



# In Touch

with our community

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – AUTUMN 2009

## Prosecutions follow zero tolerance enviro-crime enforcement

**ZERO** tolerance towards those who litter and allow dogs to foul Fareham's streets is paying off.

During 2008-09, Enforcement Team patrols issued 51 fixed penalty notices for littering, two of which ended in court after the culprits didn't pay up.

They probably wished they had as the court appearance cost them a lot more – a £50 fine, £70 costs and £15 for victim support.

In the same period, 92 cases of fly tipping were investigated, resulting in four successful prosecutions, punishments ranging from community service to fines and compensation.

Six more cases are currently being pursued.

The team also succeeded in prosecuting a youth responsible for graffiti in a churchyard.

Councillor Brian Bayford said the team, introduced in 2004 to patrol the Borough to enforce legislation on a wide range of enviro-crimes, worked closely with community safety officers and police community support officers to provide an effective uniformed service.

Officers also deal with abandoned vehicles and unauthorised travellers' camps.

# Planning dictators' days are numbered, pledges top Tory

**FAR-REACHING** legislation proposed by the next Conservative Government to put the 'local' aspect back into planning has stalled the huge 10,000 homes development in Fareham.

Labour dictated that under the South East Plan the Borough must earmark a Strategic Development Area (SDA) north of the M27 and build the houses by 2026.

But all this will be put on hold, thanks to a letter to councils from Conservative Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Caroline Spelman.

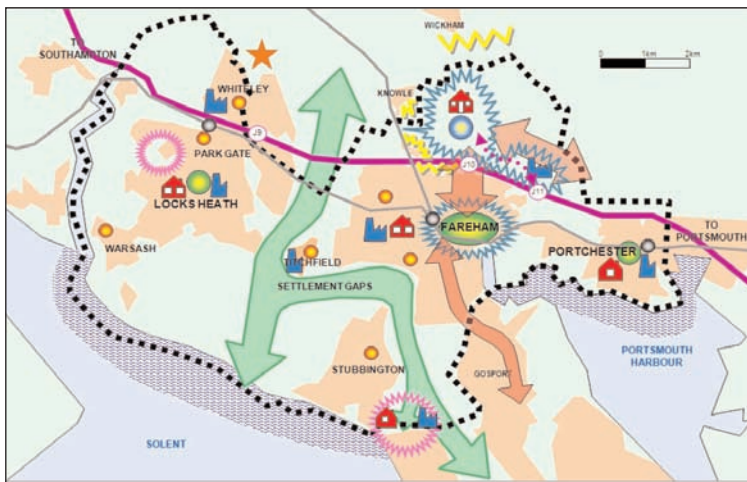
She threw a big spanner into Labour's works by promising the Tories would totally change the planning system.

She stated: "A Conservative Government will abolish the bureaucratic and undemocratic tier of regional planning. This will include the abolition of the regional spatial strategies and the regional planning bodies."

Planning dictates from Whitehall civil servants, with no local knowledge or inkling of public opinion, would be replaced to make the process far more 'bottom up'.

Even better, Caroline Spelman said councils would be able to undo some unwanted planning policies forced on them by Labour.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Planning and Transportation, said the core strategy, which is key to the Local Development Framework, was to be published in October, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January and subjected to a public



**Shape of things to come?** The key diagram for Fareham's local development framework, but changes could lie ahead after the election.

hearing in May to decide whether it conformed to the SE Plan.

He said: "Fareham decided that if the development was to become a sustainable community that was pleasant to live in, the number of dwellings had to be much lower."

Under the system introduced by Labour, the inspector could find the plan unsound, forcing Fareham to waste most of the money spent producing its Core Strategy and start again; or worse, tell the Council it had to cram 10,000 flats and houses into the SDA, however undesirable.

"Currently, whatever an inspector decides becomes the plan and the local authority cannot change it.

"Labour used to say it would bring democracy nearer to local people. This is an example of what they meant – 'top down' planning with an iron fist."

Caroline Spelman's letter made councils who belong to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) take notice.

"They may now be unlikely to commit to taking on additional housing to make up for a shortfall in Fareham's SDA, with the possibility that the problem will disappear after the election.

"There is a strong possibility many councils currently preparing plans will delay the process until after May when, if the Conservatives win power, local planning will truly become local."

