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AN AUDIO VERSION OF THIS MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE EDITOR
Here at the Customer Service Centre we realise that there have been times when you haven’t known which council department to contact to best deal with your enquiry.

Equally, you may need to talk to us about several issues and find it difficult to have all your questions answered at the same time.

Our new Customer Service Centre has been set up to give you a better service - a service that can anticipate and meet your needs - with staff trained to make sure we find the best solution to the questions you’re asking.

The team is dealing with more and more services every day. First to ‘go live’ are those we receive most customer enquiries about - the missed bin collection, street scene issues, pest control advice, food hygiene, noise, smells, health and safety issues and things like dog fouling. As every week passes we’re able to deal with more and more of your enquiries.

As the first point of contact, you can now telephone, email, text or drop in to the Civic Offices to see one of our customer service advisers. Tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk fax: 01329 821770 text: 07876 131415
Recycling

Is it working?

In September last year we introduced a new collection service across the borough, collecting everyone’s waste and recyclables on alternate weeks. We also introduced a garden waste collection, all aimed at increasing the amount of waste we recycle. So what benefit has this brought and is it working?

Quite simply, YES! Our recycling rate has shown a dramatic increase!

During 2004/05, we were recycling 21% of our household waste. We’re now recycling or composting a monthly average of 34%. The overall figure for the year (April 2005-March 2006) is estimated to be around 29% (this annual figure is lower because the higher figures have only been achieved from September 2005). This exceeds the Government target of 30%, and is well on the way to our new target of 40%.

Thank you and keep up the excellent work.

Paper recycling

Continuing our series of ‘what happens to materials you separate for recycling’, this time we’re taking a close look at paper and card.

Did you know... The first piece of paper as we know it, was produced from rags in AD105 by Ts’ai Luin, who was part of the Eastern Han Court of the Chinese Emperor Ho Tif

Paper is made from cellulose fibre, which can be made from pulped wood, or other materials such as rags, cotton, grasses, sugar cane, straw or waste paper. In this country, wood pulp is usually used to make virgin paper, i.e. paper which has no recycled content.

1 Paper and card from your blue top bin is taken to the MRF (Material Reclamation Facility). It’s separated, baled, and sent for recycling. Newspapers, magazines and other papers go to a paper mill, cardboard and low grade paper such as white telephone directories go to a board mill.

2 At the mill the paper and card is mixed with gallons of water to make a pulp and the ink is removed. Modern mill machinery can also remove small contaminants such as staples, sticky tape and cellophane “windows” from envelopes.

3 The pulp is fed into a massive machine, onto a mesh screen and excess water is squeezed out. It’s pressed then dried and comes off the machine on a roll or in sheets. It’s then used for newspaper, toilet paper, cardboard boxes, or corrugated packaging, egg boxes etc.

By recycling paper and card we reduce the amount of waste to be disposed of. Producing recycled paper uses between 28 and 70% less energy than virgin paper and uses less water. This is because most of the energy used in papermaking goes into the pulping needed to turn wood into paper. It’s estimated that for every tonne of paper recycled, enough electricity is saved to power a house in the UK for a whole year!

FACT: It takes just seven days to recycle your old newspaper into a new one!

For more information, visit: www.wastewatch.org.uk
Paper you can put in your blue top bin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>What it’s recycled into</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers, magazines, brochures &amp; catalogues</td>
<td>Up to 100% recycled newsprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown cardboard packaging</td>
<td>Up to 100% recycled cardboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; other card packaging</td>
<td>Cardboard packaging and fluting inside cardboard packaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Card</td>
<td>Mixed paper: All clean household paper, white &amp; coloured photocopier &amp; printer paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junk mail</td>
<td>Envelopes: White or brown including ‘window’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet wrappers, plastic food wrappers eg from inside cereal boxes, paper from the back of stickers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartons for drinks and other liquids</td>
<td>are a mixture of plastic and paper. There are limited facilities to process them in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polystyrene and cellophane</td>
<td>Yellow pages contain yellow dye and ink that are difficult to remove at the paper mill once the directory is more than a year old. Shredded paper can be used as protective packing in boxes, or as animal bedding (first check it is suitable for your pet). When soiled, it can be composted if the pet is vegetarian (eg rabbits, guinea pigs, horses).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Junk mail

Around a million tonnes of junk mail are binned in the UK every year. To reduce the amount of junk mail you receive, you can register with the Mailing Preference Service. MPS is a FREE service, and you can register online for yourself and previous occupants at your address.

N.B. Any company you have purchased from may continue to send you Information.

