting.

Possible alternatives might include use of Warren Farm as a transfer station for green waste, with potential expansion of capacity at other established sites, but it would mean more lorry movements.

Improve your well-being with free Tai Chi sessions

A FREE 8-week Tai Chi course is starting at Cams Hill School, Shearwater Avenue on February 25.

It is supported by the Cams Community Club for over 50s.

First 8 weeks are free, then there will be a £2.50

charge per session. All abilities are welcome and refreshments are available.

Sessions last about an hour and you should wear comfortable clothing and footwear.

Cams Hill School also offers other sessions for

residents, including digital photography, art, Nordic walking and the Community Choir – all aimed at over 50s.

Booking is essential. Contact Emma Barrett on 01329 236100 ext 2463 or email at ebarrett@fareham.gov.uk.

'Ludicrous' 1.5 parking spaces per property rule is ditched

NEW parking standards will be introduced for future housing developments in Fareham.

The Borough Council has managed to get around the ludicrous figure of 1.5 spaces per household dictated by the Government.

This produced a nightmare for planners who had to obey Whitehall guidelines over the past 10 years.

Government believed that by preventing people from parking at new properties it would reduce car usage.

Like many Labour ideas it didn't work.

Fareham Council tried to circumvent the rules by agreeing to use average parking across the borough to equal the target, allowing some flexibility.

But it still resulted in new developments with insufficient parking and caused severe problems.

Last November, as a result of the Local Development Framework process, Fareham was able to introduce new parking standards for future developments.

These are based on the number of bedrooms a property has which seems far more reasonable.

Garages - which tend to be used for storing anything but a car - will not normally count as a parking space.

Councillor Nick Walker said: "We can't do much about developments already approved and built, but this change does allow Fareham to get it right for the future."

Cash boost paves way for new council homes to rent

FIVE new council homes can be built in the Borough thanks to a capital boost.

Fareham is one of 10 local authorities in the South East which has received capital match funding of £325,000 to build the homes for rent.

Following a comprehensive review of land in Fareham Council's ownership, five infill sites were identified for development and detailed resident consultation has taken place with immediate neighbours.

Planning applications will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward commented:

"We are delighted to have been successful in our bid for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

"We will now be able to build some of the most energy efficient homes in the Borough.

"The majority of the new homes will be two bedroom bungalows and we will be keen to see whether existing tenants in large 3 or 4-bedroom houses might be interested in downsizing."

Introducing Portchester Conservatives' action team



Sue Bell: Chairman of Portchester Conservatives and trustee of Portchester Parish Hall, served on Fareham Borough Council from 1987-95.

Born in Lee-on-Solent and lived in Portchester for 15 years.

She is a member of Portchester Civic Society.

"I have always been interested in the area in which I live, regularly attend the CAT meetings and showing interest in issues raised."

Contact

Tel: 02392 384943
email: susan.bell66@yahoo.co.uk



Geoffrey Fazackarley: Has lived with his family in Portchester for the last 12 years and holds strong family values and community ethic.

He is a bus controller, so is able to interact easily with the community.

He says: "Councillors in Portchester East have failed in their duty of care to the community, which is why I believe change is needed.

"I will strive to make the ward of Portchester East a happy and safe place to live."

Contact

Tel: 02392 425202
email: fazman38@ntlworld.com



Andrew Smith: Aged 46 and married with a three-year-old son, he spent most of his working life until 2008 in London with an investment bank.

He is interested in issues that affect local people, which they feel are beyond their control.

Hobbies include fishing, tennis, sailing, cycling and gardening.

Studied horticulture at Sparsholt College and now owns a landscape gardening and garden maintenance business.

Contact

Tel: 01489 572152
email: andrew.smith1720@googlemail.com

Neighbourhood team now all of a Twitter.com

THE Portchester safer neighbourhood team is now on Twitter.com, the first Hampshire Constabulary team to use the website to keep people informed.

Ward councillors regularly meet Police Sgt Jeremy Tremellen and his team to exchange news and views. Anyone with access to Twitter can register with the site free.

Just type in **portchestersnt** and updates from the local police team will be there.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said: "Locally, we are fortunate in being so well-served on the beat by Sgt Tremellen and his team of PCs and PCSOs."

Go for a walk

MARCH schedules for Walk-to-Health in Portchester with boots ratings are:

Tuesday 2 Meet in car park at end of Shearwater Avenue 10.30am; walk via Cams Hall estate; duration 90 minutes; 2 boots.

