

## Council's vision for top quality community facilities

**COMMUNITY centres are in line for top quality improvements under a new Fareham Council initiative.**

The Executive approved a broad vision for providing high quality community facilities across the Borough and asked interested parties to give their views via a consultation through the Community Action Team process.

The broad vision and proposal to adopt a phased approach, by reviewing the Council-owned community facilities in each of the CAT areas in turn, was well received at the October round of CAT meetings.

The Executive formally adopted the proposed vision and set aside £500,000 capital budget for pump-priming to assist in delivering the vision.

Work has started on Phase 1 to develop a master plan based on providing new community facilities to replace the ramshackle Portchester Community Centre, where a public consultation was held to establish what local people wanted.

Executive Member for Community Councillor Mrs Connie Hockley thanked those who attended the event.

"The views expressed by residents will be reported to the Executive," she said.

# Tory 'magic' beats all the odds for a recession busting budget

**A RECESSION-busting budget. That's the rabbit Fareham's Conservative 'magicians' have conjured out of the hat.**

Against all the odds – and that includes what Executive Leader Seán Woodward lambasted as "one of the most derisory Government grants in the country" – a below inflation rise of just 2.7% has been achieved.

So the Borough share of council tax will rise by just 1p a day, less than any other Hampshire district council and lower than almost every council in the country.

Delivering his 10th budget speech, Councillor Woodward said: "In a recession it is more important than ever to achieve a below inflation council tax rise of just 2.7%.

"Services remain essentially intact and charges rise only a modest amount in line with the requirements of Fareham's residents.

"Fareham's proportion of the council tax for a band D property will be just £140 per year. Compare this with Gosport at over £200 and you can under-

stand the value for money provided by Fareham Borough Council."

Other improvements to services in response to residents' concerns included removal of the £20 charge for pest control officers to deal with domestic rat infestations.

Sunday and Bank Holiday car parking charges would be changed to allow free parking up to 10.30am in the short-stay car parks with free Sunday and Bank Holiday parking in the long-stay car parks.

Charges on these days in short-stay car parks from 10.30am – 4pm will be just £1.50 for as long as shoppers wish to park.

While other centres outside Fareham are losing shops, June will see a Debenhams department store and new multi-storey car park open in the town centre.

Councillor Woodward added: "With the country in a deep recession and many of our older residents seeing their fixed incomes eroded by decreasing interest rates, it is more important than ever that we continue to set the lowest possible council tax to give the best possible value for money

"I am proud that we have for the 10th year been able to achieve this by constantly looking for more innovative and cost effective ways of both reducing expenditure and increasing income."



*'ello, 'ello, 'ello...did you know, Sarge, that Fareham council taxpayers now contribute more towards us than they pay for their own Borough Council services?*

**Costs soar to keep the blue lamp alight**



### How it's made up for Band D taxpayers

Fareham Borough Council £140.22 (+£3.69)  
 Hampshire County Council £1,017.99 (+£18.99)  
 Hampshire Police Authority £142.11 (+£6.57)  
 Hampshire Fire & Rescue £60.30 (+£2.07)  
 Total: Band D taxpayers £1,360.62 (+£31.32) = +2...36%

### Fareham capital budget improvements include

Footpath improvements: £50,000  
 Holly Hill lakes de-silting: £15,000  
 Cliff Road, Hill Head replacing public toilets: £170,000

### Fareham revenue budget improvements include

Replacing green waste sacks: estimated cost £100,000  
 Residents' parking Phase 1 in town centre: £100,000  
 Capital Programme Fund: £500,000 towards new and improved community buildings

## Extra green waste charges down to health and safety

### CHANGES to the garden waste service will start in April 2009.

The Health and Safety Executive advised they were necessary to avoid problems of repetitive strain injury and worse.

So extra staff had to be employed, adding to the cost.

Handling one or two sacks is not a problem, but in some months crews are being asked to lift up to 20 tons per crew per day.

