



In Touch

with our community

WARSASH – SPRING 2008

Tories hit the Government with a 'bunch of fives' over council tax

What you pay

Band D Properties will now pay £136.53 pa to Fareham Borough Council, with the total bill, including the County Council and the emergency services' share, rising to £1,329.30 pa.

Band C (the average property in the Borough), will respectively pay £121.36 and £1,181.60.

What you get

Improvements include:

- Play ranger and events programme (3 year commitment)
- Community safety initiatives
- New mechanical road sweeper
- Two more litter clearing operatives
- Improved free green waste collection service
- Free national bus pass scheme for older residents starting at 9am
- Every street and foot-path will be swept and litter picked at least once every 10 weeks.
- Grant to enable Titchfield Carnival to take place in 2008

The aims

- To maintain a spending reserve equal to 5% of total gross expenditure
- Continue to minimise the increase in the overall revenue budget, aiming for a council tax increase within inflation (currently 4.1%) to meet expectations as expressed in the residents' survey.

FAREHAM'S Conservatives have given the Labour Government a 'bunch of fives' after setting Hampshire's lowest council tax and a below inflation rise for the fifth year running.

Councillors of all parties voted in favour of a 2.98% rise in the Borough Council's share of the bill.

And that was again achieved after getting the usual pittance in the grant from the Labour Government, which allocated most of the spoils 'oop North'.

Delivering his ninth budget speech, Council Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said they had achieved this despite the government's lack of funding for the Borough.

"I have pledged certainty and stability to our taxpayers, and I have demonstrated how next year's settlement from Government was one of the meanest we have seen for some time.

"To be fair, the Government has delivered certainty and stability with the support they will grant Fareham until 2011.

All is not rosy

"John Healey MP has promised a settlement which provides 'sustained real terms increases for local government', one which is equitable and fair. It all sounds very rosy for years to come.

"But Mr Healey's idea of 'fair' for Fareham is a 0.5% increase despite inflation running at 4.1%.

"So his promise of a real terms increase doesn't seem to stretch as far as Fareham.

"It's a real terms cut which effectively doubles the savings and efficiencies this Council must deliver to fulfil its council tax pledge, which residents feel so strongly about."

So where is the extra £3 billion



Simply the best: The Royal Marines Band and Fareham's Tories have plenty to celebrate.



Seán Woodward: His 9th budget speech

earmarked for local government going?

"I can tell you that 93% of shire districts receive more Government support per

head than Fareham and the 20 most favoured district councils will all receive two to three times as much support per head as we do.

"You won't be surprised to hear that those lucky authorities are not on the south coast.

"The money has, of course, gone to those in the North – places like Lancashire (Burnley), Durham (Easington), Cumbria (Barrow-in-Furness and Wear Valley)."

Worst in Hampshire

Fareham receives just £56.09 per person in Government support – the worst settlement in Hampshire – and a long way behind neighbouring Gosport which receives £92.43 per resident.

He added: "For the fifth year in a row, the council tax increase will be below the rate of inflation, so we

can safely say that 2008 is another year when the Conservatives have dealt a bunch of fives to tax hikes."

Councillor Woodward recognised the important role the Council plays in South Hampshire by running the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) which he chairs.

Positive spin-off

This is a joint committee of 11 local authorities who are demanding adequate support to replace infrastructure in South Hampshire and to plan for the housing which the Government wants built over the next 20 years.

A positive spin-off was the £1m funding received by the Council to renovate the western end of West Street in the town centre.

Fareham leads the country with a 45% recycling rate and has also achieved its target to provide over 100 affordable homes per year which are available for low cost home ownership or for rent.

In contrast to most surrounding boroughs, no cuts have been made to Fareham's services, while £800,000 of worthwhile improvements have been introduced.

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

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Branch agm

Conservatives elected Councillor Mary Nadolski as chairman at the Warsash branch annual meeting.

Ann Estlin is vice-chairman, John Pullen treasurer, Ruth Cartwright secretary, Teresa Huggins membership secretary and Councillor Keith Evans recruitment officer

Committee members are Lyn Bounds, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, George and Madeleine Cameron, Mary Ford and Joyce Porter. The social calendar was discussed. Fareham MP Mark Hoban attended.

Better behaved

A final meeting of Schooner Way Joint Action Agency Group took place in January.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright reported that over the last 12 months vandalism and anti-social behavior had been reduced from 25 incidents of either criminal damage or rowdy behaviour down to one.

This was achieved by raising the area's profile through the group which helped to identify long-term strategies to help resolve anti-social behaviour issues.

Pilot scheme goes on

A pilot County Council scheme allowing local councillors to allocate grants to organisations in their area will run for another year.

Councillor Keith Evans supported using £5,000 of the £10,000 he was allocated towards the Victory Hall redecoration.

Outrage over massive gravel grab plan for Chilling

Cliff-hanger



Photo by David Brims

Environmental disaster: Sand and gravel would be gouged out of the fields (top right) up to the edge of the cliffs at Solent shore (above).

PROPOSALS to extract 8 million tons of sand and gravel from a 740-acre (300 hectares) site bordering the Solent at Chilling have outraged residents and councillors.

