

## Planning processes delay new Fareham local plan

**FAREHAM** councillors and officers have been working on the replacement for the current local plan for some time.

The previous plan was adopted in June 2000 and will be replaced by a new plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Work has been held up because Fareham's plan must tie in with the South East Plan and this has only just been through its mandatory inspection process.

Fortunately, Fareham's input to the South East Plan was accepted by the inspectors and, provided that the Government – who can make changes to the plan – agree with the inspectors' report, the planning process can go ahead.

The Government will make its decision sometime between this December and March next year.

Final adoption of the plan is not scheduled until mid 2011.

Councillor David Swanbrow, who is the Executive Member responsible for putting the new plan together, said:

"Once we have the go-ahead we will consult people on the plan every step of the way."

# Nicked! Police crackdown on under-age drinkers



Pc Geoff Tarvin parades a huge pile of cans, bottles and cartons of booze, mostly confiscated from juveniles in on-going operations against under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

**DOZENS of cans and bottles of booze have been confiscated by police in a borough-wide operation against under-age drinkers and outlets supplying them.**

Officers recently mounted Operation Dorothy to get the message of zero tolerance across to youngsters, parents and shopkeepers.

It seems to be paying dividends, although police believe it may have driven some illegal drinking 'underground'.

The operation was carried out by officers, community support officers and special constables from Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering Fareham and Park Gate areas, who seized alcohol from juveniles and adults acting in an anti-social manner.

At the end of the four-week operation, their haul amounted to 170 cans of lager, 169 bottles of beer, half a bottle of whisky, a litre of vodka and a bottle of brandy.

But instead of pouring it down the drain, the police gave the drinks to Fareham Lions Club, who raffled it and gave the proceeds to local charities.

The operation was part of the Designated Public Places Order created in partnership with Fareham Borough Council to combat drink-related crime.

Police have powers to stop street drinking, seize alcohol where appropriate and issue fixed penalty

notices to the culprits.

Pc Dave Coleman said 32 more cans of lager were confiscated and a group of 20 youths moved on from Yew Tree Drive area in Whiteley during the first week of October.

Sgt Pat Dawson, in charge of the first sting in June after the order was extended borough-wide, said police were pleased with the results of the on-going operation and with the new powers to deal with drink related anti-social behaviour.

"Usually once we catch an under-age person we don't see them again. We take the alcohol and the parents get a letter. On a number of occasions we have called on parents."

There had been input into schools and youth clubs where posters were displayed, but it was often over 18s who bought and supplied alcohol to juveniles.

Councillor Francis Devonshire said police had reported a fall in public drinking.

"In the same report they say that in the first 6 months this year they carried out 207 test purchases on licensed premises in South Hampshire and caught 50 law breakers, but none in Fareham area.

"However, a few were caught in Fareham in 2006 'stings' and cases are on-going.

"Premises caught more than twice are likely to find the police calling for a review of their licence," he said.



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Action Team

The next Titchfield and Titchfield Common Community Action Team (CATs) meeting will be held on Wednesday January 16 at the Locks Heath Free Church, 255, Hunts Pond Road, Titchfield Common.

### Deliverers needed

We are looking for foot soldiers to deliver *In Touch* in the following Segensworth roads: Grevillea Avenue, Amaryllis Close, Jacaranda Close and Titchfield Grange.

### Segensworth

Major work to improve traffic flows and ease congestion at the A27 Segensworth roundabout is well under way.

Developers are contributing most of the cost of the £2.65m scheme, which is expected to take about six months to complete. There will inevitably be some disruption to traffic movements.

The County Council is working closely with the contractor to try to keep this to a minimum.

### New concessions

The government announced that from April 2008 there would be free concessionary off-peak travel across England.

In theory, you could use local transport to "hop from town to town" and complete a very long journey, says Councillor Keith Evans.

Indications are that this new scheme will require a smart card, but with six months to go Fareham does not know what type of card will be needed, the cost or what grant it will get.

## Public protests force company climb-down over clock tower axe



**PUBLIC protests over plans to demolish the landmark clock tower at Locks Heath Shopping Centre have forced the owners to climb down.**

Directors of Stockland Halladale planned to turn the area behind it into a disabled car park.

Plans also included new shops and KFC drive-thru restaurant, but there were fears the Council's proposed swimming pool and fitness centre would be lost.

But after a public meeting called by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, when the owners heard views from over 300 people, they withdrew that part of their application.

Councillor Keith Evans was pleased the owners had listened.

"I am very happy that the clock tower will now be saved and the area behind it will still be available to customers of the centre to walk in," he stated.

