



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – SUMMER 2010

Connie says thanks to Titchfield Ward supporters



Connie Hockley: 'I will work hard for everyone in Titchfield Ward.'

"TO EVERYONE who voted for me, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

"I promise that I will continue to work hard for everyone in Titchfield Ward which, as you know, is very wide spread and includes parts of Segensworth, Catisfield, part of the Ranvilles area and Titchfield village down to Meon shore.

"The night after the polling stations closed was long and nerve racking as I always work on the premise that I will lose! Again, I have been successful and whenever I stop to think about the election I still have to stop and 'pinch myself' to believe the result.

"I have been re-appointed as Executive Member for Community. My portfolio includes leisure and housing strategy, community centres, parks and play areas, sports development, pavilions, pitches, greens and courts and community development.

"Thank you for putting your trust in me."

RESULT

CONNIE HOCKLEY (Con)	2,475
Englefield (Lib Dem)	987
Mayes(Lab)	450
Doggett (Gr)	225
Maj	1,488
Turnout 72%	

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 David Swanbrow, Fareham's Executive member for Strategic Planning and Environment, said:

"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 Swanbrow.

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 Swanbrow 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

Jim Murray

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.

He was due to be made an honorary alderman for his 26 years as a councillor and this will be conferred posthumously later this summer.

Cars steam cleaned

Motorists who park in Fareham Council's car parks will soon be able to have their cars steam cleaned while they do their shopping.

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

The Wonderwash will cost £7.99 per car.

Transparency

The Borough Council has been publishing this information for nearly a year and is pleased the new government has followed our lead in requiring all councils to do the same.

Log on to the Council's website <http://www.fareham.gov.uk/council/general/transparency.aspx>

There, we publish not only all expenditure, but also future spending plans, employee pay and benefits, senior staff pay, members' allowances etc.

Local campaigns are paying off, police tell CAT meeting

POLICE are clamping down on anti-social behaviour in the Western Wards.

Vehicle nuisance, alcohol abuse and general misbehaviour are being targeted.

Sergeant Dave Spacey told the Western Wards Community Action Team meeting at Victory Hall, Warsash that speeding vehicles were being targeted and police want to know about areas of concern.

Sgt Spacey said cars parked on pavements would not necessarily warrant a ticket, but if they were there constantly it would be investigated.

Street-wise awareness carried out with local schools had been very successful.

Residents were asked to choose the top and bottom two priorities from the council's list by placing coloured dots on the appropriate charts, which will be used in making future decisions.

Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward explained that the current owners of Locks Heath Centre refused to lift the covenant to allow a swimming pool to be built, but the Council had identified an area in Coldeast for a pool and fitness centre and a cemetery and, if possible,

a community centre.

But the Council could not force the Shopping Centre owners to allow parking on their property.

A questioner asked whether First Bus could be pressured to provide better routes for those in the Western Wards who do not drive.

The Leader said First Bus only operated profitable routes, but would be running a service through the Coldeast site. Residents were advised to liaise with County Councillor Keith Evans

Asked why Fareham receives one of the smallest grants from the government, Councillor Woodward said much more money was given to the North as it was supposed to be based on areas of deprivation.

"The current government is going to look at this and make it more transparent," he said.

CAT officer Janine Hensman advised residents of the availability of community funding. Recently approved projects include:

Titchfield Festival Theatre Club: £5,000 towards a diesel heating system, heavy duty curtains and to help convert a cowshed into changing rooms and rehearsal space.

Next meeting will be at Sarisbury Green Social Club, Bridge Road at 7pm on November 17.

Three very deserving causes will benefit from Fareham Mayor's charities appeal

FAREHAM'S Mayor and Mayoress have appealed for cash in support of their charities appeal.

Councillor Brian Bayford and Councillor Susan Bayford will hold a variety of events to support their chosen charities – The Rainbow Centre, Global Voices and Toe in the Water.

The Rainbow Centre: Helps children with cerebral palsy and other similar disabilities.

The centre uses a technique known as Conductive Education, which aims to enable children to reach their maximum potential, helping them towards living a more independent life.

Global Voices: Was set up in September 2008 by a Fareham school to develop unique learning partnerships and to bring young people together through the medium of music.

This is an extension of the

'PanJazz' partnership with Brookfield and Portchester Community Schools.

Toe in the Water: A tri-service initiative which re-inspires and re-integrates badly and/or traumatically injured service personnel, using competitive sailing as a direct extension of rehabilitation work carried out at Headley Court.

More than 60 able-bodied volunteers from the military and civilian sailing communities, many based in and around the Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth area are involved.

