



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

SARISBURY – WINTER 2010

Surestart project will give children the best start to life

A SURESTART children's centre is planned to cover Fareham's Western Wards.

The Hampshire County Council project will be the fifth and final centre in the Borough.

It will cover Sarisbury, Park Gate, Burridge, Swanwick, Whiteley and parts of Locks Heath and Warsash.

Subject to planning consent, it will be built on land adjoining Brookfield School.

Outreach work will be carried out at other community facilities in the area, but the Brookfield site will provide a permanent base open five days a week.

Children's centres aim to give every child the best possible start in life.

They are places where families can easily access a range of different services to support them, including:

- Information and advice on family support services
- Drop-in sessions for parents, carers and childminders.
- Access to early education and childcare for children under five.
- Access to child and family health services.
- Links with Jobcentre Plus, further education and training opportunities.

For more details go to www3.hants.gov.uk/p8325-101b_feasibility-2.pdf

Council volunteers answer the call of the community



COUNCIL staff take a rest from clearing snow at the Rainbow Centre car park at Cams Alders.

'The Three Amigos' (l to r) Tony Hopkins, Paul Carter and Charlie Read gave up their lunch breaks to help centre staff and volunteers.

It was one of countless examples of how people across the Borough rallied in true community spirit.

County Council budget figures

Council tax for Hampshire County Council will be increased by 1.9%

Police Authority's tax will rise by 2.9% and the Fire Service's by 1.8% This gives a total bill for a band D property in Fareham of £1,385.73, an increase of £24.93.

Zero rated: Tories find the 'holy grail' of top value for lowest tax

HOW DO they keep doing it year after year?

Fareham's Tory councillors have set another record low budget.

This time a **ZERO** rise.

The Borough Council's element at £140 for a Band D property remains almost the lowest in England.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward explained: "I am often asked how we achieve the holy grail of good services with a low council tax, despite a low government grant.

"My reply is always that we seek to do more with less, using innovative means to save money without damaging the frontline services on which our residents depend."

Delivering his 11th budget speech, he said the average property in Fareham was band C which would continue to pay just £125 a year.

Borough Council services cost only 34p per day per household.

"Contrast that with nearest neighbour Gosport, which charges 44% more than Fareham despite receiving double the grant per head from the government," he stated.

Several districts in Hampshire hide their council tax rises by passing services to parish councils to run, but Fareham cannot do that as it has no parishes.

Nearby parish councils, Whiteley for example,

have raised their tax by 250% in just 3 years.

"Most district councils receive far more in government revenue support grant per head of population than Fareham, yet we still have a low tax.

"Despite having a high tax rise, most are sacking staff and slashing services – we are maintaining and, in a number of cases, improving our services."

Pressures facing the Council are similar to those experienced by many families, but on a larger scale – costs rising and income not increasing or, in the case of interest on savings, actually dropping.

The fall in interest rates, while good news for those with mortgages, has seen the Council's income on its investments fall by up to £1,000,000 per year.

Every £40,000 lost equals around a 1% council tax increase to make up, so the fact that there is no increase is even more remarkable.

The Council agreed the following as part of the budget:

- £500,000 to a Matched Funding Account to which organisations in the Borough can bid to fund capital schemes. For every £1 of council taxpayers' cash, it means £2 to £3 of worthwhile schemes such as new school sports facilities, sports club houses etc.
- £15,000 for flashing 30mph speed limit reminder signs to use as requested by residents.
- £1.3m to the capital programme to enable refurbishment or replacement of sports pavilions and community centres.

CCTV upgrade means you WILL be caught on camera

THERE will be no escape for criminals captured on CCTV at Fareham's upgraded control centre.

Digital cameras and displays can record at up to 25 images per second; 12.5 is more than enough for

successful prosecutions.

Police at Fareham and Park Gate can log into the system to save time investigating incidents.

It features unique mapping and display of camera locations across the Borough. New keyboard and

joystick controls enable operators quickly to control cameras independently.

Extra cameras to be connected include 5 for the new rapid bus route, 2 for Broadlaw Walk and 2 for the Quay Street Tesco store.