## After decades of frustration and broken promises...

# It's houses before the hospital, but at last work starts at Coldeast site

**THE BEGINNING of the end of decades of frustration is in sight this autumn when work starts at the Coldeast site ahead of the building of Fareham's community hospital.**

Hampshire Primary Care Trust promised the hospital would open in 2010, but before that one of the Western Wards' biggest housing schemes will get under way.

About 250 homes will be built on areas occupied by buildings in former and current health use.

Around 150 are on land owned by Miller Homes and development is believed imminent. The remainder will be built on land owned by the Primary Care Trust.

The Brook Lane entrance will be used for initial work, during which alterations to Bridge Road/Coldeast Way entrance will be built.

Works traffic will then be able to use the new access while work proceeds at the Brook Lane entrance.

When the link is finished between the two, Coldeast Way will return to normal use and Brook Lane access will be used by construction vehicles.

The timetable is:

October/November – Coldeast Way access improvements. Daytime diversions via Brook Lane.

December/January – Brook Lane access improvements.

January/February – Bridge Road improvements.

The Council says every effort will be made to

minimise the effect on Coldeast Way and Brook Lane.

Meantime, a consultation exercise is being conducted to find out what residents want to see on the rest of the site.

Titchfield Councillor Francis Devonshire said: "The Council will consult on the issues over a four-week period between November 5 and December 3 before producing a draft for further consultation early in 2008, with final adoption of the brief in June or July."

Part of the consultation will be an exhibition to be held at Brookfield School on November 16 and 17.

Councillor Devonshire said: "It is important the local community and statutory consultees have the opportunity to influence the future of the Coldeast Hospital site.

"Securing their involvement at an early stage through the consultation will enable the Council to consider and respond to comments and concerns in preparing the draft development brief for the site."

The consultation process will include:

- Letters and leaflets posted to residents near the site and statutory consultees
- Details to be advertised on site and in the Press
- Information displayed at Locks Heath library
- Targeted briefings and meetings with local organisations, including key consultees
- Relevant material on the Council's website with an on-line response form.

## Keith is on the ball in nuisance limitation bid

**"Can we have our ball back, mister?" People living near smaller play and recreation areas are not too happy to comply.**

Ball games cause noise and damage fences and gardens and Councillor Keith Evans has been working with Council officers and community police to minimise, if not eradicate, the problems without spoiling youngsters' sport.

A sensibly located goalpost and net at Longacres recreation ground proved the point. A similar move is planned for the small open area in Streamleaze. Around Ascot Close a small fence is planned to stop balls leaving the grass area.

These small changes can result in real improvements for residents while retaining the ability for ball games," he said.



**Sensible:** Goal posts facing away from rear garden walls at Longacres recreation ground.

# Now we bloomin' well are champion of champions

**WE'VE DONE it again! Fareham was awarded the gold medal and was overall winner for the third year running in the South and South East in Bloom competition.**

Earlier successes placed Fareham with other top entries into a Champion of Champions category, writes Councillor Connie Hockley, Executive Member for Community.

"It's the highest award and accolade Fareham could have received and is set against very rigorous judging criteria.

"Only 15% of the marks are attributed to the floral displays; the rest come from community involvement and what we are doing environmentally within the Borough," she said.

Holly Hill Woodland Park was awarded a Silver and a Silver Gilt and Best Small Park went to our Sensory Garden in the town centre.

Northern Junior Community School in Portchester was awarded a Gold Medal and overall winner for schools in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Prizes were presented at Crawley by swimming star Duncan Goodhew, who won a Bronze at the Moscow Olympics.

The Mayor, Councillor Katrina Trott, presented awards for Fareham's own 'In Bloom' community gardening competition, which has become a jewel in the crown of community services, at Ferneham Hall.

Congratulating the winners and all entrants, Connie Hockley praised the hard work of Fareham's gardeners, dedicated volunteers, the Council's parks and grounds maintenance teams who ensure the competition's success.

Titchfield Ward: Schools' Gardening Project (Silver Gilt Award), Westhill Park Pre-Prep School (Bronze Award), St Anthony's RC Primary School (Community Gardening Award), HallMark Jeweller's, South Street (Business Premises Silver).

Titchfield Common residents "did their bit" for Fareham, commented Councillor Keith Evans, with many excellent displays.

Awards: Small Floral Front Garden (Silver Gilt and overall winner) – Roz Larder, Lichfield Road; Certificate of Merit – Mrs C Norton, Beverley Close; Courtyard Garden (Bronze) – Miss Sue Bunce, Lichfield Road; Hanging or Wall Basket (Silver) – Roz Larder; Best Floral Display in Container



**All smiles:** Bottom (l to r) Bridget Thicket (volunteer), Matt Wakefield (FBC Horticultural Development Officer) and Olympic swimming star Duncan Goodhew. Top (l to r) Geoff Thicket (volunteer), Councillor Mary Nadolski, Heather Othen (volunteer) and Heather Scott (volunteer).

