



In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – AUTUMN 2009

Prosecutions follow zero tolerance enviro-crime enforcement

ZERO tolerance towards those who litter and allow dogs to foul Fareham's streets is paying off.

During 2008-09, Enforcement Team patrols issued 51 fixed penalty notices for littering, two of which ended in court after the culprits didn't pay up.

They probably wished they had as the court appearance cost them a lot more – a £50 fine, £70 costs and £15 for victim support.

In the same period, 92 cases of fly tipping were investigated, resulting in four successful prosecutions, punishments ranging from community service to fines and compensation.

Six more cases are currently being pursued.

The team also succeeded in prosecuting a youth responsible for graffiti in a churchyard.

Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley said the team, introduced in 2004 to patrol the Borough to enforce legislation on a wide range of enviro-crimes, worked closely with community safety officers and police community support officers to provide an effective uniformed service.

Officers also deal with abandoned vehicles and unauthorised travellers' camps.

Planning dictators' days are numbered, pledges top Tory

FAR-REACHING legislation proposed by the next Conservative Government to put the 'local' aspect back into planning has stalled the huge 10,000 homes development in Fareham.

Labour dictated that under the South East Plan the Borough must earmark a Strategic Development Area (SDA) north of the M27 and build the houses by 2026.

But all this will be put on hold, thanks to a letter to councils from Conservative Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Caroline Spelman.

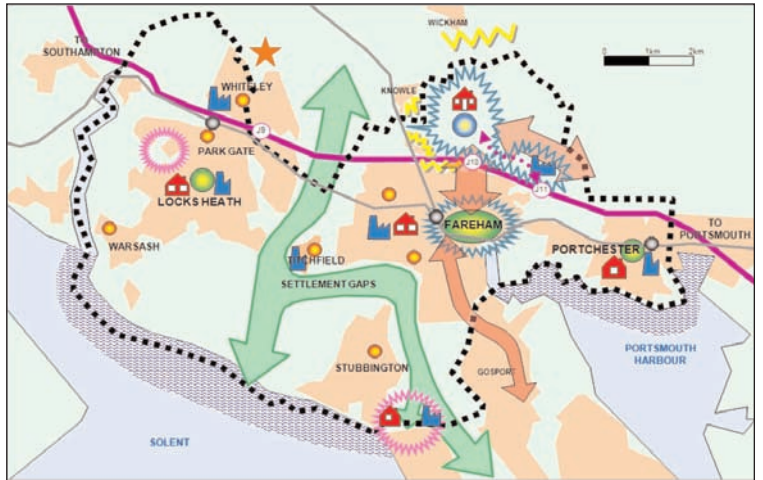
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

She stated: "A Conservative Government will abolish the bureaucratic and undemocratic tier of regional planning. This will include the abolition of the regional spatial strategies and the regional planning bodies."

Planning dictates from Whitehall civil servants, with no local knowledge or inkling of public opinion, would be replaced to make the process far more 'bottom up'.

Even better, Caroline Spelman said councils would be able to undo some unwanted planning policies forced on them by Labour.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, said the core strategy, which is key to the Local Development Framework, was to be published in October, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January and subjected to a public



Shape of things to come? The key diagram for Fareham's local development framework, but changes could lie ahead after the election.

hearing in May to decide whether it conformed to the SE Plan.

He said: "Fareham decided that if the development was to become a sustainable community that was pleasant to live in, the number of dwellings had to be much lower."

Under the system introduced by Labour, the inspector could find the plan unsound, forcing Fareham to waste most of the money spent producing its Core Strategy and start again; or worse, tell the Council it had to cram 10,000 flats and houses into the SDA, however undesirable.

"Currently, whatever an inspector decides becomes the plan and the local authority cannot change it.

"Labour used to say it would bring democracy nearer to local people. This is an example of what they meant – 'top down' planning with an iron fist."

Caroline Spelman's letter made councils who belong to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) take notice.

"They may now be unlikely to commit to taking on additional housing to make up for a shortfall in Fareham's SDA, with the possibility that the problem will disappear after the election.

"There is a strong possibility many councils currently preparing plans will delay the process until after May when, if the Conservatives win power, local planning will truly become local."

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "For years people felt they had no real say in planning policy.

"If a Conservative Government is elected then that will change.

"They will be able to vote in local elections for councillors who will decide on local planning policies."

..and plans to revive a 18th Century tax will go out of the window

SCHEMING Labour plans to tax you for the view from your window won't last long under a Tory government.

