



## Conservatives

# In Touch

with our community

PORTCHESTER – SUMMER 2010

### Sue thanks Ernie Crouch and West Ward supporters



Sue Bell wishes former Councillor Ernest Crouch a happy retirement.

**COUNCILLOR SUE BELL wishes to thank all of the residents of Portchester West who voted for her in the recent Borough Council elections.**

"Whether you voted for me or not I will do my best to serve you as Ward Councillor for Portchester West and respond to your problems as quickly as I can.

"I have been appointed to the Community Policy Development and Review Panel, the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee, the Streetscene Panel and Policy Development and Review Panel.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Councillor, Ernest Crouch, for his advice and support. I am sure residents would join with me to thank Ernie for his 30 years of dedicated service to the Borough and its residents."

Ernie was ward councillor from 1979-95 and 1996-2010 and was Mayor of Fareham 1990-91 and 2008-09.

A special Council meeting will be held in July when Ernie will be added to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen.

#### RESULT

<b>SUE BELL (Con)</b>	<b>1,856</b>
East (Lib Dem)	1,566
Ricketts (Lab)	406
Cunningham (Ind)	218
White (UKIP)	199
Maj	290
<b>Turnout 73%</b>	

## Axe for 'garden grabbers' as Tory planning reforms bite

**GARDEN grabbing planning policies set by Labour are among the first to be axed by the Government, thanks to Conservatives laying the foundations.**

The Coalition wasted no time getting rid of six unpopular measures and two pieces of unwanted guidance.

As moves to transfer planning powers away from remote Whitehall mandarins and back to local councils gather pace, Councillor Nick Walker, chairman of Fareham Council's Planning Committee, commented:

"They must be congratulated for their swift action on planning issues that have frustrated councils and residents alike. They promise that further changes are on the way. This can only be good."

He welcomed the decision by Greg Clark, the minister responsible for decentralising decision making, to scrap minimum density targets on new development; he has already issued a new planning policy statement to that effect.

Mr Clark also made changes allowing councils to reduce dramatically 'garden grabbing' where gardens have been lost to inappropriate development.

"For years, the wishes of local people have been ignored as the character of neighbourhoods and gardens has been destroyed, robbing communities of vital green space," said Councillor Walker.

It will allow Fareham Council to resist developers building high density one or two bedroom flats where the need is for family houses.

Before the election, the Conservative green paper promised to scrap the South East Plan, but councils would be expected to base their plans on what they submitted to the plan rather than what was forced upon them by Whitehall.

### Civic salute to armed forces



Fareham honoured our servicemen and women on Armed Forces Day with a ceremony in the town centre on June 21.

A parade was led by Royal Marines drummers and the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Brian Bayford, took the salute while the Armed Forces flag was raised over the town, to remain in place for the week.

They also said they would introduce laws allowing objectors to appeal against decisions to approve planning applications that were contrary to a council's published plan.

Councillor Walker added: "It will take time to implement all their ideas but they have made several good starts.

"Already, Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) has issued a letter saying that decisions on housing supply - including provision for gypsies and travellers - will rest with local planning authorities rather than the government.

"Planning inspectors must now take this statement as a material consideration at appeals."

### Fareham's bid for silverware in prestige national contest

**GREEN fingers are being crossed to see whether Fareham can win a prize in the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom contest.**

The town was invited to enter because of its repeated successes in the South &

SE England in Bloom.

Judges from South & SE England in Bloom will be in Fareham at the end of July, but the results will not be known until mid-September.

The town will be judged on August 4 in the Britain in Bloom competition, with the

results being announced at a ceremony held by the RHS at the end of September.

Fareham in Bloom gardens open day will be on Sunday, July 25 and the presentation evening will be at Ferneham Hall in October.

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

## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Information day

This event is organised by the police to bring the community together by providing multi-agency information, raising funds for a community Christmas tree.

It will take place on August 7 at Portchester Precinct 10 am - 4 pm.

It will also promote our Safer Neighbourhood Team, provide residents with The Policing Pledge and contact detail of the SNT Team.

Please come along to what should be an informative and fun event.

### CAT meeting

About 90 people attended the Community Action Team meeting at Wicor School on June 17.

Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Council's website.

CAT meetings were set up to inform about developments proposed for the area and for you to tell us what's good about where you live and what needs improving.

Ward councillors attend if you wish to raise issues with them.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 26 at 7pm at Portchester Parish Hall.

