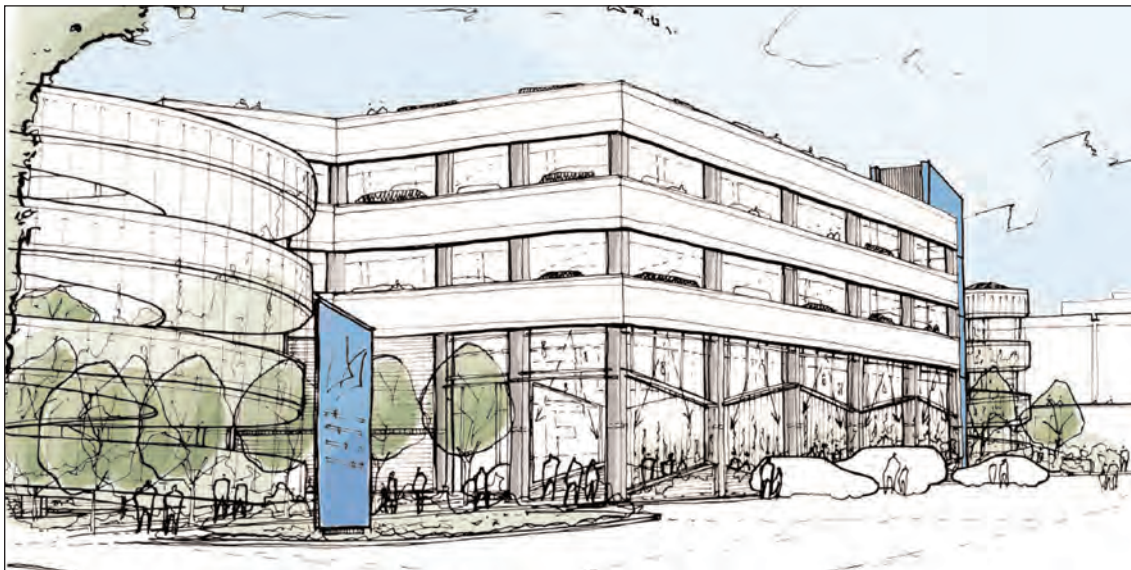


## Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

## Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



**New look:** An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

### DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor Mrs Marian Ellerton said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is designed especially for women."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Ferneham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Planning matters

An application to build 39 retirement apartments with 13 car parking spaces at 4-12 Botley Road has been refused by Fareham planners.

Two other applications are being considered:

- 12 houses with mini-roundabout in Botley Road, north of the Village Inn. The roundabout may help slow south bound traffic.

- Demolition of a bungalow at 14 Bridge Road to be replaced by 5 houses backing on to Dove Gardens.

### Clean-ups

The planned clean-up of hedgerows and undergrowth around Priory Park Community Centre was cancelled due to bad weather.

But another has been arranged from 10.30 to noon on Sunday, July 29. Litter pickers, gloves and sacks will be provided.

Meantime, Fareham Council has allocated £30,000 in 2007-08 to clean up areas whose ownership is unknown and which are not cleared under the regular programme.

Sums up to £500 are available to community groups to undertake this work and forms are available at the Civic Offices.

Inquiries to Councillor Brian Bayford on 01489 880740.

### Health walk

Why not join in a healthy summer walk in the Western Wards? Log on to the August programme on the Council's website at [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)

# End-of-summer start to ease Segensworth roundabout nightmare



**Bottleneck:** 60,000 vehicles a day converge on Segensworth roundabout.

## WORK starts at the end of the summer on the £2.65 improvements to Segensworth Roundabout and Witherbed Lane, Whiteley.

Developers, including those at Solent Business Park, will contribute £2m towards the cost and work is expected to last 5 months.

The scheme aims to ease snarl-ups caused by traffic converging at the roundabout from seven approach roads, including the A27/M27 link at Junction 9, the A27 to Fareham and the A27 to Park Gate and Sarisbury.

In an average 24-hour working day, 60,000 vehicles use the roundabout, which is the key access to Segensworth industrial estates, 3,000 homes, the business park at Whiteley and the superstores, and 5,700 vehicles an hour use it at peak times.

Traffic levels and existing configuration lead to queues on the approaches, especially arms of the junction which

are priority controlled, such as Barnes Wallis Road and Southampton Road.

The traffic signal controlled arms of the junction also have traffic queues, in particular on the A27 approaches. This junction also forms the main vehicular access to Whiteley, adding to the heavy traffic demands placed on Junction 9.

The main aim of the scheme is to improve the management of traffic at the A27 Segensworth Roundabout.

By adding additional traffic lanes at key locations at the roundabout and further traffic signal control it is expected that traffic flows can be improved.

