

Planning processes delay new Fareham local plan

FAREHAM councillors and officers have been working on the replacement for the current local plan for some time.

The previous plan was adopted in June 2000 and will be replaced by a new plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Work has been held up because Fareham's plan must tie in with the South East Plan and this has only just been through its mandatory inspection process.

Fortunately, Fareham's input to the South East Plan was accepted by the inspectors and, provided that the Government – who can make changes to the plan – agree with the inspectors' report, the planning process can go ahead.

The Government will make its decision sometime between this December and March next year.

Final adoption of the plan is not scheduled until mid 2011.

Councillor David Swanbrow, who is the Executive Member responsible for putting the new plan together, said:

"Once we have the go-ahead we will consult people on the plan every step of the way."

Nicked! Police crackdown on under-age drinkers



Pc Geoff Tarvin parades a huge pile of cans, bottles and cartons of booze, mostly confiscated from juveniles in on-going operations against under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

DOZENS of cans and bottles of booze have been confiscated by police in a borough-wide operation against under-age drinkers and outlets supplying them.

Officers recently mounted Operation Dorothy to get the message of zero tolerance across to youngsters, parents and shopkeepers.

It seems to be paying dividends, although police believe it may have driven some illegal drinking 'underground'.

The operation was carried out by officers, community support officers and special constables from Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering Fareham and Park Gate areas, who seized alcohol from juveniles and adults acting in an anti-social manner.

At the end of the four-week operation, their haul amounted to 170 cans of lager, 169 bottles of beer, half a bottle of whisky, a litre of vodka and a bottle of brandy.

But instead of pouring it down the drain, the police gave the drinks to Fareham Lions Club, who raffled it and gave the proceeds to local charities.

The operation was part of the Designated Public Places Order created in partnership with Fareham Borough Council to combat drink-related crime.

Police have powers to stop street drinking, seize alcohol where appropriate and issue fixed penalty

notices to the culprits.

Pc Dave Coleman said 32 more cans of lager were confiscated and a group of 20 youths moved on from Yew Tree Drive area in Whiteley during the first week of October.

Sgt Pat Dawson, in charge of the first sting in June after the order was extended borough-wide, said police were pleased with the results of the on-going operation and with the new powers to deal with drink related anti-social behaviour.

"Usually once we catch an under-age person we don't see them again. We take the alcohol and the parents get a letter. On a number of occasions we have called on parents."

There had been input into schools and youth clubs where posters were displayed, but it was often over 18s who bought and supplied alcohol to juveniles.

Councillor Marian Ellerton said police had reported a fall in public drinking.

She said: "In the same report they say that in the first 6 months this year they carried out 207 test purchases on licensed premises in South Hampshire and caught 50 law breakers, but none in Fareham area."

"However, a few were caught in Fareham in 2006 'stings' and cases are on-going.

"Premises caught more than twice are likely to find the police calling for a review of their licence."



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Inquiry

Churchill Homes have challenged the Council's refusal to grant permission for 39 retirement apartments with 13 parking spaces at 4-12 Botley Road.

A public inquiry will be held at 10am on November 6 at the Civic Offices.

Phone 01329 236100 ext 2445 if you want to give your comments.

Fareham in Bloom

Congratulations to Mrs Godding of Barnbrook Road for winning a bronze award for her front garden display and a silver award for her back garden.

The Talisman won a silver and The Bold Forester won a gold and overall winner in the Best Public House Floral Display.

There were fewer entries from Park Gate and it would be nice to see more entrants for the 2008 competition.

Snail's pace

Posters will be pasted on wheelie bins as part of a campaign to reduce accidents involving children.

'20 is Plenty' is an attempt by Hampshire Highways to get drivers to cut speeds to a snail's pace outside schools.

A cheery looking snail features on some posters and is the campaign emblem.

Councillors had demanded a mandatory 20mph limit during school hours, but the County Council decided on persuasion.

"One accident involving a child is one too many," said Councillor Marian Ellerton.

After decades of frustration and broken promises...

It's houses before the hospital, but at last work starts at Coldeast site

THE BEGINNING of the end of decades of frustration is in sight this autumn when work starts at the Coldeast site ahead of the building of Fareham's community hospital.

Hampshire Primary Care Trust promised the hospital would open in 2010, but before that one of the Western Wards' biggest housing schemes will get under way.

About 250 homes will be built on areas occupied by buildings in former and current health use.

Around 150 are on land owned by Miller Homes and development is believed imminent.

The remainder will be built on land owned by the Primary Care Trust.