When the service was introduced in September 2005 it was on the basis that it would be cost neutral; however, in the current economic climate the Council had no option but to review discretionary services.

It was decided to retain this popular service and that it should be free for most residents.

There will be no charge for the collection of one garden waste

sack. Most councils charge for this service and those which charge for extra sacks charge more than Fareham proposes.

Fewer than 50% of residents use the service at any one time and most put out only one sack.

People can order extra disposable bags similar to the existing sacks at £20 for 25 sacks, which will be collected regardless of how many or when they are put out.



**Whiteley on-line**

If you would like to get "on-line" with members of the community in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere to discuss issues about living in Whiteley, Hampshire or any other topics of interest then there is only one place to go.

Log on to Whiteley Community Forum at [www.whiteleyforum.net](http://www.whiteleyforum.net)

**Good causes**

Every year County Councillor Seán Woodward has £10,000 to award to good causes that benefit residents in Sarisbury Division. He allocated the following to Whiteley:

£500 to the Rotary Club of Whiteley to buy an illustrated dictionary for every pupil leaving Sarisbury C of E Junior School and Whiteley Primary School

£2,000 to Whiteley Community Association to buy furniture for Whiteley Pre-School.

£1,000 to the Kiddi Caru Pre-School Parent Teacher Association towards a Rain or Shine playtime garden.

**Traffic survey**

Consultants will make a computer model to test data obtained by SATURN (Simulation and Assignment of Traffic to Urban Road Networks).

They will look at the impact of opening Yew Tree Drive and/or Rookery Avenue to all traffic and closure of Leafy Lane.

Results will be used for a residents' survey in the form of a questionnaire scheduled for the autumn

**1 Law and order in Whiteley**

**Police target unruly street corner jobs**

**YOB CULTURE** is causing grave concern in Whiteley and strong measures are being taken by the Council and police to crack down on the culprits.

Residents demanded action after being intimidated by youths gathering in late afternoons and evenings, particularly around the Gull Coppice shops where they leave piles of litter.

Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward commented: "I have been pursuing the issues of anti-social behaviour in Gull Coppice and indeed in other parts of Whiteley for some considerable time.

"It was one of the main reasons for the Council's decision to implement an alcohol exclusion zone right across the Borough at the request of the police.

"I find the whole issue of the gatherings in Gull Coppice of real concern.

"It is not that the youngsters are wrecking property or committing other acts of criminality – generally they are not. But they can be intimidating in the extreme."

Councillor Woodward is taking a multi-agency approach.

**Police**

He met local police officers who are carrying out high profile surveillance and interaction with the youths which has been commented on positively by several residents.



**Church and Community Association**

He is working with Whiteley Church which is allocating funding for a part-time youth worker in Whiteley, and with the Community Association to make evenings available for a youth club.

He hopes to get more money to make this a full-time post.

The police are extremely supportive and want to be involved.

Volunteers are needed to help run the youth club and it is hoped Whiteley residents will respond.

**Fareham Council**

He is striving to put together a joint operation with the anti-social behaviour officer, litter enforcement team (issuing fixed penalties may also focus minds of the litter louts), the community safety officer and the police.

"The aim is to make life on the streets as uncomfortable as possible for people who choose to intimidate others," he added.

**2 Law and order in Whiteley**

**Answer to drop-off and pick-up problems?**

**A SOLUTION** to problems caused by dropping off children at Whiteley Primary School is being worked on.

Councillor Seán Woodward said an alternative drop-off and pick-up point could be created by a new footpath to the school from Rookery Avenue where there is plenty of available on-street parking.

He said: "It appears the proposal will require planning permission and issues of ecology (creating a path through



trees) and highway matters (congregation of people at a specific point adjoining Rookery Avenue) will need to be sorted as part of the proposal."

