



In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – 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.

Improvements

Titchfield Community Association was awarded a matched funding grant of £3,458 towards improvements to the community centre.

These include replacing chairs and buying induction loop equipment for the main hall and an environmental clean of the boiler room.

Light relief

St Peter's churchyard, Titchfield and the surrounding grounds have suffered from anti-social behaviour and criminal damage over the last few months.

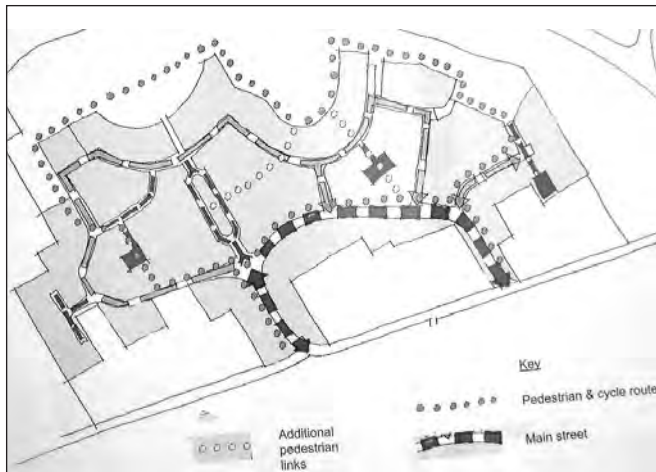
An extra lamp column will be installed on the eastern edge of the grounds near the canal to try to deter the yobs.

Pompey's plan

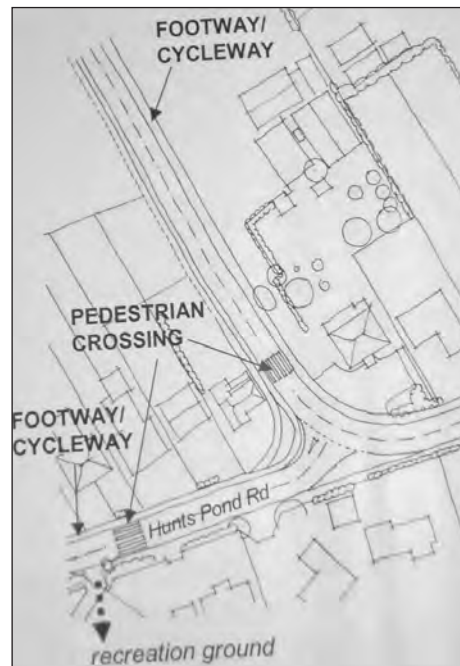
Portsmouth Football Club has bought land near Titchfield to create a permanent training ground. Connie and Francis will watch these proposals and ensure policies to protect the village are adhered to.

Hunts Pond Road residents' protests over access ignored

Brief will try to lessen traffic impact of 350 new homes



Best laid plans: Layout of the new estate (above) shows access points on to Hunts Pond Road and (right) how pedestrian crossings will be used to break traffic flows.



AN ESTATE of up to 350 homes off Hunts Pond Road has been given the go-ahead, despite angry objections over the access.

Fareham Council adopted the development brief for the 27-acre (10.9 hectares) site near the junction with Warsash Road.

Residents were upset that the two main access points to the estate were off busy Hunts Pond Road and not Warsash Road.

Councillor Keith Evans battled to try to get the access moved, but Hampshire County Council own the land off Warsash Road and refused to release it for nature conservation reasons.

He said the development brief indicated several ways in which the impact on Hunts Pond Road

could be reduced.

It would be designed to encourage one point for access and the other for exit by breaking the continuous flow of traffic in Hunts Pond Road. Pedestrian crossings would be built next to these points.

A roundabout was proposed for the junction with Warsash Road.

"These roadwork designs and suggested speed limits should reduce the overall speed down this lower end of Hunts Pond Road and encourage residents in the new development to leave via the Warsash Road roundabout rather than up Hunts Pond Road," said Councillor Evans.