Caroline Spelman, who recently

exposed the tax, said her party would repeal any legislation.

Historically, it smacks of the 1766 House and Windows Duties Act, which taxed a house by the num-

ber of its windows and led to owners bricking up where possible.

But Labour would not stop there. If you have a patio, pond, pool, summer house, you're a target.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

For your diary

Saturday, November 7: Desmond Swayne MP speaking at a dinner, Lysses Hotel, High Street, Fareham. Tickets £22.50 each.

Sunday, November 29: Christmas Fair 10am to 2.30pm supporting local shops and traders at Titchfield Community Centre. Entry £3 including mulled wine and mince pies.

If you are a local business interested in exhibiting please contact FCA office on 01329 822646 or conservatives@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

Friday, March 12 2010: Chris Grayling, Shadow Home Secretary, supper at Victory Hall, Warsash, £12.50 per head.

Speed limit

County Councillor Geoff Hockley is pursuing the extension of the 20mph speed limit on various roads in Titchfield and hopes matter will be resolved.

Water level concern

Low levels of water in the Titchfield Canal and River Meon continue to be a source of worry.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley said: "I am seeking the assistance of the executive member of HCC Environment Department and the Environment Agency in investigating information I have supplied."

Are you interested?

Residents interested in becoming a school governor or helping to deliver *In Touch* should contact Geoff Hockley on 01329 287365.

Age Concern contract award sparks concern among aged

AGE CONCERN has been awarded the contract to run the **Lockswood Day Care Centre**.

But it sparked major concern among the aged, particularly over the new location for delivering the service.

Local councillors are now locked in a battle with Hampshire County Council to get it sorted.

It has been operating for several years from its premises near Locks Heath Shopping Centre, providing for elderly frail residents and those with dementia in the Western Wards.

When the service was put out to tender by the County Council, the contract was awarded, not to the Locks Heath Day Care Trust who own the Centre, but to Age Concern.

The changeover will take place on January 1, 2010.

Elderly residents and their carers are upset about the changes, particularly where the Age Concern service will be provided from.

According to Age Concern, it will be using the Kershaw Day Centre in North Fareham – nearly 5 miles from the existing centre.

County Councillors Keith Evans and Seán Woodward held meetings with the Locks Heath Day Care Trust and the County Council to try to continue the service from the Lockswood Centre.



Concern: Elderly users of the Lockswood Centre are worried by Age Concern's takeover.

But a solution has not yet been found.

In a joint statement, Councillors Evans and Woodward said: "It would be awful for our elderly residents to have to travel for over an hour in minibuses while people are picked up one-by-one from all over the Western Wards, then transported to a location in North Fareham when they have been receiving an excellent and convenient day care service within their own community.

"This is totally unacceptable and we will continue to press the County Council to find a local solution to this issue before the end of the year."

From January 1, 2010, when the County's new 'Personalisation' system starts, recipients of adult social care can opt to receive the money and procure their own services.

Existing users of the service at Locks Heath may decide that, rather than travel to North Fareham, they will take the money and use it to procure a service at Lockswood Day Care Centre.

In Bloom competition local winners

Small floral front garden: Roz Larder (gold); David & Doreen Englefield (bronze).

Large floral front garden: Denise & Dudley McGowan (silver gilt).

Hanging basket: Roz Larder (silver).

Floral display containers: Denise & Dudley McGowan (silver gilt); Roz Larder (silver gilt).

Unusual feature: Denise & Dudley Englefield (silver).

Floral back garden: Roz Larder (gold, overall winner); Joan Thorne (bronze).

Plantsman's back garden: Denise & Dudley McGowan (gold); David & Doreen Englefield (silver gilt); Reg & Joan Baker (silver); Stephen & Joan Brown (silver).

Wildlife back garden: Denise & Dudley McGowan (gold, overall winners); Reg & Joan Baker (bronze).

Warden assisted or sheltered residential home: Lincoln Close, Mrs I Armstrong (silver, overall winner).

Business premises: Hallmark Jewellers, Titchfield (silver).

Schools' gardening project: Westhill Park Pre-prep (gold).

All Titchfield's community funding wishes are granted

TITCHFIELD fared well in cash bids for local projects this year.

Councillor Tiffany Harper said the Community Action Team (CAT) meeting was told that all the ward's funding requests were granted.