Toe in the Water is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions and is fully supported by the military.

The Mayor said: "If you can support our charities, please send a donation to:

**Mayor of Fareham's Charities
The Mayor's Office
Civic Offices
Civic Way**

Post election message from Geoff Hockley

GEOFF HOCKLEY has thanked everybody who voted for him as the Conservative candidate at Titchfield Common.

"My regrets that my best on this occasion just wasn't good enough.

"We managed to have Conservative tellers at all the polling stations covering every hour from 8am to 9pm

"A very substantial 'thank you' to all of you who helped.

"The reason we lost was very simple – the power of the press and extreme negative electioneering by the opposition.

"I had been promoting an increase for volunteers who use their own cars to take patients to hospital and the doctors' surgery.

"They receive an amount per mile which by any standard, including that of the AA, is insufficient to cover their cost.

"When this matter came up at County for debate, it commenced with a motion to reduce the amount that county councillors receive for "approved" journeys to 40p.

"I spoke against this and the rest as they say is now history."

Summer events for children

Free Play Ranger events will take place at parks and open spaces across the Borough during the summer.

They offer children and their parents an opportunity for natural play ideas.

Call Sue Mills, acting communications manager, on 01329 824518 for details.

Safe new play areas for Titchfield Ward

FAREHAM Council's Executive will be asked this month to approve funding for a multi-use games area at Titchfield recreation ground and a replacement play area at Kites Croft, Titchfield Common.

It will give young people from Titchfield Ward, which includes the village, Catisfield and Titchfield Park (Segensworth), a large, safe area in which to play.

Councillor Connie Hockley said it was hoped the Kites Croft play area would be operating by the end of September.

Small in comparison, but all-out response called to Meon oil spill

COMPARED with the on-going disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, it was a drop in the ocean.

But last month's spillage of 20 barrels of oil from Esso's Fawley refinery brought a rapid response and caused a stretch of Meon Shore to be closed.

The clean-up operation from Hill Head marina to Meon chalets was successful, and the beach was reopened three days after the spill.

Esso worked with the Harbour Master, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the response unit, the County Council and the Borough Council to remove oil from the beach and sea.

The Environment Agency and Natural England are pleased that the shoreline phase of the clean-up was completed promptly and satisfactorily.

County Councillor Geoff Hockley, who visited the beach, said: "I am delighted that the beach is now open. All agencies have worked extremely

hard to mitigate the effects of the spill and get the beach back to normal as quickly as possible and people can now enjoy it again."

A small amount of sand and stones affected by oil was removed for cleaning so that it can be returned to the spot from which it was taken.

Shellfish beds located within this area were closed as a precaution while tests were carried out to establish whether the shellfish posed any risks.

Depending on the results, a decision would be taken as to when they could reopen.

Monitoring of the marine and shoreline environment continued for several days to make sure all traces had gone.

Anyone with concerns or who spots oil in other areas should phone Fawley Refinery Community Affairs on 023 8089 2511, the Environment Agency Hotline on 0800 807060 or the Harbour Master on 02380 608208.

Children's charity needs £8,000 grant

A CHILDREN'S charity has applied for an £8,000 grant from the Borough Council.

Let Us Play Scheme needs to cash towards the new CRB checks that have to be carried out.

The playgroup also hopes to get funding from other trusts.

LUPS, which operates at St Francis School, Ranvilles Lane, is a registered charity established in 1986 that provides play schemes for children with profound and complex disabilities, ranging from severe cerebral palsy, epilepsy and severe autism, during the school holidays.

County Council panel exploring ways to strengthen winter resilience plan

REMEMBER the big winter freeze up? The County Council is carrying out an exhaustive review to see how to respond better if similar extreme weather occurs again in our area.

County Councillor Keith Evans said: "We all had bad experiences last December and January - abandoned cars, icy roads, dangerous footpaths, unable to get to work, children not at school."

He is vice-chairman of the review panel which is gathering evidence and comments from a wide range of authorities and groups.

Keith said 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 only one day's supply at one stage
- As the emergency progressed, Hampshire was receiving only 10% of the re-supply that the government said we should get
- The County gave support to some neighbouring counties and to Portsmouth and Brighton & Hove.
- 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

He added: "I am sure that the County's winter resilience plan will be significantly strengthened. The final report of this review group will be issued in September."

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON 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.

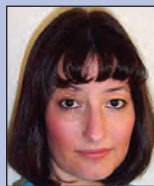
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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

I am very grateful to the residents of Titchfield and Titchfield Common 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-

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:
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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.hampshiremarinewatch.co.uk