



In Touch

with our community

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – SUMMER 2011

Conservatives

Do you support Conservative principles? Would you like to VOTE to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates? Would you like to ATTEND social or political events with like-minded people? Would you be willing to HELP us by delivering *InTouch* newsletters in your road?

If your answer to any of these questions is YES then why not JOIN the Park Gate Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please telephone Marian Ellerton on 01489 570774

Council gives green light for strategic development plan

FAREHAM now has a new Local Plan (Core Strategy), which identifies the Borough's development needs up to 2026.

Nobody voted against when the plan was formally adopted by the Borough Council.

It will stop developers getting their hands on hundreds of acres between settlements in other parts of the Borough.

The plan took 4 years to develop, including extensive evaluation of needs and, for the last two years, widespread consultation with residents and interested parties.

It concluded with a public examination by a government inspector who found the strategy to be "sound".

The strategy includes the development of a new eco town north of Fareham with up to 7,500 new homes, proposals for the Daedelus and Coldeast sites and for employment and affordable homes.

It recognises the importance of a strategy for infrastructure and transport, the need for dispersal of retail locations, provision of public open space and to maintain strategic green buffers between areas of development.

Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, says adoption of the Core Strategy is a key point for Fareham as it helps the Council and residents to determine where future development will and will not happen.

Over the next two years more detailed Area Action Plans, Strategic Development Plans and Site Allocation Plans will be developed.

These will have widespread consultation, including the nearby communities of Knowle and Wickham, and will culminate with an examination in public in the spring of 2013.

Fareham's plea to PM: 'Make unauthorised travellers' camps a crime'



Disgusting: Police deal with the invaders at Titchfield recreation ground and (above) what they left the Council to clear up.

THEY terrify residents, damage property, cost councils thousands of pounds to evict them and clear up the filth they leave behind.

And then they just move down the road and do it all over again.

But Fareham Borough Council, which has been plagued for years by travellers sticking two fingers up at the law, has had enough.

After more invasions of council land this summer, Council Leader Seán Woodward wrote to Prime Minister David Cameron calling for trespass to be made a criminal offence.

Councillor Woodward says the law as it stands is completely ineffective.

"The public find such invasions threatening and intimidating and feel unable to go about their normal business on public land, including children's playgrounds.

Cemetery desecrated

"We even had one recent incident where a cemetery was invaded with vans parked on graves to the huge distress of bereaved relatives.

"The Council is fully aware that a criminal offence is committed if an unauthorised encampment fails to leave when the Police use section 61 or 62 and local authorities use section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

"However, the criminal offence occurs only when this action is instigated and those occupying the land fail to comply with directions under the legislation, and not at the time when the land is invaded."

Using County Court procedures under Section 55 of the County Court Rules by taking 'squatters' proceedings to evict travellers has proved more effective.

The Council has been successful in evicting travellers from its land because all necessary procedures have been followed and welfare checks undertaken prior to any action being instigated.

The success is down to close co-operation between the Council's enforcement officers and solicitors and the County Council's gypsy liaison officer.

Criminal offence

The Council has previously written to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State, recommending that unauthorised encampments should be treated as a criminal offence, instead of a civil matter.

The Council resolved at its June meeting to write to the Prime Minister, with copies to Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Fareham MP Mark Hoban, after a further invasion of Council land by travellers.

Fareham is working with neighbouring councils to try to identify a suitable piece of land for a transit site that would enable the police to use their additional powers to move unauthorised encampments on.

However, temporary transit sites would not be able to accommodate some of the numbers involved.

Councillor Woodward questioned David Cameron and Eric Pickles directly on the matter at the recent Local Government Association conference.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Grants available

County Councillor Seán Woodward has just had £8,000 made available to him for grants to voluntary organisations in his Sarisbury Division which includes Sarisbury, Park Gate, Swanwick, Priory Park, Burridge and Whiteley.

If your organisation would find a grant of benefit for equipment (not running costs or salaries) then please get in touch.

