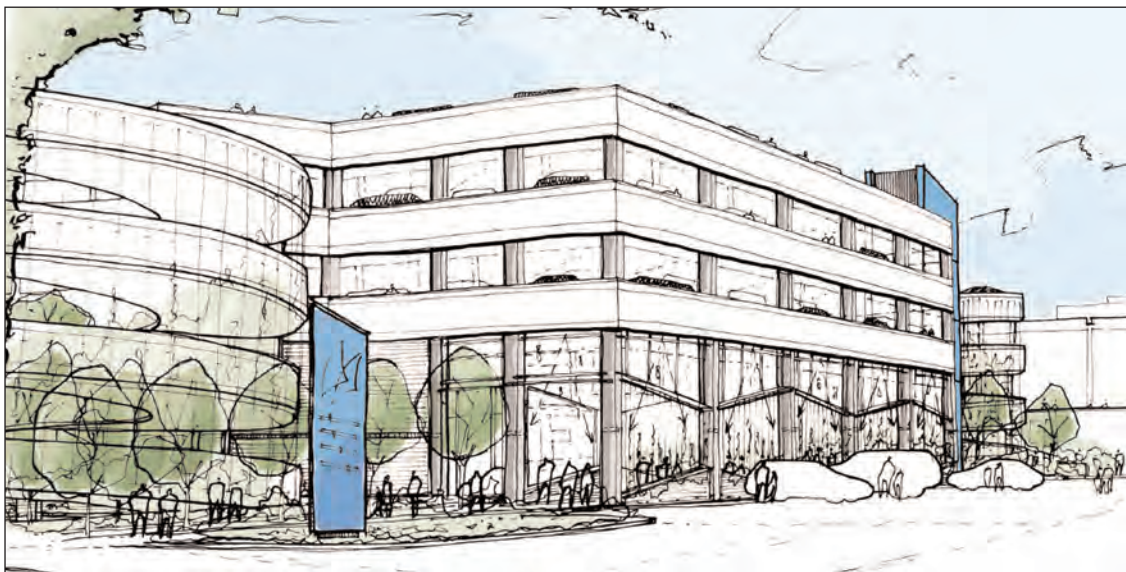


Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



New look: An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is a useful addition to the town centre."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Ferneham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Restructuring

A new structure for Networkfareham has been proposed.

Chairman Councillor Trevor Cartwright said membership might comprise seven local partnerships with up to nine representatives serving on the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

The seven partnerships would be: Community Safety, Children and Young People, Health & Wellbeing, Housing, Local Development Framework, Economic Development and Community.

Shore views

The public have been given the chance to comment about recreational activities along Fareham's shoreline.

The questionnaire concentrates on the area between Monks Hill and Meon Shore in Hill Head.

It seeks residents' views on facilities such as the play area, litter bins, toilets, cleanliness of the beach and car parking. The Council also wants to find out what activities people come to the coastline to take part in.

Erosion fears

Councillor Trevor Cartwright and County Councillor Keith Evans have told the County Council about the significant erosion to the Solent Walk, especially near the Solent Breezes Mobile Home Park in Warsash, which is heavily used by the public and where there are concerns about health and safety.

It's all in a day's work for Hamble's harbourmaster

IT MAY not have been 'jolly fine boating weather' as they sing at Eton, but harbourmaster Tony Clatworthy and his staff have been as busy as ever with incidents up and down the River Hamble.

Patrols have dealt with yacht collisions, a suspected fire, boats with ropes round their propellers and even rescued a dog.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, reporting on the June meeting of the River Hamble Management Committee, said there were also several engine failures resulting in the patrols towing vessels to their moorings and grounded boats.

"They have issued warnings to



Busy: Hamble harbourmaster's launch is always ready.

speeding Ribs, investigated stolen tenders and dealt with children jumping from Bursledon Bridge and both Hamble and Warsash jetties.

"These instances show just how hard the harbourmaster and staff work during the busy summer months to ensure everyone's safety," he said.

Changes proposed to Aspen Avenue school safety route scheme



THE Safer Routes to School Scheme included construction of a 'build-out' opposite the school at the junction with Aspen Avenue to improve visibility for pedestrians.

Formal consultation for the parking restrictions will be publicised shortly.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright and County Councillor Keith Evans met the County Council after complaints from residents and agreed the size of the construction at the entrance into Aspen Avenue could be reduced.

When parking restrictions are in place, the County Council and the police will be asked to check safety aspects.

In the main, gas work was more like guess work

IT WAS all set for major footpath improvements to be carried out at Chestnut Way, off Warsash Road, during June and July.

Then at the last minute, the gas men came to call on the Council.