Councillor Brian Bayford said: "I look forward to the improvements being completed as soon as possible given all of the schemes which have been previously considered and rejected, including a flyover and cutting the roundabout in half.

"All lanes should be fully open during peak times to lessen disruption."

## Sound advice to deter vehicle criminals

**THE SAFER Neighbourhood Policing Initiative continues to work effectively with the public reporting incidents to the team so that prompt action can be taken.**

Crime figures have remained low but there is a continuing problem of damage to vehicles.

Councillor Marian Ellerton said it seemed to be on the rise in the

Western Wards and the police would like to encourage residents to be vigilant and report anything relevant.

Residents are advised to deter would-be vandals by parking cars off the roadside whenever possible.

Push in wing mirrors, lower aerials, secure plastic hub caps with tie wraps and do not leave anything of value visible in your vehicle.

## Lockwood recycling banks have to be removed

**RESIDENTS who attended the recent presentation at Lockwood Community Centre were advised by the manager that the recycling banks had been moved.**

This was inaccurate as the move was temporary as the new management of the centre requires the Council to remove the recycling facilities from the site permanently.

## No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council

**MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.**

Nor will the Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said:

"Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, have exaggerated the problems and suggested that voters should support any opposition party offering to change the service.

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all parties understand it is essential in the interests of the environment and energy saving to encourage and increase recycling.

"Some opposition parties will promise to make changes, but once in power and faced with the realities, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07.

After problems experienced during the 2006 heatwave, a food waste composting system immune to rats, flies and smells is being tested by volunteers.

Problems were not caused by the change to collection rotas, but the high temperatures in which flies and maggots breed within 24 hours.

Tests proved that Jeyes fluid or similar dripped around the top of the wheelie bin deters flies and counteracts smells.



# Fears over tower loss

**WIDESPREAD** concern over plans by the owners of Locks Heath Shopping Centre to demolish the landmark clock tower brought 400 residents flocking to a public meeting in the Community Centre.



**Packed:** Residents turn out in force at the public meeting. Inset: the tower

It was called and chaired by Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Council, and attended by Western Wards councillors, directors of shopping centre owners Stockland Halladale, their architects, the shopping centre manager and planning chiefs.

ing the area behind the clock tower into a disabled car park. There were fears the car park would have a time limit and no free parking, and that the Council's proposal for a public swimming pool and private fitness facility would be lost.

real concerns of residents in Park Gate about aspects of Halladale's proposals.



"I urge all concerned people to respond to the planning department's consultation when the plans are submitted and to make sure that their ward councillors receive copies of their letters."

Councillor Marian Ellerton said: "The meeting was amazingly well attended showing the

## Rash of graffiti sparks plea to report vandals

**THE newly replaced bottle bank at Priory Park Community Centre has been heavily defaced by offensive graffiti.**

The bank will be re-painted by the

probation team working with the Council and residents are asked to identify any person seen painting graffiti on this or other newly cleared walls etc in the area.

# County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

**VOLUNTARY** organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets that the County Council has aimed at supporting voluntary organisations and community groups.

Conservative Hampshire County Councillor for Fareham Sarisbury Seán Woodward said: "The County Council recognises the vital role that voluntary organisations and community groups play in helping us deliver services to Hampshire residents."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at [www.hants.gov.uk/grants](http://www.hants.gov.uk/grants)

Organisations and groups can apply by requesting an application form from Councillor Woodward or by downloading a form from the grants website.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or groups affiliated to a political party or from lobbying organisations.

## 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.

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**Your man in Westminster**



**By Mark Hoban  
MP for Fareham**

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

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

# Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

**THOUSANDS** packed the town centre to cheer Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the Falklands 25 years ago.

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



**Marching in memory:** Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had

the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



**Lest we forget:** Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

## Council offers chance to public to air views

**AN INITIATIVE** designed to ensure the Council understands community needs will start in Fareham in September.

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) led by ward councillors, will be set up to meet across the borough.

The CATs meetings will be held from 7pm to 8.30pm and the local venues are:

**Titchfield** – Wednesday, September 19 at Titchfield Community Centre

**Western Wards** – Tuesday, September 25 at Sarisbury Green Community Centre

Executive Member for Service Performance and Improvement, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, said:

"These neighbourhood meetings offer our residents

an excellent opportunity to find out about developments we're proposing for their communities, as well as discussing local issues.

"It will give us the chance to hear from the public and for them to hear from us and, hopefully, make a difference."

*In Touch* is published by Sarisbury & Park Gate Conservatives, 230 Botley Road, Burridge SO31 1BL and printed by Chameleon Print, Unit 3, Palmerston Business Park, Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1DJ.