### Play Ranger events

Free Play Ranger events will take place at parks and open spaces across the Borough offering children and their parents an opportunity for natural play ideas.

Call Sue Mills on 01329 824518 for more details.

# Demolish run-down Wicor changing rooms and rebuild, urges councillor

**A PLEA to demolish the ageing changing rooms at Wicor Recreation Ground and rebuild them has been made by a Portchester councillor.**

Councillor Sue Bell told a meeting of Fareham Council's Community Review Panel that it was the only real option due to the huge amount of work needed to repair and modernise the building.

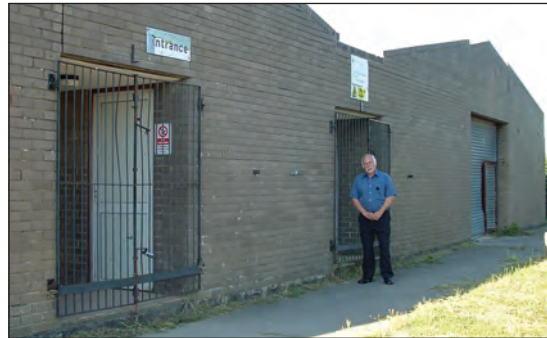
It is in such poor condition that boilers could not store hot water to temperatures high enough to control bacteria that could cause Legionaire's Disease, and they had to be shut down.

By last year, 31 of the 38 cold water showers had packed up and all were removed. Now, players and officials cannot even take a cold shower.

The panel was told the 40 to 50-year-old building comprised 12 changing rooms, each with showers and toilets, but replacing the heating system alone would cost £100,000.

Asbestos in the textured ceiling coatings was another danger when plaster frequently collapsed due to leaks in the roof.

The building is also way below



**Worn out:** Planning committee chairman Councillor Nick Walker inspects decrepit Wicor changing rooms.

disabled access standards. Adjoining public toilets have not functioned for the past 10 years.

Three options were discussed:

**1 Do nothing** – Minimal works would be undertaken to address health and safety issues, but the building would still incur sizeable on-going costs and eventually have to be closed. Some local leagues might no longer use the site, which could impact on pitch availability in the Borough.

**2 Refurbishment** – Demolition of the western half of the building, which is rarely used, with the loss of four changing rooms.

This could result in an amended internal layout, with the number of team changing rooms reduced to between 6 and 8. The area demol-

ished could either be returned to grass or additional car parking provided.

Existing pitched and flat roofs would need to be replaced, adding significantly to the cost.

Before preliminary feasibility work, it is estimated that such a project would cost of between £600,000 and £750,000.

**3 Rebuild** – The Football Foundation would require the case for refurbishment

to be considered, evaluated and ruled out for valid reasons before considering the new build option.

It has indicated support for the refurbishment or rebuild at Wicor as it has been identified as one of Hampshire FA's high priority sites.

The Foundation cannot, however, guarantee it will be able to provide funding or, if so, what percentage of the total cost it could afford.

Initial discussions suggest that the Council should budget for a maximum contribution from the Football Foundation of 40%.

A capital budget of £14,000 is available for feasibility work at Wicor and it was proposed to use some of this to fund a study.

A report will be made to the Executive later this year.

## Local community volunteers honoured

**PORTCHESTER residents were among those recognised for their outstanding work for the community when they received Fareham Citizens of Honour awards.**

The awards were presented to this year's winners – David Redwood, Pam Chisham, Ian Boucher, Alan Simpson, Briony Stephens (aged 18) and William Luckett (aged 11) – at the mayor making ceremony at Ferneham Hall on May 13.

**Pam Chisham** has carried out voluntary work for Fareham allotments, running two shops and helping Portchester allotments for many years. She has been a member of the Fareham in Bloom working group, runs school garden clubs and regularly visits schools in Portchester to help with gardening projects.

**Alan Simpson** has worked selflessly for the benefit of Portchester, organising and running the Portchester Gala for many years, helping to bring the community together.

**David Redwood** has been a stalwart member of the Friends of Holly Hill, becoming chairman in 2001 and holding the position of chairman or secretary every year since.

**Ian Boucher** is a very enthusiastic and dependable special constable, who devotes a significant amount of his own time to policing duties in the Fareham district.

**Briony Stephens**, who won the Young Citizen of Honour (12-18 years) award, has helped voluntarily at SNAP discos for the past five years, organising events in her own time. This is the last year that Briony can help out as she is going to university.