So far Councillor Woodward has made a grant of £1,000 to 1st Sarisbury Green Scout group for a shipping container in which to store their equipment at Burridge Village Hall.

This leaves £7,000 so get bidding!

Homeinstead

A new support service for the elderly and others in need at home opened at 14 Middle Road on June 24.

This service promises to provide first class care with dedicated carers to those in need in their own homes.

Solar power

Solar panels are to be installed on the roof of a sheltered housing block in Titchfield Common as part of a £136,000 scheme to harness energy from the sun.

They will be installed at Downing Court and as part of the same scheme panels will be used to clad one side of the Civic Offices in the centre of Fareham.

The panels could generate income of more than £9,100 per year, as well as saving a total of £4,000 in electricity bills.

Council faces delicate balancing act to get Coldeast development right

LONGSTANDING community ambitions should be fulfilled at the Coldeast Hospital site for which Fareham Council will soon consider a development brief.

Uppermost in councillors' minds will be that it is critical to preserve the area's character, while making the most of the benefits to hand.

It means taking into account years of extensive public consultation and the testing of proposals at the recent public inquiry into the new Strategic Development Plan.

However, to secure the community benefits, the Council recognises the importance of new residential development within appropriate parts of the site.

It is proposed to allocate areas of land to the north and south of the mansion house drive in the south east corner for housing totalling 150-170 dwellings, plus 60 units of sheltered accommodation.

Developers must provide affordable housing in accordance with Council policies.

It is also proposed that the mansion house will be restored for possible use as a hotel, the dairy and stables converted to residential use.

It is important for new development to have a soft and unregimented appearance in the



Safe: Coldeast Mansion will be restored and may become a hotel.

landscape in terms of form and structure, the treatment of highways, parking and residential boundaries.

It will give the impression of an informal, almost semi-rural appearance with an emphasis on landscape and an avoidance of a hard urban streetscape.

There should be views through to the woodland

edge, avoiding a continuous wall of buildings fronting the public realm.

Buildings will generally be restricted to 2 storeys to eaves and comprise a mixed palette of natural materials.

Park Gate Councillor Brian Bayford said: "It is probably true to say that we do not actually need over 150 extra houses in the area, but the ambitions for community facilities are proven and appropriate."

He said Holly Hill Cemetery was full and a new one needed, extra allotments were needed to meet demand and public open space was always at a premium.

"The new community at Coldeast needs a community centre, children and adults need more sports pitches and we could really do with a swimming pool in the Western Wards.

"This brief makes all of those ambitions reality."

PROPOSED COMMUNITY USES

Pitches/outdoor sports facilities	3.55 ha (8.8 acres)
Equipped Children's Playspace	0.11 ha (0.3 acres)
Informal open space	8.26 ha (20.4 acres)
Changing rooms/community facility	
Land for the provision of public swimming pool	
Existing woodland	10.91 ha (27 acres)
Land for allotments	0.8 ha (2 acres)
Land for Cemetery	1.2 ha (3 acres)
Totals	24.83 ha (61.4 acres)

Surgery closure: NHS reviews the situation

A REVIEW by the NHS to determine future provision of GP medical services for patients currently seen at Locks Road Surgery, Locks Heath was due to be completed in August.

It follows strong protests by patients who were told the GPs intended closing the surgery and transferring the practice to Whiteley.

Hampshire NHS Medical Director Dr Stuart Ward said: "Many patients have raised concerns, including the distance and ability to travel to Whiteley and the availability of suitable alternative services.

"NHS Hampshire has deferred making a decision on the closure until we have worked together with patients and local practices to explore all options for providing GP services in the Locks Heath area.

"Dr Whitaker and partners are contin-

uing to provide services at both their surgeries until a decision is made about the potential closure of Locks Road Surgery."

The review is looking at the current standard of all NHS buildings, any investment that may be needed, occupancy levels and the potential to develop these buildings in the future.

The information will be used to develop a range of options that will be discussed with local GPs over the summer and patients in the autumn.

"We recognise Dr Whitaker and Partners' aspiration to close their Locks Road Branch Surgery and consolidate services at their main surgery in Whiteley.

