



Conservatives

In Touch

with our community

WHITELEY – 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



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

School governors

Several schools in Sarisbury and Whiteley areas have vacancies for governors.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "If you are interested in undertaking this worthwhile community service, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Extension planned

A £45,000 extension to their clubhouse at Priory Park is planned by Lockwood Bowling Club, which was runner-up in last year's national bowling club awards.

It will provide better facilities for visiting clubs and it is hoped it will be part-funded by a matching grant from Fareham Council.

Farm downloads

You can now download Hampshire Fare's 2010 directory containing details of your nearest farm shop and the dates of local farm markets from www.hampshirefare.co.uk.

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.

With the existing facilities on the site, Fareham will have the initial 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.

Fareham is predicted to have an increase in births of 14%, with all other



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

areas of Hampshire a decrease; Gosport will have a 13% fall.

There is also a need for extra in-patient facilities and an accident treatment service.

Free car parking is provided on site with waiting limited to 4 hours.

Councillor Seán Woodward 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.

"Still, 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.

Views to be sought on opening up of bus link

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.

The 8am-9am peak time survey found:

- 6% (181 trips) fewer vehicle movements between the M27 junction 9 and the Solent Hotel roundabout.

- 24% (199 trips) more vehicle movements on Yew Tree Drive.

- 9-second reduction in

average journey time for vehicles exiting Whiteley.

- Fewer movements along A3051 Botley Road.

- More delay at the junctions of Rookery Avenue with Yew Tree Drive and Whiteley Way roundabout 1.

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

Efforts have been made to give the residents and employees of Whiteley an improved choice of transport, so this option would put

public transport at a big disadvantage.

Closure of Leafy Lane to all traffic was tested, but a big increase in the average journey time for vehicles exiting Whiteley (2 min 18 sec) if the road were closed at its mid point was predicted.

Councillor Seán Woodward said it was important to consult affected residents for their views regarding access to and from Whiteley, Swanwick, Park Gate and Burridge.

Their views would be taken fully into account by the Borough and County Councils in terms of local plan policies.

'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."



Changes to cycleway project

A £244,000 cycleway project has been redesigned to incorporate an off-road pedestrian and cycle route on the east side of Botley Road between Duncan Road and Rookery Avenue.

It will avoid the cost of adjusting parapets at the railway and motorway bridges, and the narrowed carriageway should help speed management on this section of Botley Road.

The route will be signed from the Toucan crossing on Whiteley Way via Rookery Avenue, Yew Tree Drive, Gull Coppice, past the Mustang Avenue nature reserve, between Shetland Rise and Caspian Close and along Rookery Avenue, Swanwick to Botley Road.

It then follows Botley Road to Duncan Road and Swanwick station.

Work is expected to start in June or July and continue during the summer holidays to minimise disruption.

Consultation with interested groups, such as residents' associations, will be undertaken soon.

Failed centre's replacement plans are 'way over the top'

PLANS to double the size of the new Whiteley shopping centre are "way over the top" say councillors.

An application to demolish the current 'white elephant' to make way for one best suited to residents' needs was approved, but there are fears that Whiteley's population is too small to support the scale of the proposed replacement.

Fareham and Eastleigh Councils' views were referred to the SE Government Office by Winchester City Council to decide whether a public inquiry is necessary.

The developers want to increase the shopping centre's size from 12,000 sqm to 23,000 sqm, when according to Winchester City Council's consultants only 600 sqm extra are needed.

Fareham planners decided that if Winchester granted planning consent, then the Secretary of State should order the City Council to refer the decision to him. They also stated it would:

1 Seriously impact upon the vitality and viability of Fareham town centre and undermine its ability to function

as a secondary regional centre.

2 Severely undermine delivery of an appropriately scaled and diverse district centre for the future North Fareham Strategic Development Area required by the SE Plan.

3 Be over-scaled regarding the purpose and function of the centre to serve the needs of the local Whiteley population.

Fareham Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I am pleased that after 10 years the owners of the factory outlet centre have seen sense and decided to provide a range of shops of far more use to the residents of Whiteley than the existing ones.

"Whether that requires complete demolition of the existing centre is a matter for them, but the current centre has failed.

"I told them when they proposed it that it would fail.

"Whiteley needs a centre providing good local shops with a range of choice, not one to rival town centre shopping in Fareham, Winchester or Hedge End."

Good causes can still apply for cash aid

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."

Whiteley school again forced to turn pupils away

WHITELEY Primary School continues to be over-subscribed by local children.

This year, 25 pupils who applied were not offered places, 19 of them were offered their second preferred school and the rest were offered St John the Baptist C of E Primary at Titchfield Common.

Demand across the other Western Ward schools seems lower than in previous years.

Some are not full, others have filled spare places with applicants from outside their catchment areas.

County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "Every year it is the same sad

news for parents and children in Whiteley.

"It is the same sort of numbers, equivalent to a single class which would have been accommodated in the one-form entry primary school that could have been built years ago in Whiteley using money provided by government."

Victory for councillors' campaign to keep Western Wards day care services

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

It sparked concern among the aged as Age Concern wanted it relocated at Kershaw Day

Centre in north Fareham.

But a campaign by local councillors led to a change in funding methods. Clients can now opt for direct payment from Hampshire's Adult Services and choose where to use it,

so those who prefer the Lockwood Centre can ask for County funding towards the cost.

Day care is provided free at Locks Heath Sports and Social Club in Warsash Road for the older disabled and those with dementia.

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 said Fareham residents were among the best recyclers in the country, and added: "It's a good performance, but one we intend to improve with advice and encouragement."

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