



# In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – SPRING 2005

**Tories' sweet chariot carries home smallest ever council tax increases**

## Swing low, low, low

**CONSERVATIVES are acclaiming a double first in Fareham and Hampshire by setting the lowest borough and county council tax rises.**

Fareham's share of the council tax bill showed just a 2.41% rise. It was the lowest tax and lowest actual increase in cash terms in the county and was below the 2.8% inflation figure for the second year running.

Hampshire's tax rise of 3.5% was its lowest ever, despite receiving the fifth lowest Government grant among all the counties.

Fareham Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward hailed it as 'a major achievement in terms of finance strategy and budgetary control'.

He said: "Despite receiving the lowest Government grant of any district in Hampshire, we continue to set the lowest council tax."

County Council Chairman John Bryant said: "We know our residents do not want steep rises in council tax, but expect excellent services. We have achieved this by efficiency gains and savings."

Presenting his sixth budget since the Conservatives took control of Fareham Borough Council in 1999, Councillor

Woodward said his aims had always been to:

- Establish and maintain a reserve equivalent to 5% of total gross expenditure. Current figure is 4.9%
- Minimise council tax rises by keeping them in line with inflation.

This has been achieved for 2005-06, thus meeting resi-

dents' requests in a recent survey.



**Seán Woodward:** "A major achievement."



**Apollo launch:** Artist's impression of the state-of-the-art cinema at Market Quay.

### THE COUNCIL TAX BILL

<b>BAND D</b>	
<b>Fareham</b>	<b>£126.27 + 2.41%</b>
<b>Hampshire County Council</b>	<b>£869.40 + 3.48%</b>
<b>Hampshire Fire and Rescue</b>	<b>£52.11 + 1.58%</b>
<b>Hampshire Police</b>	<b>£113.76 + 4.98%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,161.54 + 3.42%</b>

**Most Fareham properties are in Band C, where the council tax for 2 adults will be £112.24, an increase of just 5p a week.**

dents' requests in a recent survey.

A Liberal-Democrat move during the meeting to filch nearly £250,000 from the reserve was thrown out by the council.

Councillor Woodward continued: "At the same time, we have been able to absorb all unfunded government initiatives while freezing pay and display parking charges for the past three years."

An upbeat review by the independent Audit Commission showed Fareham to be "a good authority" - good enough to be within two points of excellent and to place the borough in the top 20% of all English district councils.

He outlined the Conservatives' high priority ambitions, which included providing a swimming pool in west Fareham, supporting building of the community hospi-

tal and development of shops, restaurants, cinemas and leisure facilities at Market Quay.

Fareham's capital programme embraced £42m of schemes over the next five years.

These included new skate parks, play areas, bus shelters, CCTV, pay-on-foot car parking, improvements to Fareham Leisure Centre, Ferneham Hall and other community buildings, a customer service centre in the Civic Offices and matched grants to external organisations.

**•If you are having difficulty paying your council tax bills, you may be eligible for council tax benefit. Phone the County Council Information Centre on 0800 028 0888 for more details.**

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



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Vaccine support

A support group for people suffering from adverse effects of Hepatitis A & B vaccines by a member of a local family who linked his arthritis to the vaccine.

There are over 150 members from the care professions and they have all received an information pack.

Contact: Ann Savage on 01329 847588 after 6pm or email: anniesavage1@aol.com

### Path clear for work

Hampshire County Council has assured Councillor Keith Evans that the stretch of Southampton Road pathway behind the top of Hunts Pond Road is definitely in this year's programme.

This is essential work on a stretch of pathway almost impossible to use, particularly after rain and when leaves have fallen.

### Ageing population

Fareham's population has reached 107,000.

But it is projected to grow by only a further 3% through to 2020.

However, the age profile will change significantly with a reduction in the young and a major increase in the 55-65 age group.

Fareham has the highest house owner occupancy in the UK.

Hampshire has the worst road congestion outside London - comparable journeys to work in Hampshire average 30% longer than in other counties in the south.

# County plan will ease roundabout congestion

**A PLAN to ease congestion at Segensworth roundabout and surrounding roads is being prepared by Hampshire County Council.**

The project will involve introduction of a one-way system, but the construction depends on the timing of finalising the Arlingtons – Solent II Agreement to secure the funding from the developers.

Segensworth Road residents say it is difficult to access the roundabout and they complain about the amount of parking at the western end of their street.