**William Luckett**, who won the Young Citizen of Honour (4-11 years) award, is a keen peer mentor at Cams Hill School in Fareham, and was nominated for the award by his friends. He is known at school to be a kind and considerate pupil, who is always the first to attend to someone in need.

## Leader's tribute to Jim

**Tributes have been paid to former Fareham Mayor and ex-councillor Jim Murray, who died last month aged 80.**

Council Leader Seán Woodward described him as a man who devoted his time to public service.

Along with retired Councillors Ernest Crouch (Portchester West) and Mike Godrich (Locks Heath), he was due to be made an honorary alderman for his 26 years' service as a councillor and this will be conferred posthumously later this summer.

Jim Murray had been chairman of governors at Cams Hill School.

## His battle to stop 'silly hours' on the buses

A PETITION aimed at drumming up support to cut bus drivers' hours has already collected over 300 signatures.

Portchester Conservatives' chairman Geoff Fazackarley, who is a bus controller, says working 'silly hours' is dangerous.

"There are so many accidents caused by drivers because they are so tired that this issue needs to be addressed," he stated.

"As a driver you will work 5 1/2 hours without a break, get 35 minutes off and then do another 4 1/2 on again or a longer break if your doing 13 hours plus."

As well as starting the petition, Geoff wrote to Fareham Conservative MP Mark Hoban, who contacted Transport Minister Norman Baker.

He asked why UK bus drivers can't be like those in all other EU countries and drive for 9 hours, with 11 hours off between shifts.

Geoff added: "We are waiting a response from the Minister. I'm fighting for national, not just local, passenger safety here."

## Jubilant Geoff celebrates filling of another pothole



**Full-filled:** Portchester Conservatives' chairman Geoff Fazackarley gives the thumbs up in Jubilee Avenue after getting Hampshire Highways to fill in this pothole – one of many left by the winter freeze-up.

## Panel looks at ways to deal with big freezes

**THE County Council is carrying out an exhaustive review to see how to respond better if extreme weather occurs again in our area.**

A review panel is gathering evidence and comments from a wide range of authorities and groups.

Some of the facts revealed so far include:

- Even with double the recommended levels of salt reserves (we had 12 days' worth), the County was down to just a day's supply at one stage

- As the emergency progressed, Hampshire was receiving only 10% of the re-supply that the government said

it should get

- The County gave support to some neighbouring counties and towns

- Highways are closely examining the implications of increasing the road clearance programme and to ensure that important locations such as large schools, hospitals, large health centres, major employment centres etc are future priority targets.

- Agreements are also under consideration to help with the clearance of bus depots and large car parks.

- There will be a very significant increase in the number of local grit bins.

## Have your car steam cleaned while you shop

**MOTORISTS who park in Council car parks will soon be able to have their cars steam cleaned while they shop.**

Econowash won the tender to provide a car washing service in the 44 Council car parks and will be using steam to clean cars using biodegradable products and only two litres of water per vehicle.

Econowash will use mobile steam cleaning equipment, allowing them to move easily and safely between cars.

Motorists who park in a council car park will be offered Wonderwash for £7.99.

In addition Econowash will be based at 1 Station Approach, Fareham where they will also offer a full valeting service.

## Tory chairman 'humbled' by support in local elections

**THE CHAIRMAN of Portchester Conservatives, Geoff Fazackarley, says he was 'humbled' by the support he received in the May Council elections.**

"Although I didn't win, I received the highest Conservative vote and I truly thank you for that."

He said he had learned a lot from talking to people during the campaign and pledged to make sure the two elected Lib Dem councillors stayed focused on local issues.

He also promised to attend the CAT meetings and keep people informed through *In Touch* newspapers.

"I have stepped in with my team to assist with the running of the SNAP disco and help the children say 'no' to drugs.

"I am determined to keep the Community Centre in the same place and I am in the process of starting a fund to help the Council raise the money needed to rebuild on the same site.

"I will fight for this community not just at election time, but every time."

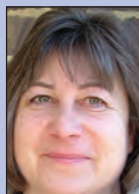
# PORTCHESTER CONSERVATIVES

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 councillors.

## WARD COUNCILLORS – Portchester West

### Sue Bell

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**Our man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

# We will work in national interest to clear up mess inherited from Labour

nalled from the start of the negotiations that we had to respect the verdict of the electorate and work together with the Liberal Democrats to find solutions to the profound problems facing our nation.