**3 Law and order in Whiteley**

**Going after drivers who flout the parking laws**

**INCONSIDERATE** drivers who obstruct highways and misuse disabled bays in Whiteley are paying a heavy price in fixed penalty fines.

Complaints peak at school in/out times and Police Sergeant Dave Spacey, in charge of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, said the problem was common across the Western Wards.

"In conjunction with the schools, we will be sending out letters of warning in the first instance.

"This is then followed up by a period of enforcement," he said.

Enforcement might have an immediate impact, but it was not a long term solution and this was where the Council could help by looking at long term parking restrictions.

With a population of over 34,000 people, three full-time PCs and one part-time, he could not justify dedicating officers daily to stand issuing tickets in Gull Coppice.

"Once we have addressed the drop-off issue, I will look at the surrounding roads.

"From past experience most cars are parked legally and generally gone before the police arrive.

"I hope in the long term my team and I working with local residents and the Council will be able to eliminate these concerns," Sergeant Spacey added.



**Delayed: It's sod's law!**



**IT'S BEEN 25 years on the waiting list – longer than Casualty or Holby City have been running.**

But Fareham's long overdue Community Hospital has suffered yet another delay.

Blizzards caused the traditional 'first sod digging' ceremony, scheduled for February 4 at the Coldeast site, to be postponed.

"Many feel this ceremony should have taken place when winter snow was the norm," remarked Councillor David Swanbrow.

Instead of attending the ceremony to lend a hand with the turf cutting, he took his camera to record the conditions (above) which led to its postponement.

The spadework was to have been performed by Fareham Mayor Councillor Ernest Crouch, with Council Leader Seán Woodward and Councillor Swanbrow in attendance.

**Rebuilt Whiteley will serve residents' needs**

**IT WILL be all change at Whiteley after the buildings are bulldozed to make way for a multi-million new-look centre with a market town appeal.**

The owners promise new retail units, cafés and restaurants, office space, a new 'community hub' attached to the Meadowside Leisure Centre.

An hotel will also be provided along with mixed housing. There will be a new access from Whiteley Way and car parking will be reconfigured. Other proposals include:

- New community facilities, including children's play areas, discovery library, leisure and amenity spaces.
- Creation of streets and places to give the village an inclusive town centre atmosphere.
- New and more diverse shops providing for a wider range of retailers that are better suited to the needs of those living and working at Whiteley. Tesco to remain unchanged.



- Creation and enhancement of pedestrian links from the centre to the residential area and nearby woodland and open space.
- Access for and provision of public transport with linked bus stop.
- Continued management of the centre with provision of CCTV surveillance.

Whiteley Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I welcome the proposals to turn the district centre into the kind of facility that should have been provided at the outset – a truly local shopping centre to cater for the residents.

"I cannot see the need for the hotel or the extra housing, but I certainly support the remainder of the development."

**No places for 25 pupils as the scandal of 'lost' Whiteley Primary continues**

**THERE were 25 on-time Whiteley catchment applicants who could not be offered a place at Whiteley Primary, two of whom put Whiteley as second preference.**

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Yet again we are reminded of the scandal of 3 years ago that while there was £5.5m available to build a new school on a site next to Meadowside Leisure Centre, both were lost

due to the site's owners being unwilling to make it available to Hampshire County Council.

"This school would have provided sufficient places to cater for Whiteley's over-subscription.

"Residents will now most like-

ly need to wait for the development of land north of Whiteley for another 3,000 houses in several years' time before further primary schools are provided along with a much-needed secondary school."

**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

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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

The recession brings its own pressures on different aspects of life. Whilst we often think about its effect on employment in the private sector, we don't take into account the effect on Government finances.

The money the Government receives from taxes falls as fewer people work and company profits are slashed. At the same time, there are additional pressures to increase spending.

We see this affecting the police. The deteriorating economic position will have an impact on crime levels. There has already been an increase in burglaries, which is borne out by figures in Fareham. It's a Hampshire wide issue and the police are cracking down on it with Operation Nemesis.

