



In Touch

with our community

PARK GATE & PRIORY PARK – WINTER 2007

Doggone it!
Don't let
your pet get
carried away

COLLAR your dog or microchip it – that's the message from Fareham Council.

Strays can be a nuisance, but there is a service offered by the Council to people who find lost pooches.

The out-of-hours collection and kenneling service has been extended and can be contacted between 5.15pm and 10pm by calling 0800 374485 in a normal working week.

A tagged or microchipped dog will be returned speedily to its owner who will have to pay a fixed fee.

But if Bonzo makes off a second time, it will be kenneled at the owner's expense.

The dog will be kept for 7 days in kennels, then found a new home.

Executive Member for Public Protection, Councillor Arthur Mandry, said:

"We hope to be able to reunite stray dogs with their owners or find them a new home as quickly as possible."



All set for another Tory below inflation budget

'We manage to do more with less'

FAREHAM'S Conservative Council will again be the envy of neighbouring authorities when it sets a below-inflation council tax without reducing its excellent services.

A rise of about 3% will mean average Band C householders will pay less than £118 a year for the Borough's services or £88.50 for single occupants.

Hampshire County Council takes the lion's share which, with demands from the Police Authority and Fire and Rescue, is likely to see Band C properties paying an extra £50 a year. Consistently prudent management achieves these very low rises year on year, despite the Government paying Fareham one of the lowest grants in the country.

Conservatives always look for the best value for taxpayers' money by finding innovative ways of increasing income and reducing expenditure, while continuing to improve services.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted that we have again been able to minimise the impact of council tax on our residents.

"We have yet again been able to produce a budget which is balanced, improves services and seeks an increase from residents which is below the level of inflation.

"The average household in Fareham pays less than £2.30 per week for the high quality services of Fareham Borough Council.

"That sum is viewed with envy by many residents of surrounding districts. We manage to do more with less than almost any other council in England."



Open: The new customer service centre at the Civic Offices and (left) Executive Leader Seán Woodward working flat out for low Council Tax lost over 2 stone after handing over the refurbished Leisure Centre.



How we spend your money

The Council has a capital programme of £22m over the next 5 years. Its plans include:

- Improving 14 public conveniences £400,000
- Neighbourhood fora suggestions £100,000
- Improvements to council footpaths £50,000
- Play strategy projects £50,000
- Green Flag status for parks, woodlands £30,000
- Osborn Road multi-storey car park £100,000

The Council spends £38m annually on revenue services and improvements include:

- Community football development officer £10,000
- Tree Survey £40,000
- Business continuity planning £20,000

These come on top of improvements for this year, which included 5 new skateparks, mobile CCTV unit, new community centre at Fareham Methodist Church, £2m for enabling social housing for rent and several environmental improvement schemes.

Fareham's commitment to equality for the disabled

DISABLED residents and the groups that support them have been influential in creating a new Disability Equality Scheme for Fareham Council.

The scheme, now available on the Council's website, underlines Fareham's determination to

achieve equality of opportunity.

The Council will ensure there is no discrimination against the disabled and will identify training to enable officers and members to recognise and accommodate the needs of our disabled community.

A disability equality working

group, involving disabled residents and staff, will be set up.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright said: "We were determined to ensure the actions we committed to were ones that would make a very real difference to disabled people, their families and carers."

Happy New Year! We keep *In Touch* throughout - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Education workshop

Two MPs will hold an Education Workshop at the Wallington Community Centre on Saturday, March 3 from 9.30am to 12.15pm.

It will be chaired by Fareham MP and Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury Mark Hoban, with Havant MP and Shadow Education Minister David Willetts as special guest.

It's a must for any parents concerned with education matters.

For more information or to reserve a place ring Tina Ellis 01329 822646 or 843936.

New review panel

With the latest reorganisation of the NHS a new liaison panel has been set up with the Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

This group, comprising an executive councillor from Havant, Gosport and Fareham Boroughs and senior representatives of the Primary Care Trust will meet quarterly to review health issues and problems. Fareham's representative is Councillor Brian Bayford.

Spring clean

A programme of foot-path repairs is planned in the ward starting in April.

An arrangement has been made with the Probation Service for those undertaking Community Service to help clean up graffiti.