As David Cameron has made clear, Britain needs strong, stable and decisive government at this point in our history. It was in the national interest that we achieved this coalition agreement on a secure basis, enabling us to govern securely in the national interest.

We must recognise that all coalitions involve compromise. However, I would like to reassure you that the key principles on which we fought this election have formed the basis of this agreement.

It commits the next government to a significantly accelerated reduction in the budget deficit, to cut £6 billion of government waste this financial year and to stop the jobs tax.

The agreement also allows us to carry out key elements of the reform agenda we outlined in our manifesto, including welfare and school reform.

We have protected our nuclear deterrent and there will be no amnesty for illegal immigrants, nor the handover of any additional powers to the EU.

But the past few days have not just been about compromise. There is significant common

ground between us and the Liberal Democrats, such as our commitment to building a green economy, decentralising power and protecting civil liberties - including scrapping ID cards.

This will be a Government that puts the national interest first and takes determined and resolute actions.

We have already seen this in the difficult decisions that we have had to take on the public finances. As Treasury Minister, I know just how empty the coffers are and the scale of the challenges we face to get the economy moving again.

I am afraid that the last Government spent money as if there was no tomorrow.

Unfortunately, they have left you with the bill. That is why we have had to make difficult decisions on taxes and spending to balance the books whilst doing all we can to support economic recovery.

You can be assured that the tough decisions that we have had to take are aimed at one goal: clearing up the mess that we have inherited from Labour. It is a tough job but one that needs to be done.

**•Contact Mark via his office:  
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN  
Telephone: 01329 233573  
email: [mail@markhoban.com](mailto:mail@markhoban.com)**

I am very grateful to the residents of Portchester for their support in the recent General Election.

Regardless of whether or not you voted for me, I look forward to serving all of you as your Member of Parliament for the next five years.

The outcome of the election locally was very clear but it was not so clear nationally.

In the election, the Conservatives gained nearly 100 extra MPs, a bigger gain than in any election since 1931. This was a remarkable achievement. However, we fell short of an overall majority.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, sig-

## Keeping Fareham tidy costs millions

### IT COSTS £1m a year to keep Fareham tidy.

In 2009-10 the Council collected 1,771 tons of street litter, says Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Streetscene.

There are 543 acres of public open space to keep clean, 230 miles of roads and footpaths to sweep and clear and 650 litter bins to empty.

Street cleaning varies from daily in the town centre to once a fortnight in outlying areas.

Refuse collection costs just under £2m a year, 8 crews collecting a bin every week from each of 47,000 households.

19,684 tons of household waste were collected in 2009-10 and 8,168 tons of recyclates, and every household needed 1,047lbs of waste to be collected and disposed of.

## Council faces difficult balancing act in light of Government cuts

### FAREHAM Council is reassessing its priorities in view of the government's plan for 20% cuts over the next four years.

It will redouble efforts to find as many savings as possible while having the least impact on front-line services.

Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said each year this became ever more challenging, especially for a Council which sets almost the lowest level of council tax in the country – despite receiving one of the lowest levels of government grant.

He said Fareham was pleased not to have to increase the council tax this year and aimed for a similar result over the next couple of years, being mindful of the extreme financial pressures faced by many of our residents during the recession and its aftermath.

The Council is currently re-evaluating its priorities as well as con-

tinuing its philosophy of always trying to achieve more for less.

He said: "We are always looking for ways to reduce expenditure and to find new income streams.

"We take a great interest in what our residents tell us are their priorities, both the things that they tell us are their top priorities as well as what they tell us are not their priorities for spending.

"Top priorities always include waste collection and recycling, keeping our streets clear of litter and maintaining parks and open spaces to a high standard, whereas the lowest priority is always Westbury Manor Museum.

"We will be looking closely at our partnership agreement with Hampshire County Council, which runs the museum in our building, to investigate how this service may continue to be delivered in a way which respects the priorities of our residents."

## Nicked by new boat watch site

### BOAT crime is being targeted by a new website called Hampshire Marine Watch. And it's already paid off.

Fareham Police collared a man in possession of navigation gear and used the website to return the property to its owner.

The Council's Community Safety Partnership's website is designed to improve communication between organisations in the boating community.

In the first month over 1100 'hits' were received to the web site which clearly demonstrates the interest in this area.

For further information please visit [www.hampshire-marinewatch.co.uk](http://www.hampshire-marinewatch.co.uk)