

# InTouch

## PARK GATE WARD



**PARK GATE  
AND  
PRIORY  
PARK**

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

#### FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Brian Bayford - Tel. Locks Heath 880740  
E-mail: [bbayford@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:bbayford@fareham.gov.uk)

Marian Ellerton - Tel. Locks Heath 570774  
E-mail: [mellerton@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:mellerton@fareham.gov.uk)

#### HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Keith Estlin - Tel. Locks Heath 575639  
E-mail: [keith.estlin@hants.gov.uk](mailto:keith.estlin@hants.gov.uk)

## FAREHAM COUNCIL TAX SET AT INFLATION-ONLY INCREASE

We are pleased to report that Fareham Borough Council continues to have one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country with a rise of just 2.5% bringing the total for a band D property to £123 per year. The Council, which has just been rated as GOOD by the Audit Commission (in the top 20% in the country) in terms of its services and management has also recently become debt-free meaning that it is not penalised by interest rates.

The low tax has been achieved despite a need to fund an ever-increasing number of Government "initiatives" many of which receive little or no financial support and cost the Council over £500,000 annually, and a steady reduction in the proportion of expenditure funded by Government. The average council only has to raise 25% of its expenditure via the Council Tax but for Fareham this figure is 52% due to receiving a grant settlement no higher now than 10 years ago. The whole band D bill including the County, Borough, Police and Fire Authorities is £1,123 per year.

We are pleased to report a number of service improvements including:

- ⇒ An enforcement team to clamp down on and issue fixed penalty notices for litter dropping, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, etc
- ⇒ Pay-and-display car parking charges frozen for the third year running and introduction of pay-on-foot
- ⇒ Vandalism Task Force with £40,000 to spend on community safety initiatives such as covert CCTV
- ⇒ Five new neighbourhood facilities for young people including skate parks
- ⇒ Provision of a Cinema and other leisure facilities in the Market Quay development in the town centre

Commenting, Council Leader and Sarisbury Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am pleased to have been able to propose such a low increase in Council Tax with some useful increases in services. I am delighted that 5 years of Conservative administration has turned around the Council's finances from a predicted £2.2 million ongoing annual deficit of revenue, a £3.8 million capital deficit and £5.8 million of external debt to the present debt-free state with all funding in balance and no use of reserves being necessary to maintain one of the lowest Council Taxes in England."

**We keep InTouch throughout the year  
- not just at election time!!!**

# MAYOR'S CHARITY CLASSICAL CONCERT

For the Mayor's Charities a prestige event is being organised on July 10th featuring an internationally renowned classical pianist from the USA. Roman Rudnytsky is acknowledged throughout the world as one of the top classical pianists. He has performed in most countries and is currently touring the South Pacific. He has kindly offered his talent to a Charity Concert for the Mayor of Fareham and a local country house will provide the venue for a specially invited audience.

Tickets will be limited to 100 and anyone interested in attending should contact Councillor Brian Bayford without delay.



## ALLOTMENT ROAD RECREATION GROUND—management and maintenance

As reported in the last issue Fareham Borough Council is currently considering a partnership agreement for Allotment Road Recreation Ground with Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club for the management and maintenance of the site.

Despite the fact that out of 500 households consulted the vast majority agreed that the management and maintenance of the ground should be undertaken by the Cricket Club and the existing adult football pitch should be replaced by junior or mini soccer pitches a number of residents closest to the site have continued to express concerns about the management proposals.

We have previously stated that we would not support any proposals that would reduce public access to the site and this remains our view. The main concern appears to be that maintenance may occur during the times (evenings and weekends) when most casual users want access. This is certainly an issue that could be controlled by a lease, should one be granted by the Council's Executive on 22nd March. We feel that if a lease is granted then it should be for a temporary period to see whether there are any problems.

# PARK GATE CONSERVATIVES

Park Gate Conservatives are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join Park Gate Conservatives, or to help in any way such as in the distribution of InTouch Newsletters in your road then please contact Marian Ellerton on Locks Heath 570774.

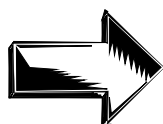
Our website is [www.farehamconservatives.org.uk](http://www.farehamconservatives.org.uk)

## Your chance to comment

### Feedback

*What's  
your  
worry?*

*tell the  
Editors*



**MARIAN ELLERTON, 230 BOTLEY ROAD, PARK GATE. SO31 1BL  
or BRIAN BAYFORD, 1 CAMARGUE CLOSE, WHITELEY. PO15 7DT**

Published by Park Gate Conservatives, 230 Botley Road, Park Gate, Southampton. SO31 1BL  
Printed by Tollwood, Unit 2, Lysses Court, High Street, Fareham. PO16 7BE