Ward Councillors Connie Hockley and Francis Devonshire have frequently asked County Highways to sort out these problems.

Now their persistence has paid off.

If all goes well, it is hoped that work will be undertaken during the summer of 2005.

“There are still quite a few hurdles to cross but we are pleased that the County Council has listened and is trying to ease the problem,” they stated.

Residents in Segensworth East and West will have noticed new road signs indicating ‘Segensworth East’ and ‘Segensworth West’.

These signs were put in at the request of some residents who had found that since the road had been almost cut in half by Cartwright Drive, visitors

and delivery drivers had difficulty in finding the appropriate number.

“We hope that by designating the Road ‘East’ and ‘West’ that these problems will be alleviated,” added Councillors Hockley and Devonshire.



Days are numbered for parking in western Segensworth Road.

### PROPOSED ROAD CHANGES AT SEGENSWORTH

- No access onto Segensworth roundabout from Barnes Wallis Road
- No exit from Segensworth roundabout into Segensworth Road
- A new one-way system which would make Barnes Wallis Road one-way from Segensworth roundabout to Witherbed Lane
- Witherbed Lane one-way from Barnes Wallis Road to Segensworth Road
- Segensworth Road one-way from Witherbed Lane to Segensworth roundabout.
- The Witherbed Lane link would be upgraded to include an off-road shared pedestrian/cycleway.
- Parking restrictions at the western end of the road leading to the Segensworth roundabout.

## Prescott goes flat out to force planning policies on the council

**FAREHAM planners rejected six applications to build flats at Park Gate.**

And each time they were overruled under policies forced on councils by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

Four were granted on appeal, the others referred to a Government inspector and then granted. The result?

- Bastins will disappear to be replaced by 40 flats.
- The garage at the Middle Road-Station Road junction will be replaced with flats.
- 30 plus flats are nearly finished in Station Road

•AVM in Botley Road has been demolished to make way for 32 flats.

•Two further developments are planned off Lower Duncan Road.

Councillor Brian Bayford said: “All these developments provide one parking space per unit and will lead to further congestion on the already overcrowded local roads and on-street parking problems.

“Residents should be aware that decisions are being made under Government instructions.

“This makes it impossible for your councillors to help and support decisions that should be judged locally.”

## An appeal for election help

Are there any Conservative Good Samaritans who would be prepared to distribute *In Touch* and election material in either Titchfield or Titchfield Common during the campaign?

If so please ring one of your ward councillors. County Council elections take place on Thursday, May 5 and your support would be very much appreciated.

## Traffic, planning top survey issues

**INITIAL feedback from the recent survey carried out by the Conservatives put traffic and planning top of the list of people's concerns.**

Other issues raised were council tax control and its value for money, more community policing and maintenance of roads and footpaths.

Results are now being analysed in detail and will be fully reported in a later edition of *In Touch*.

Councillor Keith Evans said over 20% of households had responded

and thanked those who had taken time to fill in and return the surveys.

He added: "The response to the survey gives a clear indication that the public have real concerns and are interested in local matters.

"The data from this survey will be collated and provided to the local borough councillors and to the county councillor so they are well aware of the areas and scale of concern.

"Fareham and Hampshire should listen and incorporate in their strategic plans."

## Poor recycling leads to fortnightly bin emptying

**PEOPLE have not been putting enough into recycling bins.**

They will now have to pay the penalty as the council introduces alternate weekly collections of household and garden waste to try to meet the Government's 40% target by 2006.

After an encouraging start to Project 40, where fortnightly checks showed increases up to 27% between November and January, it had now fallen back.

In view of the inadequate progress, the alternate weekly cycle will start on September 5, 2005.

Householders are reminded they can have more than one blue-top recycling bin. Contact the council on 01329 236100 or email waste@fareham.gov.uk

## Ban on drinking in public places comes into force

**POLICE and shopkeepers have welcomed the new law which came into force on March 1, banning the drinking of alcohol in certain public places.**

The Criminal Justice Police Act 2001 now gives police powers to arrest anybody who defies a request to stop drinking in a designated area.

They can also seize opened or unopened cans or bottles.

The new powers imposed by Fareham Borough Council cost about £5,000.

They have been enforced following rising levels of complaints from shoppers, residents and traders about drink-related town centre nuisance day and night.

Shopkeepers have been asked by police to help enforce the ban of drinking in the designated area.