"This is partly due to the work necessary to ensure the branch surgery building remains at current standards but also to staff changes."

Minister to speak at Tory dinner

F A R E H A M Conservative Association's annual dinner will be at Solent Hotel, Whiteley on September 30.

The speaker will be Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Transport.

Applications for tickets can be made to Tina Ellis, Fareham Conservative Association, 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN; Tel 01329 822646; email conservatives@fareham.mail.co.uk

There may be trouble in the pipeline for septic tanks

THERE could be trouble in the pipeline for Park Gate Ward residents with septic tanks or other treatment plants.

They must register them with the Environment Agency by the end of the year.

Councillor Brian Bayford said: "For some reason this need to register has not been publicised at all well, although there have been letters about it in some local and national newspapers."

Most registrations will not be charged, but there is a possibility of a £125 one-off fee in some circumstances.

To find out more, go to: www.environment-agency.gov.uk and click on "register your septic tank" under "At home and leisure" or phone: 03708 506 506.

Mayoral 'Proms'

Ferneham Hall will be the venue for the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Trevor Cartwright's 'Last Night of the Proms' event on Saturday, October 8.

Green Flag flies over Holly Hill Park for 4th year

HOLLY HILL Woodland Park has retained its prestigious Green Flag Award for the fourth year running.

The award sets a national standard showing that the park is well managed and provides an excellent community facility.

Councillor Ruth Godrich said a big

'thank you' was owed to the Council's grounds maintenance staff and volunteers who help them.



Survey seeks residents' views on extra community hospital services

A RESIDENTS' survey will be carried out by the Council in the autumn and one of the questions will relate to possible extra services at the new Fareham Community Hospital in Sarisbury.

Outpatient services currently include consultant clinics, midwifery, physiotherapy, phlebotomy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, diabetic retinopathy, child health services, health visitors, X-ray and MRI scanning.

Residents are being asked to prioritise the services they would most like to see developed in the hospital, either in the existing building or following an extension for which land has been set aside by the Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "We are working closely with the Friends of Fareham Community Hospital to ensure that the consultation is as wide as possible, therefore the Friends have been invited to have a stand at the autumn Community Action Team meetings being held throughout the Borough."

Councillor Brian Bayford, who campaigned for many years to bring about the new hospital, said:

"There has also been a desire in

Fareham for a minor injury treatment centre such as that at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth.

"I am sure residents will come up with ideas for new services and we and the PCT look forward to hearing their views. We will then campaign to make them a reality."

Meanwhile, Councillor Woodward met the PCT recently to discuss current hospital services.

He had received complaints about the phlebotomy service, the inability of patients to get through by telephone and the unavailability of appointments for taking blood at short notice.

As a result there have been significant improvements made to the service in terms of availability of staff and the Trust is currently investigating a new booking system and call handling.

He also asked about the possibility of locating a Red Cross service at the hospital to hire out disability aids as well as finding space for the Friends to display their wares to raise money for patient comforts at the hospital.

He was assured these matters would be taken in hand, including the consultation of GPs in Fareham regarding the Red Cross service.

Fareham escapes police station cuts

THERE are no plans to close Park Gate or Fareham police stations.

Hampshire Police Authority is reviewing its estates strategy which is likely to lead to closure or relocation of several police stations in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

As well as looking to rationalise the provision of front counter facilities in communities, it is also necessary to save £100m across the police service in Hampshire over the next few years.

It is committed to retain front line policing with officers on the streets, so everything else must be carefully examined to find more economical ways of providing it.

Police Authority member County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am pleased savings will not be made by shutting the police station that serves Park Gate."

"The most important thing is that people do not lose the security of police officers visibly on our streets."

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.

WARD COUNCILLORS Park Gate



Brian Bayford
6 Abshot Manor
Little Abshot Lane
Titchfield Common PO14 4LN
Tel: 01489 57772
email: bbayford@fareham.gov.uk



Marian Ellerton
230 Botley Road
Burrige 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



YOUR voice in Westminster
by MARK HOBAN
MP for Fareham



Contact Mark on 01 329 233573 or www.markhoban.com

Making a difference

IN JUNE, I opened the new kitchens at the Fareham Community Church in West Street.