Initially this has concentrated on the skate parks and will soon be switch to bottle banks. Plans for a total clean-up are in hand for later in the spring.

Rat infestation of recycling waste 'just scaremongering' says Brian

SCARE stories about rats infesting waste collected for recycling do not apply to Fareham, which remains top of the county's league with 40.25% recycled

Some national papers suggested recycling material was being sent to India and China where it is landfilled.

"This may be the situation in other parts of the country but in Fareham there has not been any increase in vermin infestation," stressed Councillor Brian Bayford.

"Fareham only collects material for which there is a recycling market in the UK and all other waste goes to the Portsmouth incinerator that produces enough energy a year to heat and light 30,000 houses.

"The electricity is transferred into the national grid. No waste goes to landfill.

"Supposing you were watching your favourite TV programme and the power went off? Recycling paper, tin, glass, aluminium and plastics saves between 70% and 80% energy.

"It might help you to avoid missing



Cone it! Brian Bayford sets a good example by putting his food waste into a trial composter.

that favourite programme."

Councillor Bayford said there was still a large amount of contamination partly because some residents were unsure of what to recycle, while others appeared not to bother.

"This is being dealt with by a major education and advisory campaign starting in April," he added

•If in doubt ring the Council on 01329 236100.

ENTER the green cone to get in on the food waste recycling act.

Volunteers in Park Gate Ward are testing a new 'green cone' food waste composter over the next 6 months.

The sealed system is claimed to dispose of food waste without flies or vermin gaining access.

Councillor Brian Bayford said: "If successful it would remove large amounts of waste from the green wheelie bins."

Problems are still being experienced with flats where there is considerable pollution of the recycling containers.

Extra advice will be given to these residents to avoid the cost of dealing with contaminated bins and help will be available to deal with problems experienced during the summer heat wave.

It's an old chestnut – be vigilant!



UNDERNEATH the spreading chestnut tree developers were thinking how happy they would be to chop it down.

But their attempt to open-up the land behind the houses on the south side of Bridge Road was felled instead by the efforts of local residents and your councillors.

A petition of more than 300 signatures led to the application made on behalf of Foreman Homes being thrown out.

Councillor Brian Bayford said Park Gate already had too many flats causing major road and parking problems and he warned people to be vigilant as the developers were unlikely to go away.

Park Gate flood damage checks

FLOODING from recent storms has damaged the road and paths in Station Road and the lower end of Botley Road.

Highways engineers were due to visit the area and record the damage to enable remedial work to be undertaken.

At the same time, checks were being made to ascertain the causes of the excess water and flooding. All gullies were being checked and cleared of leaves and other obstructions.

Community centre spruced up EXTENSIONS to Priory Park Community Centre have now been completed.

They will provide improved toilet and changing facilities to the bowling club and improvements to the entrance foyer.

The work was undertaken with the aid of a grant from Fareham Council.

Funds available for volunteers

VOLUNTARY groups could benefit from the Council's Community Grant Scheme.

Groups can apply for funds between £100 and £1500 to support community play, sport or leisure opportunities within the Borough.

Residents' objections ignored as huge new estate gets green light

AN ESTATE of up to 350 homes off Hunts Pond Road has been given the go-ahead, despite angry objections over the access.

Fareham Council adopted the development brief for the 27-acre (10.9 hectares) site near the junction with Warsash Road.

Residents were upset that the two main access points to the estate were off busy Hunts Pond Road and not Warsash Road.

Hampshire County Council own the land off Warsash Road and refused to release it for nature conservation reasons.

The development brief indicates ways in which the impact on Hunts Pond Road can be reduced.

It would be designed to encourage one point for access and the other for exit by breaking the continuous flow of traffic in Hunts Pond Road. Pedestrian crossings would be built next to these points.

A roundabout was proposed for the junction with Warsash Road, which should reduce speed down the lower end of Hunts Pond Road and encourage residents in the new estate to leave via that exit.

The top end of the site abutting the Hampshire nature conservation area would be fronted by ponds and open green areas.

The public will have the chance to comment when the detailed plans are submitted to the Council. These are likely to be discussed by the Planning Control Committee in the next few months.

Plan for 39 retirement homes will provide only 13 parking spaces

A PLANNING application is imminent to replace two houses and a bungalow (pictured) opposite the Q8 garage in Botley Road with a block of 39 retirement homes.