To stop junk mail addressed to you or a previous occupier, contact:
- Mailing Preference Service (MPS)
  DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS
- MPS registration line, tel: 0845 703 4599
- MPS website: www.mpsonline.org.uk

To stop unaddressed, unsolicited marketing mail, you can contact:
- Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd
  Door to Door Council Manager, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS.
- DMA website: www.dma.org.uk
  Tel: 020 7291 3300

To stop unsolicited mail addressed to occupier, householder etc, contact:
- Royal Mail Door-to-Door Opt Out
  Dept, Room 130, Wheatstone House, Faraday Road, Swindon SN3 5JW
  Tel: 01793 483 853
  Email: mediacentre.customer.service@royalmail.co.uk

Junk mail can be recycled in your blue top bin, but please remove it from plastic envelopes. Please put all paper and card (and other recyclables) loose in your blue top bin, not in plastic bags.
Clean and tidy borough

Tackling fly-tipping

Fly-tipping, ‘the illegal dumping of waste’ has become a serious problem throughout England and Wales, with almost half a million incidents of fly-tipped household waste recorded last year, costing taxpayers and private landowners around £100-£150 million every year.

In 2004/05, Fareham Borough Council dealt with over 600 fly-tipping occurrences, which cost around £45,000 to clear the debris. As well as its expense, fly-tipping also has a harmful effect on local environments, threatening the health of rivers and recreation areas and even reducing property prices in the area.

How does it affect you?

Since November 2005, all householders in England have a responsibility to ensure their rubbish is passed on to an authorised carrier and disposed of in the appropriate manner.

Under this recent ruling, we’re able to fine those who haven’t taken care to ensure that their waste is passed on to an authorised person e.g. registered waste carrier (see below).

For example, if you’ve hired a builder/gardener/scrap metal merchant, who then takes materials or waste away from your home and subsequently dumps or fly-tips these materials elsewhere – you’ll be held liable and subject to a penalty fine of up to £5,000.

So, what should you do to make sure your waste is disposed of correctly?

If you hire contractors (such as builders and allied trades, landscape gardeners, tree fellers and surgeons, house cleaners, retail establishments or scrap metal merchants) who’ll be removing waste items from your property, please ensure they’re a registered waste carrier and ask for their unique waste carrier number.

Then contact the Environment Agency, tel: 08708 506 506 and ask for a Waste Carrier Validation Check. They’ll be able to confirm whether the contractor is a registered waste carrier. A full list of registered waste carriers can be found online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

If your contractor isn’t registered, you should refuse their services and request that they seek advice from the Environment Agency. If you’re still unsure, you can take all household waste to your local tip, FREE of charge.

How can you prevent or reduce the amount of fly-tipping?

By following these simple guidelines you’ll greatly reduce the likelihood of your waste being found amongst a fly-tip and the Council having to investigate the possibility of pursuing enforcement action against you.
5 top tips from the Environment Agency:

1. Use a genuine/reputable company/individual registered with the Environment Agency
2. The company should have a waste carrier licence
3. Check where the company is proposing to take your waste, it should be licensed by the Environment Agency
4. The company should give you a receipt for this service, including their carrier number and vehicle registration
5. If the waste is from your business, you should receive a written receipt called a ‘transfer note’ detailing its disposal

REMEMBER - If waste from your home or business is dumped illegally, then you or your business could be prosecuted, even if it was someone else who dumped it.

If you notice anyone dumping waste illegally, please don’t confront them or touch any of the waste - as some is hazardous - instead take a note of what the waste looks like, how much there is and a description of any vehicle involved, along with the registration if possible and call the Enforcement Team, tel: 01329 236100. Fly-tipping on public land will be removed on receipt of notice from the public or police within 24 hours.

For more information please contact the Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100 or email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk

Can you help make Fareham Safer and Healthier?

We’d like to hear your views and ideas about how we maintain and develop a safer and healthier borough, by looking at delivery of our services and how effectively we work with partner organisations like the police, health authority, county council and voluntary organisations.

We’re looking for new ideas, contributions, comments and opinions on the 2020 Vision set out below. We’d like to work with you to deliver the following:

- An environment in which all ages feel safe and where local crime levels remain low.
- Putting firm measures in place to ensure the health and safety of residents, visitors and those who work in the borough.
- Buildings and structures are safe and comply with legal requirements.
- Improved access to health and safety services.
- Socially inclusive services.
- Safe, available, accessible and affordable transport.
- A range of easy to access information and opportunities for those seeking to improve or maintain their general health and safety.
- Raised community awareness with both individual and collective responsibility to help create and maintain a safe and healthy environment and contribute to general well-being.

Perhaps you agree or disagree with some or all of the statement above! Or maybe you’ve an entirely different view! Maybe you’re more concerned with other community safety and health issues not mentioned?