But the police are faced with squaring the circle of increasing pressures on costs, a lower increase in their income from Government and a limit on how much they can increase council tax, while meeting the expectations of the public that there will be no cuts in the number of front line officers.

We need to lift some of the burdens which get in the way of putting police on the beat.

When I've been out on the beat, the police have complained about form filling and paperwork. When an arrest is made it is not just the alleged criminal who is detained at the station. Cut the form filling and we can put more police on the beat.

In these difficult times when there will be more demands on public services, we need to look at the changes we can make in our schools, hospitals, councils and police service to get the best value for money.

More bang for the buck.

**You may contact Mark via his office**  
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**Fareham's 'Get well soon' message to 'sick' councils**

**FAREHAM Council staff are happy to be firmly at the foot of one league table.**

They are currently bottom of the sick list, so they are the healthiest of all town hall workers among Hampshire's 12 councils.

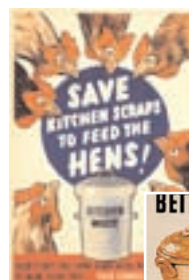
With an average of 7.2 working days lost per employee, they have just recorded their lowest sickness absence figures.

The 'sick man' of the county is Rushmoor Council with nearly twice as many absences

as Fareham, with Hart and Portsmouth close behind and also needing to 'get well soon'.

Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "Low levels of sickness absence mean our staff are at work, providing residents with the high quality services they deserve.

"We work hard to ensure we manage the levels of sickness. Employee well-being and health is an important part of keeping a fit and healthy workforce."



**IT WAS one of the World War 2 slogans which inspired people to save even their potato peelings.**

Rationing ended over 50 years ago, but did you know that today on average 30% of all food bought in the UK is wasted?

Of all the rubbish dumped 20% is food leftovers.

In an effort to publicise this waste a campaign organised

by the Council was held in October in Fareham. It included stands in the Shopping Centre, Lockwood Centre and Stubbington

The highlight was a visit by the catering team from 3rd Field Ambulance, recently returned from Afghanistan, to Sainsbury's at Wallington to demonstrate and produce a selection of meals from food that would usually be binned.

The team, based at Haslar Hospital, served up an excellent pumpkin soup, a vegetarian quiche



**Delicious:** Sgt Mark Holbrook (right) and Cpl Martin Pollard serve the scraps to Brian Bayford and waste advisors Wendy, Jane and Karima.

and a Thai curry for visitors to the store.

The menus were produced by students and staff at Fareham College.

These were available to visitors to the exhibitions, who were advised that the reason for food wastage included

several factors, among them 'Buy One, Get One Free', misunderstanding of 'sell-by date' and 'best before'.

"Too much choice and wastage," said Councillor Brian Bayford, Executive Member for Streetscene.

**Positive response to future planning strategy**

**FAREHAM Council has passed another milestone towards the production of a Local Development Framework (LDF) to replace the existing Local Plan Review, by publishing its preferred options for the core strategy.**

The current Local Plan Review dates from June 2000, and the core strategy sets the framework for the LDF which will replace it.

It must largely conform with the South East Plan which is expected to get final Government approval imminently.

The process has been held up by the Government continually changing its rules.

If a council does not follow these rules the plan is likely to be found unsound at the inspection stage, so wasting a lot of council taxpayers' money.

Currently, the Council does not have to publish its preferred options for consultation before submitting its core strategy for inspection, but by doing so it gave all interested parties a chance to comment in time to make changes before finalising the plan.

Responses have been gen-

erally positive with many useful comments and suggestions, including input from a well-attended seminar held for members of Networkfareham, Fareham's Local Strategic Partnership.

County Councillor Ray Ellis commented:

"It was good to see a lot of response to the draft strategy, which is aimed at ensuring Fareham continues to be an attractive, safe and pleasant place to live, work and visit."

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