Councillors Brian Bayford and Marian Ellerton understand that the proposal only includes 13 car parking spaces (one for every three houses).

While it is too early to pronounce on the proposals, your councillors are aware of the difficulty experienced with car parking in the area.

Residents of Dove Gardens and the terraced houses in Botley Road are already experiencing considerable problems with parking and it is believed that this pending proposal will only exacerbate this difficulty.



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

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

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

IF WE ARE to be successful in the 21st century we need to get our education system right.

We will not be able to compete successfully with India and China, unless we have a highly skilled workforce. Despite the excellent work that takes place in our local schools, colleges and universities, more needs to be done.

In early January, new league tables were produced which show that less than half of 16-year-olds in Hampshire get five good GCSEs including English and Maths. I know from talking to local businesses how it important it is for them for children to leave school with a good grasp of basic skills.

International studies show that while we do well as a country with the proportion of young people going to university, we lag behind our competitors when it comes to the number of young people staying on at school or college at 16. I am not sure whether the answer is to raise the school leaving age to 18 as the Government proposes. Will young people bother to go to college if they do not feel that the courses on offer are worthwhile?

Ruth Kelly's decision to send her son to a private school because of his particular educational needs also caused controversy in January.

People will have their own views on whether she was right to do this as a mother and a senior politician, but I know from my postbag that the help and support we give to children with special educational needs is an important issue.

You will have your own views, as a parent, a teacher, a student or an employer and I want to give you the opportunity to air them at a meeting we are holding on March 3 with David Willetts, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education. Details are on Page 2 of this In Touch. I hope you will come along to debate and discuss these issues so that you can influence the future of education in our community.

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

16 wardens to target verge and double yellow parkers

PARK on a double yellow or sink your wheels into a grass verge in Fareham after this April and there's a high chance you'll be booked.

Sixteen full-time parking wardens will be appointed to enforce 'no waiting' restrictions across the borough.

The Council will take over parking enforcement from the police whose duties end after April 2007.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Connie Hockley said the County Council would have imposed a private contractor had Fareham not decided to take over the responsibility.

The aim was to bring uniform standards and flexibility to street regulations and the new set-up would also allow the Council to consider residents' parking schemes.

"Regulations are usually

imposed after complaints by residents of indiscriminate or dangerous parking.

"Verge parking orders have also been given a warm welcome by local people who do not wish to see their grass verges reduced to a rutted quagmire, with possible damage to services beneath the

surface," she said.

She denied it was just another Council money-making scheme.

"If the rules which are imposed for the benefit of the majority are complied with, there will be no fixed parking penalties issued and hence no income from them."



Rutting season: A resident snapped the lorry which churned this verge in Riverside Avenue, Wallington into a quagmire. Note the building materials dumped on the verge opposite.

Services agreed for Fareham's new hospital

AN AMBULANCE stand-by point may be provided at Fareham's new community hospital at Coldeast.

Discussions are taking place with the Hampshire Ambulance Service for the inclusion of an ambulance bay and service from the site.

The Hospital Planning Group agreed the schedule of accommodation on January 5 after consulting local GPs. It is planned to provide:

- Large out-patient department replacing the Sylvan Clinic with

- 6 consulting suites and 2 suites for ante-natal clinics.

- 12 maternity beds including two delivery rooms to replace Blackbrook Maternity Home.

- Rehabilitation department with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles to replace and enhance services at Highlands Road Clinic.

- 2 general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and 2 ultrasound units.

- Elderly assessment centre, with large treatment area and 2 consulting

suites.

- Older persons' mental health day hospital with 2 consulting suites, treatment room, large sitting room and 2 activity rooms.

There will be an out-of-hours and minor procedures facility serviced by GPs to save residents having to travel to Gosport or Southampton. It will include a pharmacy.

Councillor Brian Bayford, Fareham's representative to the Primary Care Trust, said Fareham would have the initial ele-

ments of a very comprehensive health service campus by 2010.

"However, the hospital will have only maternity beds. Beds for Fareham residents will be at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

"This is because of a promise, made in 1998 by the NHS management to the residents of Gosport, that if the MoD left Haslar Hospital alternate facilities would be provided in Gosport," he said.