Councillor Brian Bayford said: "For years people felt they had no real say in planning policy.

"If a Conservative Government is elected then that will change.

"They will be able to vote in local elections for councillors who will decide on local planning policies."

## ..and plans to revive a 18th Century tax will go out of the window

**SCHEMING** Labour plans to tax you for the view from your window won't last long under a Tory government.

Caroline Spelman, who recently

exposed the tax, said her party would repeal any legislation.

Historically, it smacks of the 1766 House and Windows Duties Act, which taxed a house by the num-

ber of its windows and led to owners bricking up where possible.

But Labour would not stop there. If you have a patio, pond, pool, summer house, you're a target.

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**For your diary**

Saturday, November 7: Desmond Swayne MP speaking at a dinner, Lysses Hotel, High Street, Fareham. Tickets £22.50 each.

Sunday, November 29: Christmas Fair 10am to 2.30pm supporting local shops and traders at Titchfield Community Centre. Entry £3 including mulled wine and mince pies.

Friday, March 12 2010: Chris Grayling, Shadow Home Secretary, supper at Victory Hall, Warsash, £12.50 per head.

**Election help**

There will be a general election and Borough Council elections in 2010.

Councillor Brian Bayford is seeking help with canvassing and distributing *In Touch*.

Interested? Call him on 01489 880740

**Action Team venue**

Next meeting of the Western Wards Community Action Team (CAT) will be held on March 17, 2010 at St John's Church, Locks Heath, when the main topic will be the new hospital at Coldeast.

**Thanks to voters**

Newly re-elected County Councillor Seán Woodward has said a big 'thank you' to those who voted for him in Sarisbury Division.

He got the biggest share in any of the five-way fights in Hampshire.

"Needless to say, I will do my best to represent all 11,198 electors in the division," he said.

**Age Concern contract award sparks concern among aged**

**AGE CONCERN** has been awarded the contract to run the Lockwood Day Care Centre.

But it sparked major concern among the aged, particularly over the new location for delivering the service.

Local councillors are now locked in a battle with Hampshire County Council to get it sorted.

It has been operating for several years from its premises near Locks Heath Shopping Centre, providing for elderly frail residents and those with dementia in the Western Wards.

When the service was put out to tender by the County Council, the contract was awarded, not to the Locks Heath Day Care Trust who own the Centre, but to Age Concern.

The changeover will take place on January 1, 2010.

Elderly residents and their carers are upset about the changes, particularly where the Age Concern service will be provided from.

According to Age Concern, it will be using the Kershaw Day Centre in North Fareham – nearly 5 miles from the existing centre.

County Councillors Keith Evans and Seán Woodward held meetings with the Locks Heath Day Care Trust and the County Council to try to continue the service from the Lockwood Centre.

But a solution to the problem has



**Concern:** Elderly users of the Lockwood Centre are worried by Age Concern's takeover.

not yet been found.

Councillors Evans and Woodward said in a joint statement:

"It would be awful for our elderly residents to have to travel for over an hour in minibuses while people are picked up one-by-one from all over the Western Wards, then transported to a location in North Fareham when they have been receiving an excellent and convenient day care service within their own community.

"This is totally unacceptable and we will continue to press the County Council to find a local solution to this issue before the end of the year."

From January 1, 2010, when the County's new 'Personalisation' system starts, recipients of adult social care can opt to receive the money and procure their own services.

Existing users of the service at Locks Heath may decide that, rather than travel to North Fareham, they will take the money and use it to procure a service at Lockwood Day Care Centre.

**Readers' indigestion? This could be your remedy...**

**FED UP with tatty old magazines in your doctors' surgery?**



If you're registered at Whiteley and Locks Heath surgeries you might be able to get them to provide more interesting and up-to-date reading.

A new patients' participation group has been set up there and is seeking members.

It's a chance to learn

more about the practice and perhaps help to manage on-going changes to the NHS.

Your commitment would be to attend meetings perhaps every two or three months for an hour or two.

If you have an opinion, whether it is the choice of magazines, the waiting rooms, timings of surgeries and availability of appointments or an interest in local hospital services and would like to join the group, contact Wendy Allcock or Cynthia Jones on 01489 881982.

