

## New drinks clampdown welcomed by police

**DRINKING** alcohol and misbehaving in public places could land you in trouble anywhere in Fareham.

The Council has extended its Designated Public Places Order to cover all the Borough from June 1, 2007.

Police, who found an earlier Order designating the town centre useful in reducing nuisance, backed the move.

The Council and police gathered evidence to identify other potential areas where designation would provide relief from the impact of drink-related disorder.

Highlands, central Portchester, West End and Stubbington were identified, with Hill Head and Locks Heath also causing concern.

If an Order were made for each area, a small part of the Borough would not be covered and the risk of dispersal to nearby areas would be high, hence the Borough-wide Order.

It is an offence to drink alcohol after being asked not to by a police officer. Police may confiscate and dispose of any alcohol and containers; it is an arrestable offence to disobey an officer's request.

It is **not** an offence to have a glass of wine or beer at the family picnic on the beach or in the park **unless** it causes alcohol-related nuisance, annoyance or disorder.

# Fareham top choice for a happy family

**WE'VE BEEN** saying it for years, but now you're getting it from a renowned independent source – Fareham IS in the top six places in Britain to raise a family.

A *Reader's Digest* survey of all 408 local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales put the Borough in 6th position.

Classy Winchester came 42nd, Manchester 328th and three London boroughs at the bottom.

It was parents themselves, not councillors or officials, who came up with their own criteria.

Most important was living in a family-friendly area with good schools and hospitals, low crime rates, affordable housing and high employment.

Other factors included low flooding risk, proximity of universities, colleges, major cities, coast and country parks and climate.

The survey's findings utterly refuted a survey published by two national newspapers last October which outraged the town by placing it bottom of the list of desirable places to live because of poor employment and high crime figures.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "The results of this survey are wonderful news for Fareham. It is a really great place to raise a family, with countryside and the coast on your doorstep, along with the two larger cities of Portsmouth and Southampton close by.

"We have excellent schools and low crime rates and offer a safe and very attractive place to live.



"As well as being a great place environmentally, it is also a friendly place to live with good neighbours and supportive communities."

The Council took the *Independent on Sunday* and *Daily Mail* to the Press

Complaints commission and both printed apology letters.

Councillor Woodward added: "These letters quite clearly show that the producers of this survey made a mistake, but I am still anxious to ensure that the authors of the survey respond to us and that they explain how their data placed Fareham at the bottom of the ranking."

**•Research was carried out on behalf of *Reader's Digest* by YouGov who surveyed 1,162 parents with children under 16 in February.**

## Colours, bayonets, drums and a famous name in Falklands parade

**A VIP whose name was a top secret was to join veterans and dignitaries to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War on Saturday, May 12.**

Fareham Council scheduled the official commemoration for 11am.

Shortly before, a Royal Navy guard of honour was to exercise

HMS Collingwood's right as freemen of the Borough to march through town with bayonets fixed and colours flying.

A Drumhead Service in West Street featuring the Royal Marines Band was to precede an address by the Council's Executive Leader, Councillor Seán

Woodward, and one by a veteran of the Falklands conflict.

The VIP was to open the Falklands Arch as an entrance to the town from Market Quay car park. A formal march past was being followed by a field gun display by HMS Collingwood Volunteer Cadet Corps.



# WARD NEWS BRIEFS

## Re-elected en bloc

The committee was re-elected at Warsash Conservatives' agm as follows:

Chairman: Ann Estlin; Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mary Nadolski; Treasurer: John Pullen; Secretary: Ruth Cartwright; Membership Secretary: Teresa Huggins; Recruitment Officer: County Cllr Keith Evans; Committee: Cllr Trevor Cartwright, Mr and Mrs George Cameron, Lyn Bounds, Mary Ford, Joyce Porter.

## Social events

Trevor Cartwright gave a presentation on VT Shipbuilding at a well-supported lunch in Victory Hall, attended by Fareham MP Mark Hoban and his wife.

Next social event will be a barbeque on July 21 at Ferry House, Thornton Avenue. Call Trevor and Ruth Cartwright (01489 578519) for tickets.

## Coldeast talks

Discussions are continuing about plans for the Coldeast Hospital site.

The parties agreed a development brief was needed to provide a framework for the whole site and allow for community involvement at all stages of the brief.

It would include the approved development, possible uses of the mansion, public open space and provision of a community hospital.

Fareham Council will have full control of the contents of the final brief.