These were: Pathway from the Community Centre to Titchfield Primary School; Southampton Hill bench; Locks Heath WI chairs; Gardener Road planting; Locks Heath Free Church Boomerang Club; Titchfield Community Centre repairs.

There are two types of funding.

1 Neighbourhood initiatives

Projects that directly benefit the community will be considered for one-off funding and can be submit-

ted by individuals, community groups, registered charities and non-profit organisations.

2 Clean and tidy neighbourhood

Money can be used towards removing litter and fly-tipping, cutting back undergrowth, removing graffiti from residential property, supporting clean-up campaigns by local groups such as Scouts and residents' associations.

Tiffany Harper said there had been "a fabulous attendance" at the July meeting at Titchfield Community Centre, where residents received a presentation from Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward detailing the Council's achievements

over the last year, impact of the recession and forthcoming projects such as the anticipated arrival of Tesco and Next in Fareham.

She said: "CAT meetings are set up to ensure that we have a better understanding of the needs of Fareham communities. Meetings give us a chance to hear from you and for you to hear from us.

"Each meeting will be different as the agenda will be set from issues raised at the previous meeting.

"However, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Each meeting will be supported by the police, who will feed back on crime figures in the area and respond to any queries you may have."

Play Ranger scheme is a big hit

FAREHAM Council has a new Play Ranger, funded by a grant from the Big Lottery whose job is to provide free play opportunities across the Borough.

The scheme operates as an 'open access' play service for children and their parents in public parks and open spaces.

This year's summer Play Ranger service visited many parks between July 27 and September 30, which enabled children aged 5-13 (with specific sessions for ages up to 5) to enjoy safe and challenging play.

Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley said: "We hope those families and children who took advantage of this scheme enjoyed taking part and will support any future events."

A FLAMEing good show! Centre is voted best in UK

FAREHAM Leisure Centre is the best in the UK after winning the prestigious fitness industry award – the FLAME Centre of the Year.

Awarded annually by the Fitness Industry Association (FIA), it attracted a record number of submissions from the 4,000 leisure centres nationwide.

FLAME (Fitness Leadership and Management Excellence) Awards recognise best practice within the industry and submissions are evaluated by a team of experienced, independent assessors

Ian Cook, contract manager at Fareham Leisure Centre, said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have won the award this year. Competition was harder than ever with a higher number of entrants."

"To have won the overall accolade of Centre of Year is a great achievement for everyone at Fareham Leisure Centre."

Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We are delighted that Fareham Leisure Centre has been awarded this special award and is recog-

nised as the best leisure centre in the UK.

"This would not have been possible without the significant amount of effort and support from many people."

Councillor Connie Hockley said: "We are extremely proud of our Leisure Centre. This is a great achievement for everyone at the centre."

It opened in the 1970s and became a leisure centre in 1986.

In May 2005, Sports and Leisure Management (SLM Ltd) was awarded the contract by Fareham Council on the basis it would implement an investment programme that would see the centre develop into one of the premier leisure locations in the UK.

It attracts a weekly average of 10,000 visitors of all ages from across the community.



The best: Celebrating the top award are (l to r) Seán Woodward, centre manager Ian Cook and Executive Member for Community Connie Hockley.

Since the £1.3m investment into the centre, membership has more than doubled to 3,400 with a gym floor of 6,500m² and a studio of 5,000m². The site also operates 74 classes a week and the swimming lessons programme has over 1,800 children enrolled.

As part of rebranding in 2007, 25,000 customers have been issued with an Everyone Active Card and are encouraged to do a recommended 30 minutes of activity 5 times a week to achieve a healthier life.

Geoff digs into his £10,000 County Council kitty to help local good causes

Geoff Hockley has been busy recently with matters affecting Titchfield Common.

He consulted traders and local groups who agreed to advertise a monthly advice 'surgery' to run at Abshot Community Centre at 9.30am every second Saturday.

There was an excellent response and Geoff and Keith Evans have helped several residents with problems.

He has also joined the committee at Abshot Community Centre, where he identified several items worth funding from his £10,000

County Council devolved budget.

They include repairing the damaged notice board and cash for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Cubs who use the centre.

He also helped Titchfield Community Centre with money to improve one of their meeting

rooms, Titchfield Sea Scouts to buy dinghies and towards completion of a nurture room at Titchfield Primary School.

"It is a privilege to represent Titchfield Division and I promise a very prompt response to your queries," he said.

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON 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.