The Brook Lane entrance will be used for initial work, during which alterations to Bridge Road/Coldeast Way entrance will be built.

Works traffic will then be able to use the new access while work proceeds at the Brook Lane entrance.

When the link is finished between the two, Coldeast Way will return to normal use and Brook Lane access will be used by construction vehicles.

The timetable is:

October/November – Coldeast Way access improvements. Daytime diversions via Brook Lane.

December/January – Brook Lane access improvements.

January/February – Bridge Road improvements.

The Council says every effort will be made to

minimise the effect on Coldeast Way and Brook Lane.

Meantime, a consultation exercise is being conducted to find out what residents want to see on the rest of the site.

Park Gate Councillor Marian Ellerton said: "The Council will consult on the issues over a four-week period between November 5 and December 3 before producing a draft for further consultation early in 2008, with final adoption of the brief in June or July."

Part of the consultation will be an exhibition to be held at Brookfield School on November 16 and 17.

Marian Ellerton said: "It is important the local community and statutory consultees have the opportunity to influence the future of the Coldeast Hospital site.

"Securing their involvement at an early stage through the consultation will enable the Council to consider and respond to comments and concerns in preparing the draft development brief for the site."

The consultation process will include:

- Letters and leaflets posted to residents near the site and statutory consultees
- Details to be advertised on site and in the Press
- Information displayed at Locks Heath library
- Targeted briefings and meetings with local organisations, including key consultees
- Relevant material on the Council's website with an on-line response form.

Seven bags full for litter pickers



RESIDENTS joined Park Gate Councillors Brian Bayford and Marian Ellerton (pictured) to clean up the ward's hedgerows.

Seven large bags of rubbish were collected and Brian and Marian thanked those who turned out on a wet Sunday in July to help.

CAT meeting hears residents' concerns

THE WESTERN Wards CAT meeting was held at Sarisbury Community Centre on September 24 and was well supported, with over 40 residents attending.

It was chaired by Councillor Marian Ellerton.

There were Powerpoint presentations by Graham Elwood, the Community Engagement Officer, and Chief Inspector Steve Wallace on a ward profile and ward crime statistics, followed by a question and answer session.

Residents were then divided into small groups to discuss issues that concerned them.

It was evident that the quantity of litter throughout the area and speeding cars, especially on the A27, were the two major public concerns.

Councillor Ellerton commented: "The meeting was a great success and it was another good example of communication between residents and the Borough Council."

Bowls club vandalism: 4 arrested



About 12 trees and saplings planted in the recreation ground by the Community Centre have been broken down and will cost taxpayers to replace.



Councillor Brian Bayford said: "The result for damage to the bowling green in Priory Park is four arrested, interviewed and bailed for disposal decision.

"This follows some excellent work by the West Team and in particular PC 1410 Coleman and PC 709 Wild."

POLICE have arrested four persons in connection with a spate of vandalism at Priory Park.

The special surface that cost £8,000 at Lockwood Bowling Club was ripped up and plant pots thrown across the green.

Clock tower saved after public outcry



PUBLIC protests over plans to demolish the landmark clock tower at Locks Heath Shopping Centre have forced the owners to climb down.

Originally, it was planned to turn the area behind it into a car park.

But after a public meeting called by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, when the owners heard views from over 300 people, they withdrew that part of their application.

Councillor Woodward said he was pleased the owners had listened.

Segensworth improvements well under way

MAJOR work to improve traffic flows and ease congestion at the A27 Segensworth roundabout started on September 10.

Developers are contributing most of the cost of the £2.65m scheme which is being undertaken for the County Council by Barden Contracting Ltd.

By adding extra lanes at key locations and further traffic signal control it is expected traffic can be kept moving

Work is expected to last six months and there will inevitably be some disruption. The County Council is working closely with the contractor to try to keep this to a minimum.

The contract requires the contractor to keep the existing traffic lanes open at the roundabout during the peak hours of traffic flow.



Under way: Work progresses at Segensworth.

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK 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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

.....
.....
.....
.....

Your name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

WARD COUNCILLORS

Park Gate

Brian Bayford

1 Camargue Close

Whiteley PO15 7DT

Tel: 01489 880740

email:

bbayford@fareham.gov.uk



Marian Ellerton

230 Botley Road

Burr ridge SO31 1BL

Tel: 01489 570774

email:

mellerton@fareham.gov.uk



COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Fareham Sarisbury

Seán Woodward

8 Persian Drive

Whiteley PO15 7BJ

Tel: 01489 881030

email:sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk



Our man in Westminster



**By Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

WE SEEM to spend a lot of time talking about house prices. Property programmes on TV are very popular. Statistics on house prices are closely scrutinised. Houses have a big impact upon our finances too!