Southern Gas declared they also wanted to carry out mains work in the same area, so the footpath had to be

Priority patrols shift hooligan problems to a different area

POLICE have reduced the number of vandalism incidents in Schooner Way.

The neighbourhood was designated a priority patrol area between January and June 2007.

But targeting Schooner Way seems to have shifted the problem elsewhere, said Warsash Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

He was reporting on the Joint Agency Action Group meeting at the Lockwood Centre on June 22.

It was attended by the police, community safety officers, local residents, and representatives from Brookfield School and the Youth Service.

He commented: "As a result of the targeting of Schooner Way, the Locks Heath Centre trouble incidents have increased and further meetings will be arranged to address this problem.

postponed until September.

County Councillor Keith Evans said: "This is an improvement because normally the gas or electricity companies dig up the roads and footpaths after major improvements.

"In this case it is just luck – yet another example where more co-ordinated planning is required."

No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council

MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.

Nor will the Borough Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the other extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said: "Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, have exaggerated the problems and suggested that voters should support any opposition party offering to change the service.

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all political parties understand that it is essential in the interests of the environment and the saving of energy to encourage and increase recycling.

"It is accepted that some opposition parties will promise to make changes. When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07. The target for 2010 is 50%.

£2.6m to ease traffic flows

WORK starts at the end of the summer to ease Segensworth Roundabout traffic flows.

Developers, including those at Solent Business Park, will contribute £2m towards the £2.65m cost and work is expected to last 5 months.

Fears over tower loss

WIDESPREAD concern over plans by the owners of Locks Heath Shopping Centre to demolish the landmark clock tower brought 400 residents flocking to a public meeting in the Community Centre.



Packed: Residents turn out in force at the public meeting. Inset: the tower

It was called and chaired by Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Council, and attended by Western Wards councillors, directors of shopping centre owners Stockland Halladale, their architects, the shopping centre manager and planning chiefs.

Plans include several new shops, a KFC drive-thru restaurant and turn-

ing the area behind the clock tower into a disabled car park. There were fears the car park would have a time limit and no free parking, and that the Council's proposal for a public swimming pool and private fitness facility would be lost.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "The meeting was amazingly well attended showing

the real concerns of residents in Warsash about aspects of Halladale's proposals.

"I urge all concerned people to respond to the planning department's consultation when the plans are submitted and to make sure that their ward councillors receive copies of their letters."



County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

VOLUNTARY organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets that the County Council has aimed at supporting voluntary organisations and community groups.

County Councillor Keith Evans said: "These grants are intended to benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, local environment projects, community safety etc and it is an excellent move by the County to recognise the critical importance of local knowledge when assessing many of these applications."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at www.hants.gov.uk/grants

Organisations and groups can apply by requesting an application form from Councillor Evans or by downloading a form from the grants website.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or groups affiliated to a political party or from lobbying organisations.

Hook outfall quality improvement

SOUTHERN Water has bought 0.2 acres of land adjoining Hook Pumping Station from the County Council and will spend about £2.5m to improve the quality of water being pumped into the Solent, including outfall improvement.

Survey shows Warsash road changes benefits

ROAD, footpath and river front changes resulted in some strongly held views, particularly regarding the reversal of traffic direction in Shore Road, Warsash.

Councillor Keith Evans said: "I have received positive comments about the quality of work and materials, but concerns remained about the impact of these changes on the volume of traffic movements and speeds."

The County Council recently completed two separate one-week traffic surveys, producing welcome findings.

- Traffic movements along Shore Road have increased in line with general traffic increase across the County.

- Movements along lower Shore Road have not increased since the 2004 survey and are 40% lower than those recorded in the 1998 survey.

- Speeds show little variation. During the two survey periods no car exceeded the 30 mph limit.

The other benefit in lower Shore Road is that the new road layout has forced vehicles into the centre of the road away from the cottages

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

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

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Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

THOUSANDS packed the town centre to cheer Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the Falklands 25 years ago.

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



Marching in memory: Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



Lest we forget: Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

Council offers chance to public to air views

AN INITIATIVE designed to ensure the Council understands community needs will start in Fareham in September.

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) led by ward councillors, will be set up to meet across the borough.

The CATs meetings will be held from 7pm to 8.30pm and the local venues are:

Titchfield – Wednesday, September 19 at Titchfield Community Centre

Western Wards – Tuesday, September 25 at Sarisbury Green Community Centre

Executive Member for Service Performance and Improvement, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, said:

"These neighbourhood meetings offer our residents

an excellent opportunity to find out about developments we're proposing for their communities, as well as discussing local issues.

"It will give us the chance to hear from the public and for them to hear from us and, hopefully, make a difference."

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