

New drinks clampdown welcomed by police

DRINKING alcohol and misbehaving in public places could land you in trouble anywhere in Fareham.

The Council has extended its Designated Public Places Order to cover all the Borough from June 1, 2007.

Police, who found an earlier Order designating the town centre useful in reducing nuisance, backed the move.

The Council and police gathered evidence to identify other potential areas where designation would provide relief from the impact of drink-related disorder.

Highlands, central Portchester, West End and Stubbington were identified, with Hill Head and Locks Heath also causing concern.

If an Order were made for each area, a small part of the Borough would not be covered and the risk of dispersal to nearby areas would be high, hence the Borough-wide Order.

It is an offence to drink alcohol after being asked not to by a police officer. Police may confiscate and dispose of any alcohol and containers; it is an arrestable offence to disobey an officer's request.

It is **not** an offence to have a glass of wine or beer at the family picnic on the beach or in the park **unless** it causes alcohol-related nuisance, annoyance or disorder.

Fareham top choice for a happy family

WE'VE BEEN saying it for years, but now you're getting it from a renowned independent source – Fareham IS in the top six places in Britain to raise a family.

A *Reader's Digest* survey of all 408 local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales put the Borough in 6th position.

Classy Winchester came 42nd, Manchester 328th and three London boroughs at the bottom.

It was parents themselves, not councillors or officials, who came up with their own criteria.

Most important was living in a family-friendly area with good schools and hospitals, low crime rates, affordable housing and high employment.

Other factors included low flooding risk, proximity of universities, colleges, major cities, coast and country parks and climate.

The survey's findings utterly refuted a survey published by

two national newspapers last October which outraged the town by placing it bottom of the list of desirable places to live because of poor employment and high crime figures.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "The results of this survey are wonderful news for Fareham. It is a really great place to raise a family, with countryside and the coast on your doorstep, along with the two larger cities of Portsmouth and Southampton close by.

"We have excellent schools and low crime rates and offer a safe and very attractive place to live.



"As well as being a great place environmentally, it is also a friendly place to live with good neighbours and supportive communities."

The Council took the *Independent on Sunday* and *Daily Mail* to the Press

Complaints commission and both printed apology letters.

Councillor Woodward added: "These letters quite clearly show that the producers of this survey made a mistake, but I am still anxious to ensure that the authors of the survey respond to us and that they explain how their data placed Fareham at the bottom of the ranking."

•Research was carried out on behalf of *Reader's Digest* by YouGov who surveyed 1,162 parents with children under 16 in February.

Colours, bayonets, drums and a famous name in Falklands parade

A VIP whose name was a top secret was to join veterans and dignitaries to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War on Saturday, May 12.

Fareham Council scheduled the official commemoration for 11am.

Shortly before, a Royal Navy guard of honour was to exercise

HMS Collingwood's right as freemen of the Borough to march through town with bayonets fixed and colours flying.

A Drumhead Service in West Street featuring the Royal Marines Band was to precede an address by the Council's Executive Leader, Councillor Seán

Woodward, and one by a veteran of the Falklands conflict.

The VIP was to open the Falklands Arch as an entrance to the town from Market Quay car park. A formal march past was being followed by a field gun display by HMS Collingwood Volunteer Cadet Corps.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Garden party

Sarisbury and Park Gate Conservatives will hold their annual garden party on Sunday June 10 at 3pm in Swanwick.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Susan Bayford, on 01489-880740

Coldeast talks

Discussions are continuing about plans for the Coldeast Hospital site.

The parties agreed a development brief was needed to provide a framework for the whole site and allow for community involvement at all stages of the brief.

It would include the approved development, possible uses of the mansion, public open space and provision of a community hospital.

Fareham Council will have full control of the contents of the final brief.

Rapid response

Councillor David Swanbrow dealt quickly with two local issues.

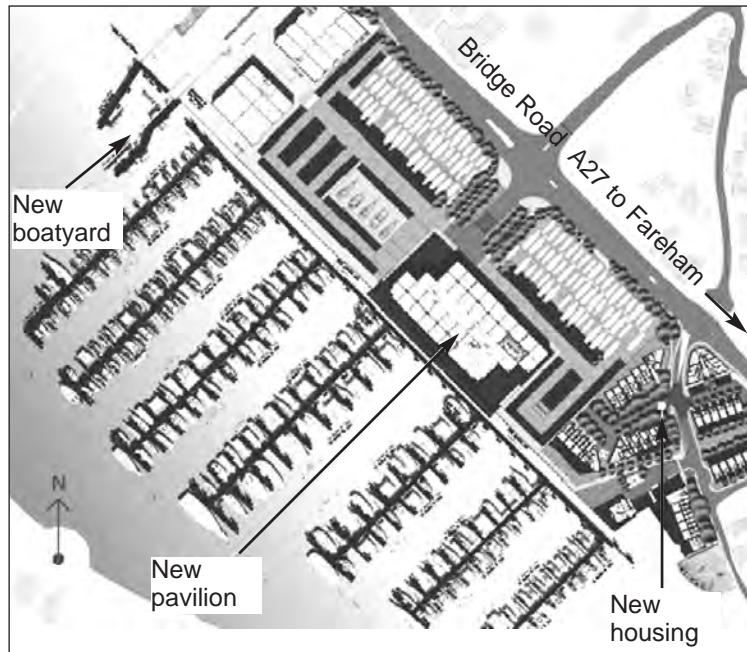
1 A Burrigge resident reported a lorry had broken a chevron on a lamp post on Botley Road, causing traffic to pass worryingly close to his home.