In our community, young people face a double challenge: not only is the cost of moving high, but increasing house prices and recent increases in interest rates push mortgage payments up. Because I believe as many people as possible should be given the chance to own their own home, I think it is right to help especially those people who are buying their own home for the first time. That's why we announced our plan to scrap stamp duty for first time buyers. This will save up to £2,500 depending on the size of a property and provide a welcome boost for young people in our community. This will give first time buyers the chance to step on to the housing ladder.

Whilst rising house prices have made it harder for people to buy their first home, it means that more and more people are pushed into the inheritance tax net too.

Originally, inheritance taxes were meant to be a tax on the wealthy. Yet increasingly, people living in normal family homes are being caught by it through no fault of their own. Since 2000, the amount of money collected through inheritance tax has gone up by 70%. I don't think inheritance tax should penalise people who have done the right thing by buying a home of their own and putting a little bit away for a rainy day. That's why we will raise the inheritance tax threshold so now only millionaires pay the tax. Our message is that we will back those people who do the right thing, so that their children don't end up paying a big tax bill.

The Conservative Party has always backed those who want to get on in life and scrapping stamp duty for most first time buyers and lifting the inheritance tax thresholds rewards those who have aspirations for themselves and their families.

**•You may contact Mark via his office
14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN.
Telephone: 01329 233573
email: mail@markhoban.com**

The Fareham 'feel-good' factor reaches record high

IT'S A GREAT place to live, say an overwhelming majority of Fareham people.

Under the Conservative administration not only can you expect to live longer in the borough, but also enjoy cleaner streets and a low crime rate.

The town's feel-good factors were acclaimed in the 2007 Residents' Survey in which people were asked how satisfied they were, taking everything into account, that Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

The survey was mailed to 4,000 households selected at random.

There were 928 responses returned and the data has been entered into the Council's management information system and analysed.

A staggering 95% (94% in 2006) were satisfied or fairly satisfied and 89% said they were very or fairly satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs the borough and provides services - the same figure as last year. Findings from other parts of the survey also showed high satisfaction levels:

- Shopping** – 80% happy with general facilities, 87% with the town centre.
- Environment** – 90% satisfaction.
- Refuse** – 69% chose fortnightly collections, rather than pay more council tax for weekly collections.
- Crime** – 98% feel safe in their neighbourhoods in daytime, 72% after dark (up 5%).
- Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the



Beauty: With areas like Holly Hill Woodland Park in which to roam, it's no wonder the people are happy.

way they were dealt with.

However, there are still improvements that residents want to see, with traffic congestion and street repairs topping the list.

But these are the responsibility of the County Council and Fareham's Executive promised to work with the Highway Authority on these issues.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted both at the good response and the confirmation that the priorities the Council is pursuing are also those of our residents."

"We are currently reviewing all our community facilities and activities for teenagers are an important strand of that review.

"We continue to work with the police and community safety officers to reduce the low level crime and anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas."

Fareham tops Hampshire recycling league

FAREHAM is top of the league in Hampshire for recycling which is now running at 46% and well on the road towards the next Government target of 50% in 2010.

Latest figures show an increase of 24% since alternate bin collections were introduced in 2005.

A review of the glass recycling service is being undertaken and it is unlikely that a kerbside collection service will be provided, but there will be significantly more, conveniently sited 'bring banks'.

Most residents are now maximising use of the blue-top bin and using the green waste collection service.

A Government grant has

been received to provide an advisory service on all aspects of recycling and to help reduce contamination in the recycling bins.

Fareham is the only council not to make an extra charge for collecting green waste although from October there will be a charge of £5 for replacement sacks.

The possibility of providing a replacement sack service for community centres etc at a nominal charge is being examined. Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and about £1 for each emptying.

The Council, with about 40,000 eligible homes, has issued over 140,000 green sacks over the past 18

months. Each household can have up to 3 sacks emptied.

The Council is saving no money and any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste collection service and the trial schemes.

All Fareham's residual waste is incinerated; none goes to landfill. The incinerator produces enough energy to heat/light 30,000 homes.

Available to you – 1 x 240 litre green top bin (for those with a 140 litre), 2 x 240 litre blue top bins (for recycling) and up to 3 green sacks.

Residents with specific problems can phone 01329 824387 or 824389 for advice.

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