Chilling and Brownwich Farms south of Warsash Road were identified by Hampshire County Council while updating the strategic plan for the extraction of land based minerals and for the provision of landfill sites to meet Government requirements.

But the suggestion, which would see land gouged out right to the cliffs looking across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, resulted in massive opposition from the community who say it will destroy countryside and wildlife.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "Residents were alarmed at the proposals and quickly formed a local action group that they called CAMEL (Campaign Against Mineral Extraction and Landfill).

"The response to this has been magnificent with hundreds of formal letters of objection being sent to Hampshire and a public meet-

ing attended by more than 800. "The farms were acquired by the County Council several years ago specifically to protect this area of coastline and to retain and develop it for the benefit of the public. "In fact, at entrances to the area there are colourful Hampshire signs proudly proclaiming the good job the County has done - and they have with footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and wildlife and a long stretch of the Solent Way along the cliff edge giving magnificent views over the Solent.



Gateway to disaster: (left to right) Keith Evans, Mary Nadolski and Trevor Cartwright oppose the plan for the land behind them.

Blighted for 20 years



Photo by David Brims

"If Hampshire sells this land for extraction it will be blighted for up to 20 years with an estimated one million large lorry movements over that time finding ways to get to the A 27 and the M 27.

"Inevitably lorry drivers on tight schedules will seek out any shortcut or bypass they can find - Hunts Pond Road, Abshot Road, Warsash Road, Titchfield Road etc.

"And at the end of all this disruption we will most likely be left with a dramatically different area - probably a wetland habitat with much reduced public amenity access."

Local Councillors Trevor Cartwright and Mary Nadolski have all opposed using these sites and Councillor Evans has had separate meetings with Hampshire officers to ensure they understand just what will be destroyed and how much the area is used by public both local and further afield.

Councillor Evans added: "We hope that Hampshire listens to the public and resists Government pressures and recognises this area an unofficial country park that must be retained for the benefit of the Hampshire public.

"Our message is - Don't destroy our countryside."

•email CAMEL at camelsolent@aol.com or log on to the web site www.camelsolent@aol.com

Mary pitches in to help soccer club

A LOCAL youth football club wants to take over the running of a derelict pitch at Osborne Road recreation ground.

Councillor Mary Nadolski said the quality of the playing surface had deteriorated so badly after years of constant use that it had been closed for the past two seasons.

But promise of remedial work sparked interest from Warsash Wasps Junior Sports and Football Club.

Mrs Nadolski said a pro-

fessional survey by the sports TURF Institute had recommended measures to restore the pitch quality and the remedial work would begin in April 2008.

Warsash Wasps, who have an excellent reputation, want to take on the licence of managing the football pitch and pavilions, initially for a one-year trial and would start when the remedial works had been completed.

The site will remain a public open space.

River bank bins to boost recycling

A RECYCLING scheme along the River Hamble involving the Harbour Authority, Royal Yachting Association, Eastleigh, Fareham and Hampshire Councils is being piloted for a year.

Councillor Mary Nadolski said an 8-week trial period was carried out at MDL Marina in Port Hamble, and as a result and as a result it was proposed that small on-street recycling bins be placed near the Harbour Master's office/car park.



Discussions are taking place with the Conservation Manager at Hampshire County Council on the possibility of screening the bins.

•Picture: Mary Nadolski and branch secretary Ruth Cartwright check one of the bin sites at Warsash.

Problem of Warsash 'road to nowhere' weeded out at last

THE KNOTTY problem of the 'road to nowhere' has been unravelled at last.

Completion of the final stage of the long-overdue distributor road between Dibles Road and Warsash Road is scheduled to start in April.

It was held up for two years when it was discovered that Japanese knotweed had invaded the key former Warsash

Motors site which is the planned link on to Warsash Road.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said the County Council had told him that chemical treatment had finally eradicated the knotweed and work could go ahead.

"This should solve the problems encountered in using the present exit



Manning the barricades: Councillors Mary Nadolski and Trevor Cartwright hope it will be for the last time.

from the 'Boats Estate' through Cutter Avenue, which was never intended to be an access road.

"Owing to the amount of traffic, it is difficult to turn into Cutter Avenue from Schooner Way and, more importantly, the junction with Warsash Road is extremely dangerous because of the poor visibility around the bend in the road."

Councillor Cartwright has pursued Hampshire County Council for some time to keep to their promise that the new road will be completed by the end of summer 2008.

When the new carriageway has been completed, Cutter Avenue will be closed at the junction with Warsash Road.

Police chief sends top crooks a personal message

CRIMINALS and drug dealers can expect to get their collars felt by the police any time.

Fareham Chief Inspector Steve Wallace knows who they are and sent the top 9 on his list a personal Christmas card, complete with his business card and details of current Police accommodation.

He stated: "We know them and they

know us. They will be getting even more attention this year so it is only fair to warn them that my officers and staff cannot wait to make their lives as difficult as possible."

Fareham Council's annual survey shows that 89% perceived low crime is what makes Fareham a good place and 96% of residents think it is a safe and healthy place in which to live.