**Brookfield School praised for community approach**

**A SCHEME** to bring Brookfield School closer to the community is proving a vibrant asset.

An open day was held in September when the public was welcomed to discover more about the development of pupils at Brookfield and the exciting projects to be found there.

Park Gate Councillor Marian Ellerton said there were stands representing the activities of local clubs, societies and associations which demonstrated the links between school and the community in art, drama, literature, history and music.

"There is to be a series of talks by local celebrities such as Dee Caffari, Mike Golding and Geoff Holt to speak about their experiences to demonstrate to the students what can be achieved by ordinary people," she said.

Parents are to raise funds for the South African Project, an on-going partnership that has grown over the past three years between Brookfield cluster schools and schools in Capetown and the Western Cape.

It reflected the enormous musical talent within the school and forged friendships between young people from different cultures.

Marian Ellerton added: "I congratulate the school management and staff, the governors and enthusiastic local residents for all the hard work and cooperation that is going into this initiative to further the image and involvement of the school within the local community."





## £10,000 for good causes in Seán's kitty

**DOES your organisation need a cash injection?**

If so, then County Councillor Seán Woodward may be able to help.

He has a £10,000 kitty provided by the County Council to dish out to deserving local community causes.

Groups and organisations (not individuals) can apply for funding for one-off and minor capital projects.

Instructions and a simple application form can be found at [www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/councillorgrants](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/councillorgrants).

Councillor Woodward said applications had to be dealt with by Christmas so projects could get underway.

"All £10,000 is available, but I do not anticipate that being the case for very long," he added.

## 'Use it or lose it' is message to save Western Wards bus lifeline

**A SHOCK decision to axe a bus service providing a lifeline for the elderly in the Western Wards has been partly rescinded after fierce protests.**

First Hampshire withdrew Service 78 without warning at the end of August and when he found out, Councillor Seán Woodward tackled managing director Richard Soper.

He said: "The fact that the service ceased and money is not being saved beggars belief.

"I asked First to delay the cessation until Christmas as the usage figures provided showing very low passenger numbers appeared dubious.

"The company was unaware of the level of public concern, especially from elderly, disabled residents for whom the 78 service is a lifeline to shops, friends and family."

Mr Soper said it would be unlawful to continue the service beyond August 31 as the Traffic Commissioners had been informed and two months' notice of service changes must be given to them, so the soonest that the service could lawfully be reinstated is



November.

Mr Soper apologised as his instructions are that the Council should be consulted on all such changes.

He was amazed when Councillor Woodward produced a large pile of complaints from constituents.

It was then he disclosed the decision was not producing immediate financial savings as changes were being made to the 80 service at the same time.

Councillor Woodward continued: "I said this was unacceptable and a mechanism should be found to reintroduce even a lower frequency service or re-route an existing service to cover some of the affected roads."

As a result, a new 27/27A service was introduced on September 28, with five return journeys daily between Sarisbury, Park Gate Coldeast, Locks Heath Centre, Dimmicks Corner, Highlands Shops and Fareham Bus Station.

Councillor Woodward added: "First will be looking to see this service break even by the end of the year, so now it really is a matter of use it or lose it."

## Swim pool plan stalls

**A PROGRESS report lists 12 high priorities within the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan.**

They include a review of youth and community centres and sports pavilions to rationalise provision and modernise by 2012, which is on target.

Plans to build a swimming pool by 2011 on Council land at Locks Heath Shopping Centre could be abandoned and other sites considered as the centre's owners would not sign a legal agreement.

**Award winners**  
**THE following residents from the ward won awards in the Fareham in Bloom competition:**

Plantsman's front garden – Patricia Godding, Barnbrook Road, silver gilt; Floral back garden – Mrs A P Catlin, Pimpernel Close, silver; Allotment garden over 5 rods – T C Morris, Pennycress, silver (Gillies allotment).

## Whiteley Shopping Centre future is main Action Team topic

**PLANS for the new Whiteley Shopping Centre topped the agenda at the October Western Wards CAT meeting.**

Chairman Councillor Marian

Ellerton said it was the first time one had been held in Whiteley.

She said: "The meetings have proved to be a successful and useful way of communication. All

residents are encouraged to attend, so that the understanding between the people of Fareham and their Council will remain an open partnership."