Action: David called Hampshire Highways who replaced the chevron the same day.

2 A Woodland Close resident feared trees at Coldeast could endanger property.

Action: David contacted Fareham's arboriculturalist who inspected the trees, but found no immediate risk. However, he passed on the concerns to English Partnerships who are responsible for the site.

Multi-million Swanwick marina redevelopment plan in pipeline



A MULTI-MILLION pound redevelopment of Swanwick Marina could centre on a new pavilion, the relocation and expansion of the boatyard and a new area of riverside housing.

Premier Marinas are introducing the proposals following their purchase of the marina in 2005.

Top of the list is the new pavilion featuring a chandlery, restaurant with café bar and units for new and used boat sales and marina-related businesses.

Berth holders could enjoy new changing rooms in the pavilion and the old pontoons would be replaced to provide modern berthing facilities.

Boatyard operations would be relocated west of the marina, with purpose-built workshops and boat lifting and handling facilities. New jobs may be created.

52 new homes, which would need to be designed to respond

to the Swanwick Shore Conservation Area, could be built the east end of the marina next to the existing houses and would be a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed houses and flats, with about 35% allocated as affordable homes.

It is a focal point in the River Hamble, so the ecology and environmental issues at Swanwick need to be addressed.

A new riverside walk to link with existing footpaths may be included.

Sarisbury Councillor Seán Woodward, who is also vice-chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and was instrumental

in having Swanwick Shore designated as a conservation area, said:

“Swanwick Marina is key to the setting of Swanwick Shore Conservation Area and any redevelopment needs to enhance that area.

“There are a number of listed buildings including the old chapel which at present is swamped by a tatty commercial area.”

If the scheme goes ahead, improvements to the public hard at Swanwick should be a part of it and ownership transferred to the Council.

Recent improvements for car parking could be improved further at the developer's expense.

Increased traffic flows on Swanwick Shore Road, which has three accesses to Bridge Road/A27, should be reviewed.

When a planning application is submitted the Council will carry out a public consultation for 3 weeks.

Comments will be reported to the Planning Committee.

Copies of comments should also be sent to ward councillors to alert them to residents' views.



Focal point: An artist's impression of the pavilion.

Fence height must be reduced

OWNERS of 1 Holly Hill Lane, who erected a 2m high fence adjoining Sarisbury Parish Rooms without planning consent, have been ordered to reduce it to the permitted 1m.

They originally agreed to the height reduction and to re-plant evergreen shrubs, but subsequently appealed against Fareham planners' decision.

An inspector dismissed their appeal and ruled that properties abutting Barnes Lane must comply with the qualities expected for a conservation area.

Appeal to catch tree hackers

VANDALS have attacked trees in Holly Hill Woodland Park. Several – including specially planted specimens – were hacked down.

Councillor David Swanbrow said vigilant residents recently foiled a break-in at a council site (reported in the last edition).

“Now we need their help again to prevent further damage to this lovely park,” he said.

Contact the Council if you know who is doing the damage or the police if you catch them in the act.

£60,000 to calm traffic in Burrige

EXTRA traffic calming measures are proposed for Burrige, costing £60,000.

The County Council agreed to the request by County Councillor Seán Woodward (pictured).

Meantime, a flashing 30mph sign is monitoring traffic speeds.

The plan includes new signage, yellow-backed 30mph signs, road markings further from pavements, removing central white lines and cats eyes, crossing points with tactile surfacing to allow access to bus stops



Sarisbury school's travel plan should be up and running soon



Keep off: Bollards will stop parking on Coldeast Close green.

A DRAFT travel plan has been submitted to Hampshire County Council by Sarisbury C of E Junior School and should be approved soon.

Proposals include raising awareness of the school bus service and encouraging its use, increasing the number of pupils participating in the cycling proficiency course and other measures designed to encourage safe cycling or walking to school.

The school requested the re-opening of the footpath connecting it with Sarisbury Infant School and other measures to deal with parking issues, particularly in Coldeast Close.

English Partnerships, who currently manage the Coldeast Hospital site, said the path was currently unsafe, but promised to re-open it as soon as possible.