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Tulip trees

Two tulip trees will be planted on Little Green, Sarisbury to replace the old chestnut tree.

The request was made by Sarisbury Residents' Association and the full £550 cost of the project was granted.

Green campaign

Colin Mitchell will give a presentation at the next Western Wards CAT meeting on what the Council is doing about Green issues and how residents can become involved through the setting up of a Greening Campaign.

Safer footpath

Footway widening in Brook Lane between Holland Park and Brookfield Gardens near Brookfield School, requested by County Councillor Seán Woodward, will hopefully improve the situation which sees children spilling off the existing narrow pavements.

It is intended to carry out the work during the school holidays in August.

Top of the class

Yet again Sarisbury Infant School has received the highest praise from Ofsted with an 'Outstanding' rating.

With comments like 'standards are exceptionally high and continue to improve each year', it is hard for the inspectors to find any issues to criticise.

Our congratulations to the teachers, pupils, governors and not least Charlotte Weavers, the Acting Headmistress who has led the school to this result.

From the cold east to Coldeast: freeze keeps new hospital a bit longer on ice

IT'S BEEN in the deep freeze for over three decades.

Now, the cold east weather has brought more trauma to Fareham's Community Hospital at aptly named Coldeast.

A year ago, a blizzard wiped out the ceremony to dig the first turf to start the £23.5m project.

This January's big freeze has kept it on ice for a bit longer.

It will take about three months to commission, including transfer of services from the Sylvan Clinic, Highlands Road Clinic and others, and should receive its first patients in June.

But the public will get a preview during three open days to be arranged in early May.

The hospital, which has a new entrance in Brook Lane, will initially deal mainly with diagnostic and minor treatment services. It will contain:

- Large out-patient department replacing the Sylvan Clinic with 6 consulting suites and 2 antenatal suites.
- Rehabilitation unit with 2 consulting rooms and 6 treatment cubicles, replacing and enhancing current services at Highlands Road Clinic.
- 2 general-purpose diagnostic X-ray rooms and 2 ultra-sound units.
- Elderly assessment and treatment centre, including a large treatment area and 2 consulting suites.



Taking shape: The hospital for which Fareham has waited over three decades.

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

With the existing facilities on site, Fareham will have the elements of a comprehensive health service campus by the end of 2010.

Phase 2 should include 12 maternity beds, including two delivery rooms to replace facilities lost at Blackbrook Maternity Home.

Sarisbury Councillor David Swanbrow said Fareham's hospital was given top priority in 1976.

"Owing to site difficulties and planning problems, several other community hospitals were developed instead, notably Gosport, resulting in a reduction in the provision of the fullest range of services at the new hospital.

"After 34 years on the waiting list, at least the hospital will have the latest facilities."

TOP OF AGENDA

The new hospital will top the agenda at the next Western Wards CAT meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 17 at St John's Church Hall, Locks Heath.

There will be speakers from the Borough Council and Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

Victory in fight to keep local day care services

TRUSTEES at Lockwood Day Care Centre lost the County Council contract for day care, which went to Age Concern.

It had sparked major concern among the aged, particularly as Age Concern wanted it relocated at Kershaw Day Centre in north Fareham.

However, due to a change in funding arrangements, clients can opt to receive a direct payment from

Hampshire's Adult Services and choose where to use it.

It reopened as Lockwood Day Care Services and those who choose to use the Lockwood Centre can ask for County Council funding towards the cost.

Pick-up and return home will continue as previously, plus the provision of a cooked meal.

After intervention by County Councillors Seán Woodward and

Keith Evans, day care is now being provided free at Locks Heath Sports and Social Club in Warsash Road for older people with a disability and dementia.

Councillor Woodward said: "I am delighted that after our campaign the day care service for the elderly continues to be provided in Locks Heath.

"To have moved it to a remote location in north Fareham would have been unacceptable."

'Ludicrous' 1.5 parking spaces per property rule is ditched

NEW parking standards will be introduced for future housing developments in Fareham.

The Borough Council has managed to get around the ludicrous figure of 1.5 spaces per household dictated by the Government.