## 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.

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**Your man in Westminster**



By **Mark Hoban**  
MP for Fareham

You have to make difficult decisions in your life, which require a sacrifice today to achieve a better tomorrow. Do you go to college to get more qualifications or straight into work; or sacrifice nights out to repay debt or save for a deposit?

We announced tough decisions on spending at our Party Conference this month to secure our future. Soaring borrowing by Gordon Brown means we spend more on interest on Government debt than on schools or our armed forces. If this continues, we will put the economy at risk, so we must make difficult decisions today for a better tomorrow.

Everyone must do something because we are in this together; freezing public sector pay helps protect up to 100,000 frontline jobs; and deferring the retirement age secures the restoration of the link between state pensions and earnings.

Government debt arises from spending and borrowing too much. Government does too much. Take the case of the two police officers wanting to share child-care, where rules prevented them doing the right thing for their children.

David Cameron spoke very powerfully about enabling us to achieve our full potential. He wants government to support those who need it, but to get the state to step back so that families and communities can do the right thing.

It means scrapping targets that hold back doctors from giving us the care that we need, but making sure that those on low incomes who want to work aren't losing 96p of every £1 they earn to the tax man. If we get through the difficult times ahead, we have a bright future. Only leadership and determination will get us on the right track.

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# Fareham's flower power brings national competition invitation

**NOW Fareham is up with the big boys. Next year, it's Britain in Bloom for the sixth times top award winners.**

The Borough's fantastic winning streak in the South and South East In Bloom competition resulted in an invitation to take part in the prestigious national contest in 2010.

"Naturally I said yes," said delighted Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward.

Britain in Bloom, which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, is one of the largest events of its kind in Europe.

Back to this year's competition. As overall winners for the sixth year running of the Large Town/Small City category, it was the first of four gold medals on the day. And more successes followed.

The sensory garden won gold in the Best Small Park category, Holly Hill Woodland Park collected a gold as winner of the Best Countryside Park and the pupils at Northern Junior School, Portchester again took gold as winners of the Schools' Category.

And just to gild the lily, Fareham's Tourist Information Centre won a new award presented by Tourism Southeast to reflect how well parks and visitor activities are promoted.

Congratulating the winners at the awards ceremony in Brighton, Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley hailed it as a spectacular success, much of it due to the tireless work of volunteers and parks staff.

She said only 15% of marks went to floral



**Winners:** Heather Othen (left) receives the outstanding contribution award from Blue Peter gardener Chris Collins, who is pictured (right) with Connie Hockley after presenting ranger Mark Trigwell with the gold award for best countryside park.

displays, the rest came from community involvement and the Council's environmental work.

She praised Mrs Heather Othen for winning an outstanding achievement award. "Like all our volunteers, Heather works with dedication and passion to help ensure Fareham's entry into In Bloom scores top marks."

This was echoed at Ferneham Hall on September 8 where sponsors, competitors and residents met to celebrate the end of the 14th Fareham In Bloom year, which again showed a record number of entries.

Connie Hockley said it was the largest community activity in the voluntary sector and the gardening competition was the culmination of months of hard work by everybody involved.

Thanking those who ensured In Bloom worked so well, she added: "It is hard work, but it is fun too, so if you feel like becoming a volunteer, please get in touch with me."

•See P3 for list of Park Gate Ward winners.

## Chance for deaf to try new technology

**A DEAFPLUS bus will be trialled in Fareham town centre from November 30.**

It comes at the request of Council Leader Seán Woodward and will contain equipment demonstrating aids for deaf people.

The charity DeafPlus has a contract with the County Council for its early intervention service, which provides



120 half-hour sessions a year across Hampshire.

The free service gives the deaf the chance to try the latest technology.

## A matter of degree

**THE dangerously overloaded bin shown here would not be collected.**

But Councillor Keith Evans firmly denied that the Council operated a closed-lid policy.

"We apply common sense, so in practice a bin will be collected even with the lid open to 40 degrees," he said.



## Work on Fareham's community hospital progressing fast

**FAREHAM'S community hospital at Coldeast is taking shape fast.**

Exterior masonry work, the fascia and most of the cladding are finished and windows installed.

Councillor Brian Bayford said the first fix of mechanical and electrical work was well under way and installation of soft flooring and internal decorating had begun.

"Exterior landscaping and

formation of the bell-mouth to Brook Lane should start soon," he said.

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