The church led by Dan Whitehead (right) makes a vital contribution to the local community.



It runs vibrant groups for toddlers and teenagers. Through 'Christians against Poverty UK', it also provides help to families in debt. It is one of a number of faith groups that are making a great contribution to the Big Society.

Take one small step

LOCAL businessman Andy Ward (centre) reached the finals of Barclays 'Take One Small Step' competition.



I met Andy with Dan Brogan, Barclays' Area Manager, to find out more about his business idea and how Barclays can help.

Sent to the PM

STUDENTS from Portchester Community School invited me to their school to talk about their campaign to improve education for young people in developing countries.

They believe that by doing this we can help grow their economies and their young people to provide for their families.

After the visit, I gave the students a namecheck in the House of Commons and forwarded their work on this campaign to David Cameron.

Children's heart services campaign



A BIG review of children's heart services could lead to the closure of the specialist unit in Southampton - the Ocean Ward.

Many anxious parents have written asking me to support their campaign to save the ward.

I'm backing their campaign and have taken this up with the Department for Health, pointing out the ward's excellent record and calling for it to be saved.

I went to No 10 Downing Street with a group of campaigners to deliver a petition backing the campaign signed by over 230,000 local people.

Cheques saved

MANY local residents were concerned about the potential abolition of cheques by our banks.

As a Treasury Minister, I was able to intervene and tell the banks that the Government opposed this.

Thanks to this intervention and those by businesses and other users, the banks abandoned their plan.

Fareham's countdown to the Olympics

THE Council hosted a free event to mark the start of the countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

It provided an opportunity for people to walk to various points around Fareham and take part in a range of activities.

To capture the mood of the Games, the Council, in partnership with local groups, has developed a programme.

It includes a range of cultural and sporting events and competitions that everyone can enjoy.

It shows Fareham's intention to celebrate next year's Olympics in style.

For full details, call the Leisure and Community Team on 01329 236100 or visit the website www.fareham.gov.uk/fareham2012.

Mayor gets on his bike for gruelling charity ride around Isle of Wight

By Trevor Cartwright

FORTY CYCLISTS joined me for this Charity bike ride on Saturday, July 9 by riding 70 miles around the Isle of Wight.

It looks as though it will raise over £6,000 for my chosen charities – Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Toe in the Water and Warsash Wasps Sports & Football Club.

I am extremely grateful to all the cyclists who took part, for the generosity of their sponsors, to all the helpers and to organisations in Fareham and the Isle of Wight who gave their support.

We had a brilliant day with a wonderful atmosphere and raised a fantastic amount of money.

It was quite a gruelling ride around the Isle of Wight – you are either going up or going down – and there are no flat bits in between, but everyone got round without any problems.



They're off! The Mayor leads the charge of the Bike Brigade.

One of the highlights for me was coming down one of the very steep hills on the south side of the island where I hit 34 mph and set off one of the 30mph repeater signs!

As a keen cyclist, I have been training since last Christmas and covered 900 miles which paid dividends for the ride.

I was joined by the Council's Chief Executive, Peter Grimwood, several other senior FBC officers,

fellow Councillor Nick Gregory and Mary Burrige, my sister-in-law and mother of Helen who has Cystic Fibrosis and completed the ride on her 62nd birthday!

The fastest rider was Bjorn Sprake from Warsash, who completed the course in an amazing 3hrs 59mins.

Two riders from Warsash who took part - Mike Ford and Pete Brown – will undertake an even longer sponsored bike ride when they set off from Warsash

on August 28 and head for the Med to cycle 730 miles to Beziers on the French Mediterranean.

They have kindly offered to donate all sponsor money raised to the Mayor's Charities. My grateful thanks to Mike and Pete.

• If you would like to support the Mayor's Charities, please send a donation to The Mayor of Fareham's Charities 2011/12 at The Mayor's Office, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7AZ.