This produced a nightmare for planners who had to obey Whitehall guidelines over the past 10 years.

Government believed that by preventing people from parking at new properties it would reduce car usage.

Like many Labour ideas it didn't work.

Fareham Council tried to circumvent the rules by agreeing to use average parking across the borough to equal the target, allowing some flexibility.

But it still resulted in new developments with insufficient parking and caused severe problems.

Last November, as a result of the Local Development Framework process, Fareham was able to introduce new parking standards for future developments.

These are based on the number of bedrooms a property has which seems far more reasonable.

Garages - which tend to be used for storing anything but a car - will not normally count as a parking space.

Councillor David Swanbrow said: "We can't do much about developments already approved and built, but this change does allow Fareham to get it right for the future."



'Don't park at bus stops' transporter drivers told

THE A27 Bridge Road running through Sarisbury and Park Gate has been suffering from transporters delivering cars to local sales businesses and their storage areas.

These vehicles have been parking in bus stops and other places nearby and causing problems for buses and their passengers.

People have sometimes had to walk into the busy road to board or leave the bus.

Councillor David Swanbrow said: "Thanks to Police Sergeant Dave Spacey and his team the problem now seems to have been solved."

"He has persuaded the companies to use the little used lay-by in front of Sarisbury Social Club for unloading where there should be little disruption for anyone."

Fareham Council will make the stop bays bus clearways, allowing the Police and Fareham parking enforcement officers to take action against any vehicle other than buses parking, loading or unloading at the bus stop.

Kids find that everything in their new garden is lovely



HOLLY HILL Pre-School based at Sarisbury Parish Rooms opened a new children's garden on January 28.

Councillors Seán Woodward (pictured) and David Swanbrow inspected the garden and met parents.

It was built with a grant from Councillor Woodward's county budget, with much help from The Louisa Seymour Charity, the trust that runs the Parish Rooms.

Hamble select committee backs 'no small boat dues' campaign

SAILORS from Warsash Sailing Club are rejoicing that victory in the row over unfair harbour dues is within their grasp.

Certain small craft using the River Hamble are now expected to be exempt from paying the dues.

The club challenged the fees, resulting in an independent select committee being set up.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who chaired the committee, said its final report had been unanimously accepted by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and was due to go to the Harbour Board for approval on March 26. It recommended:

- All craft will be liable to pay harbour dues.

- But sailing dinghies less than 6m overall, all boats primarily powered by oars, paddles or engines 10hp or less, tenders up to 4m with engines less

than 10hp (provided the mother ship has paid dues), and craft wholly or mainly used by clubs and marine agencies for safety will be exempt.

- Activities of the Harbour Authority were acceptable, subject to conditions.

- Current limit on the number of moorings should be removed or modified
- Ways to boost income and reduce expenditure should be investigated.

Councillor Woodward said: "The select committee achieved consensus on several matters which are vital to the future management of the harbour."

"Its recommendations will enable the Harbour Authority to focus on value for money and enhancing facilities for harbour users."

There will be a further chance for the public to comment on the recommendations at the River Hamble annual forum at 7.30pm on March 16 in the Victory Hall, Warsash.

Benefit limited from bus link opening-up

SATURN, a traffic simulation model, has predicted likely flows in Whiteley if the Yew Tree Drive link is fully open.

It happened briefly during the January freeze, but there is no immediate likelihood of the 'buses and emergency vehicles only' situation changing.

A future scenario that included planned development in the area was also tested; it suggested limited benefit was gained by opening Yew Tree Drive to all traffic.

Councillor Seán Woodward said it was now important to consult affected residents on what they would like to see happen regarding access to and from Whiteley, Swanwick, Park Gate and Burridge.

He promised their views would be fully considered in terms of local plan policies.

Applicants invited for slice of £10,000 good causes budget

SEVERAL organisations have benefitted from County Councillor Seán Woodward's £10,000 budget to aid worthy local causes.

So far he has awarded the following grants:

- 1st Sarisbury Green Scout Group £1,000 for new camping equipment.

- Fareham Fairtrade £200

towards reprinting leaflets.