# County Council's path leads to Warsash

**FOOTPATHS** are often under fire from the public, often because of their condition or disputes over access.

Councillors Trevor Cartwright and Keith Evans have been involved in two issues in Warsash, both of which they resolved by pressurising the County Council.

## 1 Warsash Road

Traffic lights controlling a one-way system may be a temporary nuisance, but residents in Warsash Road and neighbouring streets are happy to put up with the inconvenience.

For the County Council has at last responded to complaints to resurface the pavements.

Councillor Cartwright welcomed the work as it had been one of the main complaints he had received from residents during his time on the council.

## 2 Strawberry Field

The footpath across Strawberry Field has now been fully re-instated. When this was first raised County Councillor Evans was advised that it was not a right of way, but it seems that it was constructed at a time when local authority budgets were not so constrained.

However, with some persistence, good work by the County Parks Officer and co-operation between Fareham and the County, the £4,000 cost was found and the work completed.

"A rapid and excellent outcome," summed up Councillor Evans.



**Pathways to success:** Work proceeds apace to resurface pavements in Warsash Road (top), while the Strawberry Field path has been reinstated (above).

# Eight winners in the Hamble harbourmaster's pontoon ballot



## NEW PONTOON arrangements at the Hamble harbourmaster's office are now complete.

After consultation with users, it was decided that places for tenders on the harbourmaster's pontoon should be balloted for the eight available places.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, a member of the River Hamble Management Committee, said the reasoning behind this arrangement was that previously any

member of the public could moor their tenders on the pontoon.

This led to total over-crowding and damage to both the tenders and the pontoon. The ballot took place at the recent annual forum and the successful applicants have been informed.

Councillor Cartwright said Hampshire County Council was undertaking a review on the current arrangements for the governance of the Hamble Harbour Authority.

Consultants Royal Haskoning UK Ltd have been appointed to discuss with interested parties, local yacht clubs, councils and recognised stakeholder groups.

"The aim of the review is to assess whether the objectives set out for the change in governance arrangements for the Hamble Harbour Authority have been met, and in the light of all available information, to make recommendations for improvements," he said.

## Major plan to extend Swanwick marina

**A MULTI-MILLION pound redevelopment of Swanwick Marina could centre on a new pavilion, relocation and expansion of the boatyard and new riverside housing.**

Premier Marinas are introducing the plan following their purchase of the marina in 2005.

The new pavilion would feature a chandlery, restaurant with café bar and units for boat sales and related businesses.

Berth holders could enjoy new changing rooms in the pavilion and the old pontoons would be replaced to provide modern berthing facilities.

Boatyard operations would be relocated west of the marina, with purpose-built workshops and boat lifting and handling facilities. New jobs may be created.

52 new homes could be built at the east end as a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed houses and flats, with about 35% allocated as affordable homes.

## 'Cutter Avenue must stay open until new link route is finished' – councillor's plea

**HAMPSHIRE County Council has made public the proposal to close the Cutter Avenue junction with Warsash Road.**

This is an integral part of the planned link road to Warsash Road through the old Warsash Motors site which has been delayed because of discovery of Japanese knot weed on that site and the need for remediation.

County Councillor Keith Evans has written to Hampshire requesting that the closure of Cutter Avenue is not undertaken before the new link road is available.

This would greatly increase traffic on other local roads, particularly Fleet End Road which is already a nightmare with all the parked cars.

## 'Get your act together' Keith Evans tells utility companies

**A WARSASH county councillor has demanded that utility companies get their act together.**

Lack of co-ordination between the utility companies and the Highways Agency (pavements and roads) is under fire from County Councillor Keith Evans.

He said: "All around there are white markings on roads and pavements as a prelude to some utility or another digging up the road or pavement."

"Often it's one after the other and frequently destroys some good work that has been done in resurfacing a pathway or a road."

Councillor Evans has called for the agencies to speak to each other more frequently.

In practice, the Highways agency can only protect a new surface for up to 12 months (excluding emergencies), but that is not always the case.

Keith Evans added: "More needs to be done to avoid duplicate spends, disruption of traffic and pedestrians and destruction of good surfaces."

## Action group defeats vandals



**Peace returns:** Rachel Jacobs welcomes the action group's success.

**A MAJOR community effort has led to a welcome reduction in vandalism and disorderly conduct on the Boats Estate.**

Youths, many fuelled by drink, pelted property and cars with stones and even stretched a rope across the street.