The top end of the site will abut the Hampshire nature conservation area and there are plans for this to be fronted by a couple of

ponds and open green areas.

The public will have the chance to comment when the detailed plans are submitted to the Council. These are likely to be discussed by the Planning Control Committee in the next few months.

Meantime, the developers indicated they would be seeking 40 to 45 per hectare, giving perhaps between 310 and 350 dwellings, of which about 40% would be classified as affordable housing.

Councillor Evans added: "This is a very significant increase over the original Fareham Borough Plan indication of 240 maximum and reflects changes by government in the numbers of dwellings that should be achieved per hectare."

County spending hit by government 'sleight of hand'

A CRAFTY government move to cut the money available to Hampshire County Council has been deployed by a local councillor.

Only 20% of County Council spending (excluding education) now comes from government grants, with the remaining 80% direct from Hampshire

taxpayers.

However, there are restrictions on what the County can collect from taxpayers and limits on borrowings for capital and interest repayment etc.

Hidden in refreshed government guidelines is a rule change that views interest on borrowings differently from previous years.

The effect of this, which is a hidden technical aspect, is to reduce the capital money available in the County by £5.7m.

And the indication is that this figure could be even higher in the next full year.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley commented:

"This means that

spending on, for example, much needed pavements and roadway maintenance will be even further adrift from that needed.

"I have already sought assurance from officers and the county executive member that existing plans for Warsash and Locks Heath will not be cancelled."

Speed cuts agreed by councillors

THE SPEED limit in the southern section of Whiteley Lane between Segensworth Road and Cartwright Drive, Titchfield will be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

At present, part of Bridge Street, Titchfield has a speed limit of 40mph.

Since the minor works scheme in Bridge Street, which consisted of road narrowing and the introduction of a traffic priority system, was completed, Fareham Council agreed to reduce the speed limit to 30mph.

It's all change at the changing rooms thanks to council's £50,000 facelift



BOARDED UP windows, rotting fabric...and that's just the outside of the changing rooms at Locks Heath recreation ground.

But not for much longer. Fareham Council has agreed to find £50,000 to improve the appalling changing room conditions at Locks Heath recreation ground.

This is an estimate of the cost to upgrade the facilities to meet the standards defined by Sport England and to comply with the Disability and Discrimination Act.

As far as the money will stretch, the priority areas for consideration are:

- Replacement of benches and internal fixtures and fittings
- Internal redecoration
- Resurfacing of floor coverings
- Repairs to the roof
- Repair brickwork, external decoration
- Repair broken guttering and pipes
- Refurbish and redecorate toilets
- Improve ventilation

Councillor Keith Evans said: "What is really needed to support the football and cricket activities in the modern world is a new suite of changing and toilet facilities to cope with the needs for male and female teams, match officials and spectators.

"I am very pleased that these essential improvements will be completed in the short term, but I will continue to press for the full replacement to find its way into Fareham's plans."

Tories back villagers' 20mph plea

TITCHFIELD Village Trust coordinated a petition of 1,019 signatures requesting the speed limit in parts of the village be reduced to 20mph.

Fareham Conservative Councillors Connie Hockley and Francis Devonshire fully support it and will continue to push the item up the agenda.

The petition will be passed to the County Council for a decision.

Connie and Francis say the move supports the objective of preventing rat-running motorists using shortcuts through residential areas.

Conservatives' Square deal to give Fareham's 'jewel in the crown' a facelift

TITCHFIELD, often referred to as Fareham's 'jewel in the crown', is to have a facelift for its Square.

Conservative-run Fareham Council and Hampshire County Council have worked together to fund an environmental

improvement programme, which is expected to start this year and will see the resurfacing of footpaths with quality York

stone and the installation of granite kerbs. Also included in the scheme are more traditional street lighting columns.

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.....

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
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN.
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



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.

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."

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 ante-natal 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.