Inspector Simon Wigglesworth, of Fareham police, has written to traders advising them on the law, saying they can report incidents by ringing 0845 045 4545; so, of course, can the public.

Cafes and pubs with tables outside are not affected.

# 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.

### 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.

### WARD COUNCILLORS

#### Titchfield

**Connie Hockley**  
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### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

#### Fareham Titchfield (Titchfield & Fareham West wards only)

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**Your man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

Under Mr Blair's Government, council tax bills have gone through the roof. Pensioners, on fixed incomes, have been hit the hardest by this stealth tax, with the hike in council tax snatching back over a third of the increase in the basic state pension for a typical pensioner. To make matters worse, if it keeps going up at the current rate, experts predict bills will hit £2,000 for the typical household if Mr Blair wins a third term in power.

I believe that increasing taxes for people who cannot afford to pay is unfair. It is unfair to people who have worked hard, always played by the rules and dutifully paid their taxes on time. Pensioners deserve to live with dignity and security when they retire.

That's why a Conservative Government will introduce an automatic discount on council tax bills for pensioners over 65 - in addition to the existing single person's discount. We will halve council tax bills both for single pensioners over the age of 65 and for pensioner couples where both people are over 65, up to a maximum £500 discount per bill. This will cut typical Band D bills in Fareham by £500.00 for a pensioner couple. We will fund this tax cut by cutting waste and bureaucracy across government, so your frontline local services will still receive the support they deserve.

This commitment is just one part of our Action Plan for pensioners. We are also committed to increasing the state pension in line with earnings, not prices, providing an extra £7 a week for single pensioners and £11 a week for couples over and above inflation by the end of our first term.

Our plans will lift the council tax burden from hard-pressed local people, helping those who have been hit hardest by Labour's tax increases.

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

**Prescott's message to travellers and gypsies...**

**Carry on camping**

**NEVER mind the filth and damage they leave behind, travellers will be able to defy local planners and set up permanent camps in the countryside if the Deputy Prime Minister gets his way.**

In yet another move to undermine the powers of local councils, John Prescott proposes a series of modifications to planning laws to give itinerant advantageous approvals for developments.

The idea will outrage council taxpayers, who already have to foot hefty legal bills for eviction orders to get rid of travellers and clear up their mess.

Mr Prescott intends to impose a duty on councils to provide transit facilities.

If they do not, then they will have no legal right to move on those who park illegally.

Councillor Brian Bayford said: "Your councillors acknowledge that there is a great difference between the true 'Romany' gypsy, who has been a feature of our culture for centuries, and the 'drop out travellers' who cause significant damage wherever they stop.

"There are some permanent gypsy sites

in Fareham that cause no problems. However, residents will be aware of the council's constant vigilance against incursions by travellers and the cost to council tax payers of clearing the damage.

"Fareham Council has expressed its grave concern to the Deputy Prime Minister that the proposals define a system that discriminates against the majority of citizens who live settled lives in their communities and pay income and council taxes."

He added: "Any proposal that allows different beneficial rules to apply to minority groups at the expense of the majority is unacceptable."



**Devastation:** This is how travellers left the Lysses site.

**Good on yer, Geoff! Litter campaign from Oz should be tried in Britain**

**DON'T be a chucker!**

"Australian, and probably one of the best captions promoting a responsible attitude to litter disposal that I have seen," says Geoff Hockley.

Anybody visiting Australia will see these signs at road junctions and along the highways.

"The marvellous thing about them is that they have actually worked.

"While there are still idiots who throw anything out of the car window, the signs have reduced the overall incidence of litter loutish behaviour substantially.

"Why can't it work here?" he asks.

There were 543 incidents of illegally dumped waste recorded in Fareham

between April 2004 and January 2005.

Disposing of fly-tipped rubbish could cost council tax payers over £19,000.

Geoff Hockley said: "Who hasn't

despaired at the amount of discarded rubbish that accrues at motorway slip roads leading into our towns?

"Who among us are socially irresponsible and continue to be a chucker? Take it home and dispose of it properly!"

Britain should follow the Aussies' example and place signs on highways and shop-



**Geoff Hockley:** 'Don't be a chucker.'

ping areas reminding people to dispose of rubbish in a responsible way.

He added: "It's largely an education problem and one that must be made to work before we flounder under a

mountain of bottles, cartons, cigarette packets and other rubbish that blights our communities."

**•If you see anyone fly-tipping, call the council's enforcement team on 01329 236100 or email waste@fareham.gov.uk**

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