Tuesday 9 Start and finish at Crematorium 10.30am; walk via meadow to Nelson's Monument, Fort Nelson; 90 minutes; 3 boots.

Wednesday 10 Meet 10.30 at Castle main entrance; tour grounds, foreshore; 1 hour; 2 boots.

Portchester CAT meeting speakers excel

NEARLY 100 people attended the February Portchester Community Action Team meeting which proved a great success, with excellent reports from all the speakers.

Sergeant Jerry Tremellan gave an update on local police activity and the Council's Dog Control Officer, Jan Nunn, appealed to the public to phone to report any dog fouling taking place.

Portchester has problem areas and she needs time and place to act accordingly.

There was an informative talk about the Greening Campaign and how teams are being set up throughout Fareham and what the role is in the

community.

Sarah Moss, the Portchester Community Centre Manager, reported on the wide range of activities which take place at the centre.

Martyn George, Fareham Council's Director of Customer Services, talked about the past, present and future of the Community Centre.

He answered questions and quashed rumours circulating in Portchester that the Council had given consent for a superstore at the Precinct.

Minutes of this meeting are available on the Council's website.

***See P4 for more details of the Community Centre debate.**

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

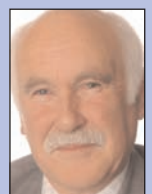
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Your man in Westminster



By Mark Hoban MP for Fareham

I was talking to pupils at a couple of schools in Portchester recently about the need to get involved when you see something happening to a place or a service that matters to you.

It was a theme echoed by a couple I met from Locks Heath who asked me to support a campaign to protect children's services at Southampton General.

Change is one of the main reasons why people get involved in politics. It certainly motivated me to get involved when I was 16. It still drives me today.

As a politician, change can mean resolving a constituent's problem or persuading the Government to change tack.

After the longest and deepest recession since the 1920s, it is clear we cannot go on like this. The country needs so many changes to get back onto the right track.

When I talk to local businesses, they tell me they want interest rates to remain as low as possible as long as possible, but unless we reduce Government borrowing, this won't be possible. But Gordon Brown is fighting shy of making the difficult decisions that are needed to encourage economic recovery.

In the health service and in our schools, I hear examples of where staff are required to put into practice decisions made in Whitehall that don't meet the needs of local people. Shouldn't we be giving our doctors, nurses and teachers the authority to do the right thing for pupils and patients rather than be dictated to by Whitehall?

2010 is the start of a new decade. I feel that we have been stuck in a rut in the last few years. I believe that 2010 must be a year for change in our country. We cannot afford another wasted decade.

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

Borough-wide community centre modernisation plans under way



Bath Lane, Fareham pavilion



Portchester Community Centre

PLANS to provide each of Fareham's neighbourhood areas with modern community facilities are under way.

Top of the list is Portchester Community Centre where options for raising the £1.7m cost are being considered, but others (some pictured) also need urgent attention.

The Council's policy objectives prioritised the need to review the use of its community buildings, rationalise their provision and, as appropriate, modernise them by 2012.

The review set out a longer-term, innovative approach to the provision of Council community-owned buildings, including sports pavilions and community centres.

The vision to provide a well-designed, modern community centre in each of the six neighbourhood Community Action Team areas was agreed by the Executive, which pledged £500,000 towards the initiative, plus £40,000 for a community buildings health and safety fund.



Osborne Road, Warsash officials' changing rooms (left) and players' changing rooms

A phased implementation



It's no bull – less spending reduces waste

HUNDREDS of empty coke cans went into making this life-size bull to beef up the recycling message.

But it's no bull that people are buying less in the recession, so they put less in their bins.

Fareham has seen a 5.5% reduction in green top bin waste and a 6% fall in blue top bin recyclables. But the Borough's recycling rate still reached 39.6% in October.



"An excellent figure and we aim to achieve the target for 2010 of 40%, although any continuation of reductions in total waste will make this a challenge," said Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Streetscene.

Fareham is one of only three districts in Hampshire to provide free garden waste collection, although it had to be restricted to one bag per household.

One in four households generates more and they can buy disposable bags – £20 for a roll of 25 sacks or £5 for a roll of 5 – which will be collected with the green waste bags.

He added: "Fareham residents are among the best recyclers in the country. It's a good performance, but one we intend to improve

with advice and encouragement."

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