- Relate marriage guidance £400 towards local client costs.

- Whiteley Rotary Club £850 for dictionaries for primary school leavers in Sarisbury and Whiteley.

- Dance-a-cality £1,000 for lighting and a sound system for this children's dance group who raise money for charity.

- Locks Heath Communicare £1,000 towards a new minibus.

- Sarisbury Church of England Junior School PTA £2,000 towards an adventure playground.

Councillor Woodward said: "I would welcome expressions of interest from any local organisations looking for similar support."

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.

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Four man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

I was talking to pupils at a couple of schools in Portchester recently about the need to get involved when you see something happening to a place or a service that matters to you.

It was a theme echoed by a couple I met from Locks Heath who asked me to support a campaign to protect children's services at Southampton General.

Change is one of the main reasons why people get involved in politics. It certainly motivated me to get involved when I was 16. It still drives me today.

As a politician, change can mean resolving a constituent's problem or persuading the Government to change tack.

After the longest and deepest recession since the 1920s, it is clear we cannot go on like this. The country needs so many changes to get back onto the right track.

When I talk to local businesses, they tell me they want interest rates to remain as low as possible as long as possible, but unless we reduce Government borrowing, this won't be possible. But Gordon Brown is fighting shy of making the difficult decisions that are needed to encourage economic recovery.

In the health service and in our schools, I hear examples of where staff are required to put into practice decisions made in Whitehall that don't meet the needs of local people. Shouldn't we be giving our doctors, nurses and teachers the authority to do the right thing for pupils and patients rather than be dictated to by Whitehall?

2010 is the start of a new decade. I feel that we have been stuck in a rut in the last few years. I believe that 2010 must be a year for change in our country. We cannot afford another wasted decade.

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Borough-wide community centre modernisation plans under way



Allotment Road, Sarisbury



Sarisbury Green pavilion

PLANS to provide each of Fareham's neighbourhood areas with modern community facilities are under way.

Top of the list is Portchester Community Centre where options for raising the £1.7m cost are being considered, but others (some pictured) also need urgent attention.

The Council's policy objectives prioritised the need to review the use of its community buildings, rationalise their provision and, as appropriate, modernise them by 2012.

The review set out a longer-term, innovative approach to the provision of Council community-owned buildings, including sports pavilions and community centres.

The vision to provide a well-designed, modern community centre in each of the six neighbourhood Community Action Team areas was agreed by the Executive, which pledged £500,000 towards the initiative, plus £40,000 for a community buildings health and safety fund.

A phased implementation



Osborne Road, Warsash officials' changing rooms (left) and players' changing rooms



programme was agreed, aimed at completing needs assessments and developing a master plan for each area.

An advisory group to the Executive was set up, primarily to consider obtaining funding for the provision of a new community centre at Portchester following consultations with residents and a needs assessment.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley chairs the group, which includes the five Portchester ward councillors, representatives from Portchester Community Association and the County Council.

The Executive also approved refurbishment of the sports changing rooms at Osborne Road, Warsash, Sarisbury Green and Allotment Road, Sarisbury.

Phase 2 - the Crofton CAT area - will start when the Portchester project is finished.

It's no bull – less spending reduces waste

HUNDREDS of empty coke cans went into making this life-size bull to beef up the recycling message.

But it's no bull that people are buying less in the recession, so they put less in their bins.

Fareham has seen a 5.5% reduction in green top bin waste and a 6% fall in blue top bin recyclables. But the Borough's recycling rate still reached 39.6% in October.



"An excellent figure and we aim to achieve the target for 2010 of 40%, although any continuation of reductions in total waste will make this a challenge," said Councillor Keith Evans, Executive Member for Streetscene.

Fareham is one of only three districts in Hampshire to provide free garden waste collection, although it had to be restricted to one bag per household.

One in four households generates more and they can buy disposable bags – £20 for a roll of 25 sacks or £5 for a roll of 5 – which will be collected with the green waste bags.

He added: "Fareham residents are among the best recyclers in the country. It's a good performance, but one we intend to improve

with advice and encouragement."

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