(Silver Gilt) – Roz Larder; Unusual Garden Feature (Silver Gilt) – Roz Larder; Plantsman's Back Garden (Silver Gilt) – Sue Bunce; Local Authority Warden Assisted Home (Silver Gilt) – Lincoln Close area.

Roz Larder won the Award of Outstanding Horticultural Excellence.

## TITCHFIELD 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.....  
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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

WE SEEM to spend a lot of time talking about house prices. Property programmes on TV are very popular. Statistics on house prices are closely scrutinised. Houses have a big impact upon our finances too!

In our community, young people face a double challenge: not only is the cost of moving high, but increasing house prices and recent increases in interest rates push mortgage payments up. Because I believe as many people as possible should be able to have the chance to own their own home, I think it is right to help especially those people who are buying their own home for the first time. That's why we announced our plan to scrap stamp duty for first time buyers. This will save up to £2,500 depending on the size of a property and provide a welcome boost for young people in our community. This will give first time buyers the chance to step on to the housing ladder.

Whilst rising house prices have made it harder for people to buy their first home, it means that more and more people are pushed into the inheritance tax net too.

Originally, inheritance taxes were meant to be a tax on the wealthy. Yet increasingly, people living in normal family homes are being caught by it through no fault of their own. Since 2000, the amount of money collected through inheritance tax has gone up by 70%. I don't think inheritance tax should penalise people who have done the right thing by buying a home of their own and putting a little bit away for a rainy day. That's why we will raise the inheritance tax threshold so now only millionaires pay the tax. Our message is that we will back those people who do the right thing, so that their children don't end up paying a big tax bill.

The Conservative Party has always backed those who want to get on in life and scrapping stamp duty for most first time buyers and lifting the inheritance tax thresholds rewards those who have aspirations for themselves and their families.

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# The Fareham 'feel-good' factor reaches record high

**IT'S A GREAT place to live, say an overwhelming majority of Fareham people.**

Under the Conservative administration not only can you expect to live longer in the borough, but also enjoy cleaner streets and a low crime rate.

The town's feel-good factors were acclaimed in the 2007 Residents' Survey in which people were asked how satisfied they were, taking everything into account, that Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

The survey was mailed to 4,000 households selected at random.

There were 928 responses returned and the data has been entered into the Council's management information system and analysed.

A staggering 95% (94% in 2006) were satisfied or fairly satisfied and 89% said they were very or fairly satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs the borough and provides services - the same figure as last year. Findings from other parts of the survey also showed high satisfaction levels:

- Shopping** – 80% happy with general facilities, 87% with the town centre.
- Environment** – 90% satisfaction.
- Refuse** – 69% chose fortnightly collections, rather than pay more council tax for weekly collections.
- Crime** – 98% feel safe in their neighbourhoods in daytime, 72% after dark (up 5%).
- Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the way they were dealt with.



**Beauty:** With areas like Holly Hill Woodland Park in which to roam, it's no wonder the people are happy.

However, there are still improvements that residents want to see, with traffic congestion and street repairs topping the list.

But these are the responsibility of the County Council and Fareham's Executive promised to work with the Highway Authority on these issues.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted both at the good response and the confirmation that the priorities the Council is pursuing are also those of our residents."

"We are currently reviewing all our community facilities and activities for teenagers are an important strand of that review.

"We continue to work with the police and community safety officers to reduce the low level crime and anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas."

## Fareham tops Hampshire recycling league

**FAREHAM is top of the league in Hampshire for recycling which is now running at 46% and well on the road towards the next Government target of 50% in 2010.**

Latest figures show an increase of 24% since alternate bin collections were introduced in 2005.

A review of the glass recycling service is being undertaken and it is unlikely that a kerbside collection service will be provided, but there will be significantly more, conveniently sited 'bring banks'.

Most residents are now maximising use of the blue-top bin and using the green waste collection service.

A Government grant has

been received to provide an advisory service on all aspects of recycling and to help reduce contamination in the recycling bins.

Fareham is the only council not to make an extra charge for collecting green waste although from October there will be a charge of £5 for replacement sacks.

The possibility of providing a replacement sack service for community centres etc at a nominal charge is being examined. Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and about £1 for each emptying.

The Council, with about 40,000 eligible homes, has issued over 140,000 green sacks over the past 18

months. Each household can have up to 3 sacks emptied.

The Council is saving no money and any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste collection service and the trial schemes.

All Fareham's residual waste is incinerated; none goes to landfill. The incinerator produces enough energy to heat/light 30,000 homes.

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) and up to 3 green sacks.

Residents with specific problems can phone 01329 824387 or 824389 for advice.

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