Meantime, they have paid for wooden bollards round the central green at Coldeast Close.

Cllr David Swanbrow, who is a governor of Sarisbury Infant School and is part of a group updating their travel plan, said: "I have seen the Sarisbury Junior School Travel Plan and think that it is a very good document. The aims of the two schools are the same and I am sure that we can work together to help achieve them".

Autumn start to give Burrige community hall a major facelift?

WORK to refurbish dilapidated Burrige Community Hall could start this autumn and might be completed by this time next year.

The £300,000 proposals were outlined at Burrige and Swanwick Residents' Association AGM held in the hall, which is now in such a bad state that it is rarely used.

A residents' survey proved the need for a hall, but few wanted to use the existing one in its current condition.

The Council's options were to knock down and re-build from scratch or undertake a major refurbishment.

Essentially it could be a new hall within the old shell with plenty of storage space, a new kitchen, much improved parking and new changing facilities for the sports pitches.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who presented the Council's proposals, said: "A well used hall can become a centre for village activities and help keep a sense of community."

SARISBURY & WHITELEY 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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Four man in Westminster



By
Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham

IN THE last edition of *In Touch*, I wrote about the importance of education and the seminar that I was to chair at the beginning of March.

I am delighted to say that we had an excellent turnout and a first class discussion. We had a broad cross-section of local people including governors, head teachers, teachers, parents and employers.

What I found interesting was the degree of consensus achieved from such a diverse audience and this was expressed in three main themes.

The first was the fundamental importance of getting the basics right. We could not allow children to leave school without having mastered English and maths. Basic skills are fundamental to living and working in a society that is increasingly dependant upon technology.

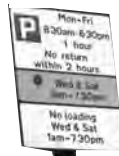
The second point was the need for a balanced curriculum. Whilst we must get the basics right, children need a broadly based education too. There was a concern that the emphasis on league tables and targets is skewing what is happening in our schools. There has to be time for music as well as maths!

The third theme was to recognise that every child is different and their needs vary. At every level of ability, education should be tailored to meet individual needs. Concern was expressed about the support available for children with special needs and for the most able. This led to a discussion about the choices available for young people at 16 and 18: making sure a wide range of academic and vocational courses is offered to meet the needs of those wishing to continue in education.

In an increasingly demanding world, we need to ensure that our young people are well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. As I visit local businesses, I see the increased pressure that there is for skills, but education is about much more than turning people out ready for work. As the expectations on our schools increase, it is vital we give the support that they need as they change to meet these pressures.

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Double yellow peril alert



WATCH OUT!
Fareham has almost doubled its corps of parking wardens.

And they have orders to stick one on you if you infringe regulations.

The crackdown follows the Council taking over full responsibility for parking enforcement from the police, which now covers on and off street parking.

It aims to discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disability and to make sure there is safe passage through the borough.

There are currently eight parking attendants, including one supervisor, but this figure will rise to 15 with two supervisors.

From April, enforcement is taking place seven days a week with wardens working a



Just the ticket! But not if you're on the receiving end from one of Fareham's 15 parking attendants.

shift system

They can now to slap a penalty charge notice on any car parked in a no waiting area, an area of single or double yellow lines and they are managing off street car parks and issuing residents' and visitors' permits.

New community action teams promised £100,000 to tackle grass roots issues

FIVE community action teams will be set up across Fareham to encourage more grass roots public participation in shaping the borough's future.

The Executive agreed the principle as part of the Community Engagement Strategy which should be ready for consideration in June.

Councillor Trevor Cartwright, Executive Member for Service, Performance and Improvement, said the aim was to develop greater emphasis on neighbourhood working and community engagement so local people could have more influence over local services and a greater capacity to tackle local issues for themselves.

"Fareham has always been a council committed to providing good quality services for the local community. This success has been built on a good relationship between

elected members and the local community," he said.

Community action teams, will offer the opportunity to:

- Strengthen the power of local councillors to act as advocates and leaders of the communities that they represent
- Provide information of interest and relevance to local communities, hear residents' views and provide feedback on issues raised
- Permit communities to bid for extra funding to be used on specific projects in their area
- Enable people to raise specific issues of local concern with the appropriate people

Meetings of the community action teams will be held at various venues throughout each neighbourhood and last no longer than two hours.

They will be attended by

ward councillors and will be championed by a council chief officer to provide a senior profile and ensure that any follow-up action is treated with the appropriate level of urgency and importance.

Representatives of other agencies such as the Police, Hampshire County Council, and the Primary Care Trust will also attend.

The Council will set aside a central budget of £100,000 in 2007/8 for neighbourhood initiatives and councillors will work with their community action teams to put forward bids for projects in their area.

It is proposed to appoint two new community engagement officers, supported by a community assistant, to assist the teams.

Action teams will be set up in Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, Western Wards and Fareham Town.

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