CATs prove a popular forum for residents

THE THIRD round of Community Action Team (CATs) meetings was due to be held in March.

Executive Member for Service, Performance & Improvement Councillor Trevor Cartwright said the high level of attendance had been encouraging and proved to be the ideal forum for listening to questions, concerns and residents' ideas.

As well as elected officers and members of Fareham Council, representatives from the police, County Council, Primary Care Trust and the local strategic partnerships have attended, giving residents another chance to meet those who provide their local services.

Do be alarmed

ALL Fareham's elderly can sign up for 'tele-care' which provides alarms and sensors to help them live safely and independently.

The scheme costs between £3 and £3.50 per week.

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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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

IF YOU LISTEN to the forecasters, it would appear we are entering uncertain economic times. The credit crunch, which kicked off in the US, is having its impact here with many homeowners facing higher interest rates.

This compounded with higher energy prices and increasing taxes means that many people face a reduction in living standards.

Sadly, this means for many people real challenges in paying bills and meeting mortgage repayments. We started to see evidence of this last year with repossessions increasing by 21% compared to 2006. Nationally, the Citizens' Advice Bureau is receiving more and more queries about debt and seeing 6,600 new debt problems a day.

The Government is compounding the problem through higher taxes. Because of a shortfall in Government funding and despite the best efforts of councils like Fareham, we will see council tax bills rise faster than inflation. More tax changes in April such as the doubling of the 10 pence rate to 20 pence will hit young people and those in their early 60s hard. The Government can do little to help those finding it hard to make ends meet because it borrowed so much in the good times that it has to keep a tight grip on spending and taxes in the more uncertain times we are in now. Prudent management of the nation's finances would have given us much more room for manoeuvre. The Government has let hardworking families down.

If you need help to manage finances, you should contact the CAB or the Consumer Credit Counselling Service or approach your bank and building society.

Mismanagement of the economy by Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling has a knock-on effect on our own finances. Their failure to prepare for a rainy day means that the heavens could open on us.

•You may contact Mark via his office
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Higher police profile leads to 13% Fareham crime fall



CRIME figures for Fareham have fallen dramatically, thanks to higher profile policing and a crackdown on blackspots.

"We have invested heavily in more bike and foot patrols and hope you have seen a difference," said Borough Commander Chief Inspector Steve Wallace.

Figures show a 13% decrease for 2007-08 and surveys showed 89% of residents perceive low crime as making Fareham a good place to live.

"It is safe after dark in Fareham - most violent offences occur between parties who are known to each other.

"Criminal damage and graffiti are down 23% and are a top priority. There are very few drug related problems in Fareham and a zero tolerance approach," said Chief Inspector Wallace.

"The Borough alcohol ban is very effective and we can show it has reduced rowdy and drunken behaviour. Supply to juveniles is also a top priority. Unfortunately, parents often provide the alcohol and some licensed premises sell to juveniles.

"We also carry out regular truancy patrols calling on regular absentees at home.

"We want to know what your neighbourhood priorities are. Parking, speeding and littering are the main issues raised. We target speeding hotspots you raise and 27 tickets were



issued on one day alone.

"Accidents are down and any speeding enforcement is based on accidents and speeding data," he said.

He appealed for more community intelligence and asked people to use the Crimestoppers 0800 555111 number.

Fareham Police and the Community Safety Partnership are committed to make Fareham even safer, with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams offering a local presence.

"One final plea... too many crimes read 'Bike left unlocked', 'Satnav stolen from unlocked car', 'Entry via unlocked rear door'...

"We need your help to prevent offences as most crime in Fareham is opportunist.

"We do catch and charge a lot of criminals, but it is no secret that imprisonment is often a last resort for the courts and many are released early. My advice is to avoid becoming a victim if at all possible."

Council wins extended bus pass times

OVER 60s and those with qualifying disabilities will benefit from an extension to the hours of the new national bus concession.

Free travel will apply from 9am until 12.59am Monday to Friday for journeys which start within the borough of Fareham.

This is an extra two and a half hours' free travel each day as well as the statutory minimum (which is from 9.30am until 11pm Monday to Friday and all times at weekends and bank holidays).

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward, said:

"We have successfully negotiated this extension with bus operators to allow bus pass holders to travel

free from 9am, which is important for those who have doctors' and hospital appointments."

From April 1, people who qualify will be able to enjoy free off-peak local bus travel on buses anywhere in England.

Existing pass holders do not need to reapply; their new pass will be sent to them by March 31.

The new national passes will be valid for five years. There will be two types:

Passes with a blue stripe down the right-hand side are for the over 60s.

Those with the orange strip are for disabled residents.

In addition to the national standard scheme, Fareham will continue to provide £35 worth of tokens for an administration fee of £5.

This concession is available to eligible disabled residents and those currently in receipt of travel tokens.

It is offered as an alternative to the bus pass and is renewable annually.

Companion passes are available for disabled persons who cannot travel alone. They allow holders and one companion to travel free within and directly to and from the borough of Fareham.

As this concession is provided solely by Fareham Council, it cannot be used in other areas of England. Those eligible will receive two passes – a national standard pass and a Fareham Council pass.