



In Touch

with our community

WARSASH – 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.

Stone Pier Yard

Following the last *In Touch* report concerning the appeal against Fareham Council's refusal to allow modifications to the marina and relocation of the fuel barge, the Planning Inspectorate has written to say that the applicant has withdrawn the appeal.

Go for a grant

Voluntary groups could benefit from the Council's Community Grant Scheme.

Groups can apply for funds between £100 and £1500 to support community play, sport or leisure opportunities within the Borough.

Two types of grants are available:

Fast Track – applications for grants up to £500 can be made all year round with a decision in 8-10 weeks.

Bi-annually – applications up to £1,500 are invited with a closing date of June 30, 2007.

Review to be carried out on running of the River Hamble

A REVIEW of how the River Hamble is administered should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board told the November meeting about the County Council's proposals for a review of the present governance arrangements for the river, including the process and timetable for carrying it out.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, who represents Fareham Council on the River Hamble Management Committee, said the County Council undertook a comprehensive review in 2004 to determine the most appropriate governance structure to support the management and decision making functions of the harbour authority.

The revised governance regime for the River Hamble was established in May 2005 which provided for a Harbour Board as an executive committee of the County Council.

It was accepted that it would be good practice to review the effectiveness of the structure after two years.

In May 2006, the Department for Transport issued the Municipal Reports Review 'Opportunity for Ports in Local Authority Ownerships', which made significant recommendations for the governance of municipal ports.

"In light of the Department for Transport's recommendations, and the Council's own changes, there is a strong case to be

made for starting a review of the Hamble Harbour Authority governance at the earliest opportunity," said Councillor Cartwright.

A steering group comprising senior representatives from the County Council's Chief Executive's department, the Environment Department and the Recreation and Heritage Department will oversee the review process, which will be carried out by an externally appointed person.

A report on the review will be placed before the County Council as soon as possible.



Landmark: The harbourmaster's office at Warsash administers day-to-day running of the busy River Hamble.

The sound of silence descends over Hook

A STRICT schedule has been drawn up by Fareham Council in the wake of its ban on model aircraft flying from Hook recreation ground.

The ban applies to all model internal combustion engine planes and only aircraft belonging to members of South Coast Silent Flyers' Club will be allowed to operate there in future – and then only at permitted times.

It followed protests from villagers whose lives were made a misery by noisy model planes, several of which crashed and damaged property.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, who took up the residents' cause, attended a meeting in November to discuss the future of model flying at the recreation ground after a three-month trial.

Councillor Cartwright said: "Self-regulation is essential to ensure the continued success of the club and secure the future of the site for model flying.

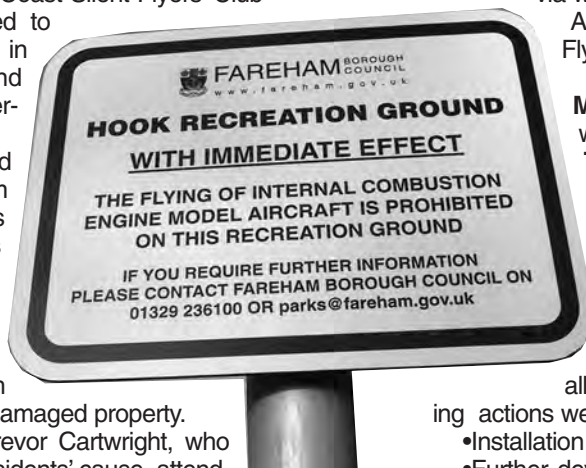
"There will be a point of contact for residents and the football club to communicate with the flying club via website/e-mail/telephone."

A further meeting will be held in April. Flying times are as follow:

- Monday:** 10.00 – dusk or 20.30 whichever is earlier
- Tuesday:** NO FLYING
- Wednesday:** Noon – dusk or 20.30
- Thursday:** NO FLYING
- Friday:** 10.00 – dusk or 20.30
- Saturday:** Noon – dusk or 20.30
- Sunday:** 15.00 – dusk or 20.30

The football club has priority over all other activities on this site. The following actions were also agreed:

- Installation of additional signs on site.
- Further development of the flying club and production of a club website.
- All residents to be informed of the latest arrangements.



Green cone trial to tackle food waste



ENTER the green cone to get in on food waste recycling act.

Volunteers are testing a new 'green cone' food waste composter over the next 6 months.

The sealed system is claimed to dispose of food waste without flies or vermin gaining access. If successful it would remove large amounts of waste from the green wheelie bins.

Problems are still being experienced with flats where there is considerable pollution of the recycling containers.

Extra advice will be given to these residents and there will be a 'door-step' advice service on recycling and help to deal with problems during the summer heat wave.

Harbour dues working group's recommendations are accepted

A WORKING group, chaired by County Councillor Seán Woodward, has considered the question of harbour dues and whether canoes and kayaks should pay them.

The group looked at the advice given previously by the Director of Environment, information supplied by the Marine Director and the arrangements for charging that apply in several neighbouring harbours.

It also invited comments from river users and the public, including those made at a public meeting. The Group concluded that:

- (i) Supervision charges should be subsumed into a single system of harbour dues.
- (ii) The appropriate amount of harbour dues should be set by type of mooring.
- (iii) There should be no system of discounts and no named supervision activities.
- (iv) While all other existing and new harbour dues should continue to apply, vessels without engines or sails that are being rowed or paddled should be exempt from payment.
- (v) Current exemptions, eg for craft under 3 metres in length (unless they have engines of 10 hp or above) and for craft being used for charitable purposes, should continue to apply.
- (vi) Subject to the above proposals being accepted by the Harbour Board, they should be given widespread publicity.

County Councillor Woodward said: "There was widespread concern that the Harbour Authority was not consulting the users of the river on significant policy issues.

"I shared that concern and believe that we have listened and recommended significant changes which the Harbour Authority has agreed to implement."

Trevor reports on a year of achievements

FAREHAM Borough Council can be proud of a wide range of achievements in 2006, writes Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

The Customer Services Centre opened in June and more services have come on-line since.

It provides a one-stop shop for all inquiries, so customers with several queries spanning the work of different departments are, wherever possible, dealt with by one advisor.

Latest figures show Fareham's recycling rate has increased to 40% – Hampshire's highest – showing our commitment to improving the environment.

The arrival of Accredited Community Safety Officers, who support the Council's uniformed enforcement officers, is proving a great success in keeping the Borough clean, and the 'zero tolerance' message that litter dropping and dog fouling are unacceptable and on-the-spot fixed penalty notices of £50 will be issued, with prosecutions if necessary, is being taken seriously.

Fareham was awarded a Gold and Silver Gilt in last year's South and South-East In Bloom awards. It was the third consecutive year the Council had won, but the first time gold was awarded to the Borough as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign.

We also received the only regional award from the Royal Horticultural Society for consistent good practice and excellence throughout the Borough.

New objectives were established and worked on by officers and have been the subject of a consultation process which was reported to the Executive in January. The final version of the Corporate Vision and Objectives will be presented in February.

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.

WARD COUNCILLORS Warsash



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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
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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

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."



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.

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 antenatal 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.