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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

You have to make difficult decisions in your life, which require a sacrifice today to achieve a better tomorrow. Do you go to college to get more qualifications or straight into work; or sacrifice nights out to repay debt or save for a deposit?

We announced tough decisions on spending at our Party Conference this month to secure our future. Soaring borrowing by Gordon Brown means we spend more on interest on Government debt than on schools or our armed forces. If this continues, we will put the economy at risk, so we must make difficult decisions today for a better tomorrow.

Everyone must do something because we are in this together; freezing public sector pay helps protect up to 100,000 frontline jobs; and deferring the retirement age secures the restoration of the link between state pensions and earnings.

Government debt arises from spending and borrowing too much. Government does too much. Take the case of the two police officers wanting to share child-care, where rules prevented them doing the right thing for their children.

David Cameron spoke very powerfully about enabling us to achieve our full potential. He wants government to support those who need it, but to get the state to step back so that families and communities can do the right thing.

It means scrapping targets that hold back doctors from giving us the care that we need, but making sure that those on low incomes who want to work aren't losing 96p of every £1 they earn to the tax man. If we get through the difficult times ahead, we have a bright future. Only leadership and determination will get us on the right track.

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Fareham's flower power brings national competition invitation

NOW Fareham is up with the big boys. Next year, it's Britain in Bloom for the six times top award winners.

The Borough's fantastic winning streak in the South and South East In Bloom competition resulted in an invitation to take part in the prestigious national contest in 2010.

"Naturally I said yes," said delighted Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward.

Britain in Bloom, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, is one of the largest events of its kind in Europe.

Back to this year's competition. As overall winners for the sixth year running of the Large Town/Small City category, it was the first of four gold medals on the day. And more successes followed.

The sensory garden won gold in the Best Small Park category, Holly Hill Woodland Park collected a gold as winner of the Best Countryside Park and the pupils at Northern Junior School, Portchester again took gold as winners of the Schools' Category.

And just to gild the lily, Fareham's Tourist Information Centre won a new award presented by Tourism Southeast to reflect how well parks and visitor activities are promoted.

Congratulating the winners at the awards ceremony in Brighton, Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley hailed it as a spectacular success, much of it due to the tireless work of volunteers and parks staff.

She said only 15% of marks went to floral displays, the rest came from community



Winners: Heather Othen (left) receives the outstanding contribution award from Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins, who is pictured (right) with Connie Hockley after presenting ranger Mark Trigwell with the gold award for best countryside park.

involvement and the Council's environmental work.

She praised Mrs Heather Othen for winning an outstanding achievement award. "Like all our volunteers, Heather works with dedication and passion to help ensure Fareham's entry into In Bloom scores top marks."

This was echoed at Ferneham Hall on September 8 where sponsors, competitors and residents met to celebrate the end of the 14th Fareham In Bloom year, which again showed a record number of entries.

Connie Hockley said it was the largest community activity in the voluntary sector and the gardening competition was the culmination of months of hard work by everybody involved.

"If you are a keen gardener and are not involved in our 'In Bloom' competition, then think about entering in 2010."

Thanking those who ensured In Bloom worked so well, she added: "It is hard work, but it is fun too, so if you feel like becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with me."

•See P2 for list of Titchfield area winners.

Chance for deaf to try new technology

A DEAFPLUS bus will be trialled in Fareham town centre from November 30.

It comes at the request of Council Leader Seán Woodward and will contain equipment demonstrating aids for deaf people.

The charity DeafPlus has a contract with the County Council for its early intervention service, which provides



120 half-hour sessions a year across Hampshire.

The free service gives the deaf the chance to try the latest technology.

Work on Fareham's community hospital progressing fast

FAREHAM'S community hospital at Coldeast is taking shape fast.

Exterior masonry work, the fascia and most of the cladding are finished and windows installed.

Councillor Keith Evans said the first fix of mechanical and electrical work was well under way and installation of soft flooring and internal decorating had begun.

"Exterior landscaping and

A matter of degree

THE dangerously overloaded bin shown here would not be collected.

But Councillor Keith Evans firmly denied that the Council operated a closed-lid policy.

"We apply common sense, so in practice a bin will be collected even with the lid open to 40 degrees," he said.



formation of the bell-mouth to Brook Lane should start soon," he said.

In Touch is published by Titchfield & Titchfield Common Conservatives, 5 Valerian Avenue, Titchfield Park, Fareham PO15 5TF and printed by Bishops Printers Limited, Fitzherbert Road, Farlington, Portsmouth PO6 1RU.