A Joint Agency Action Group was set up by the Council and police which invited residents to attend.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said residents from various roads off Schooner Way, local councillors, the police, community and anti-social behaviour officers, representatives from crime prevention, Brookfield School and the Youth Service met on April 5 to discuss the situation.

Sergeant Kevan Sitch, who chaired the meeting, said the action taken to combat problems had resulted in a considerable improvement during March.

This followed a concentrated effort by the police, the Youth Service and accredited community safety officers, aided by a portable CCTV camera.

"This is very good news. The meeting agreed on a number of actions for the future to avoid this situation occurring again and a further meeting is planned for June 2007," said Councillor Cartwright.

# WARSASH 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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## Four man in Westminster



By  
**Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

IN THE last edition of *In Touch*, I wrote about the importance of education and the seminar that I was to chair at the beginning of March.

I am delighted to say that we had an excellent turnout and a first class discussion. We had a broad cross-section of local people including governors, head teachers, teachers, parents and maths.

What I found interesting was the degree of consensus achieved from such a diverse audience and this was expressed in three main themes.

The first was the fundamental importance of getting the basics right. We could not allow children to leave school without having mastered English and maths. Basic skills are fundamental to living and working in a society that is increasingly dependant upon technology.

The second point was the need for a balanced curriculum. Whilst we must get the basics right, children need a broadly based education too. There was a concern that the emphasis on league tables and targets is skewing what is happening in our schools. There has to be time for music as well as maths!

The third theme was to recognise that every child is different and their needs vary. At every level of ability, education should be tailored to meet individual needs. Concern was expressed about the support available for children with special needs and for the most able. This led to a discussion about the choices available for young people at 16 and 18: making sure a wide range of academic and vocational courses is offered to meet the needs of those wishing to continue in education.

In an increasingly demanding world, we need to ensure that our young people are well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. As I visit local businesses, I see the increased pressure that there is for skills, but education is about much more than turning people out ready for work. As the expectations on our schools increase, it is vital we give the support that they need as they change to meet these pressures.

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# Double yellow peril alert

**WATCH OUT!**  
Fareham has almost doubled its corps of parking wardens.

And they have orders to stick one on you if you infringe regulations.

The crackdown follows the Council taking over full responsibility for parking enforcement from the police, which now covers on and off street parking.

It aims to discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability and to make sure there is safe passage through the borough.

There are currently eight parking attendants, including one supervisor, but this figure will rise to 15 with two supervisors.

From April, enforcement is taking place seven days a week with wardens working a



**Just the ticket!** But not if you're on the receiving end from one of Fareham's 15 parking attendants.

shift system

They can now to slap a penalty charge notice on any car parked in a no waiting area, an area of single or double yellow lines and they are managing off street car parks and issuing residents' and visitors' permits.

## New community action teams promised £100,000 to tackle grass roots issues

**FIVE community action teams will be set up across Fareham to encourage more grass roots public participation in shaping the borough's future.**

The Executive agreed the principle as part of the Community Engagement Strategy which should be ready for consideration in June.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Service, Performance and Improvement, said the aim was to develop greater emphasis on neighbourhood working and community engagement so local people could have more influence over local services and a greater capacity to tackle local issues for themselves.

"Fareham has always been a council committed to providing good quality services for the local community. This success has been built on a good relationship between

elected members and the local community," he said.

Community action teams, will offer the opportunity to:

- Strengthen the power of local councillors to act as advocates and leaders of the communities that they represent
- Provide information of interest and relevance to local communities, hear residents' views and provide feedback on issues raised
- Permit communities to bid for extra funding to be used on specific projects in their area
- Enable people to raise specific issues of local concern with the appropriate people

Meetings of the community action teams will be held at various venues throughout each neighbourhood and last no longer than two hours.

They will be attended by

ward councillors and will be championed by a council chief officer to provide a senior profile and ensure that any follow-up action is treated with the appropriate level of urgency and importance.

Representatives of other agencies such as the Police, Hampshire County Council, and the Primary Care Trust will also attend.

The Council will set aside a central budget of £100,000 in 2007/8 for neighbourhood initiatives and councillors will work with their community action teams to put forward bids for projects in their area.

It is proposed to appoint two new community engagement officers, supported by a community assistant, to assist the teams.

Action teams will be set up in Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, Western Wards and Fareham Town.

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