Do you have any good ideas about how you can contribute - guarding your home, keeping fit etc... You may even know how we could improve safety and health services locally?

Whatever your ideas or opinions we really want to hear from you. We want to work together to achieve these goals in helping to secure a safer and healthier Fareham.

Contacting us is easy - You can either write to us: Safe & Healthy Fareham Review, FREEPOST, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7BR or you can complete an online form: www.fareham.gov.uk/shf

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Young people from across the borough will be representing Fareham at this year’s Hampshire Games in Aldershot at the end of June. The multi-sport event which features competitors from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and spans the entire weekend of 23, 24 and 25 June will be split into three sections:

**Friday 23 June**

**Parallel Games** - Event for young people with disabilities competing in athletics, basketball skills, basketball 3v3, boccia, football 6-a-side, football skills and new age curling.

**Saturday 24 June**

**Youth Games** - Event for young people in school years 7-10, competing in aquathon, badminton, basketball, girls football, hockey, judo, netball, rugby, squash, table tennis and tennis.

**Sunday 25 June**

**Mini Games** - Event for young people in school years 3-6 competing in athletics, badminton, basketball, girls football, hockey, netball, rugby, squash, swimming and tennis.

The games, which provide a showcase for sport across the county, help towards encouraging the development of participation and competition opportunities. They’re a culmination of sports development work undertaken throughout the year and we’ve been working closely with the Fareham School Sports Partnership.

For more information about this year’s games please contact Charlie Read, Partnerships and Development Officer, tel: 01329 824714 or visit www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk
Fareham Leisure Centre
Make a splash at your local leisure centre

An exciting award-winning swim development scheme has been launched at Fareham Leisure Centre. Splash School offers a wide range of swimming lessons and sessions designed to teach and develop a skill that will last a lifetime. Whatever your aims, once you’ve made a splash with them you’ll be swimming for life!

Recognised nationally, Splash School offers an extensive selection of swimming courses for people of any age, from four months old to 80 years and over! These classes provide an ideal environment to gain confidence in the water and develop excellent swimming technique within a structured programme. All of the instructors are highly trained and qualified to the ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) National Plan for Teaching Swimming standard. The scheme also offers an ongoing assessment that gives swimmers the chance to move from one class to the next at any time, allowing development at their own pace.

Splash School at Fareham Leisure Centre is available six days a week. There’s no need to wait until the start of a new term, month or week, you can book a space for Splash School today! The centre also offers an easy payment option of a monthly Splash School direct debit scheme.

For further information on Splash School or to book a space please contact Fareham Leisure Centre, tel: 01329 233652, email: farehaminfo@slm.ltd.co.uk or visit www.slm-leisure.co.uk

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
The future shape of the borough

The future of the borough will be set out in broad terms by the Core Strategy. In the winter edition we talked about the results of the public consultation to find out what the main planning issues were within the borough and to identify possible options to address the issues (the results are available on our website at www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf, or as a paper version on request). The results are now being used in the preparation of the ‘Preferred Options’ stage of the Core Strategy, which is currently underway. The Preferred Options must reflect the emerging South East Plan (see opposite).

Public participation on the Preferred Options document is anticipated to take place during the summer.

Getting the community involved in planning

The Statement of Community Involvement was submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2005. Following examination of the document by the Planning Inspectorate, revisions were made and the final version of the document is to be adopted in April. You can view it on our website at www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf or by contacting the Planning Policy Section (details below). The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how we’ll involve the public, groups and organisations in the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and for planning applications.

Increasing affordable housing supply

Most new affordable housing is now provided by the planning system. National and local policies seek a proportion of affordable housing on all of the larger sites where new housing is to be built. We have prepared new guidance to developers, house builders and the public on how affordable housing is provided on the qualifying sites. The guidance is set out in an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which came into effect on 1 January 2006 and will form part of the Fareham LDF.

The SPD aims to increase the overall provision of affordable dwellings and to ensure that those built are the types and sizes needed by the households which can’t afford market housing.

Copies of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document can be viewed on our website or as a paper copy on request.

Major housing site in Hunts Pond Road

A Draft Development Brief that sets out how this site should be developed is in preparation. This follows earlier consultation with local people to establish what were the important issues affecting the site and how these should be tackled. Public consultation on the draft brief is anticipated to take place during April or May 2006.

Research and information

We’re currently undertaking a series of studies to help Plan the future of the Borough:

- Business Needs Survey
- Community Infrastructure
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Playing Pitch Strategy
- Retail & Centres
- Employment Land Review
- Urban Housing Potential Study
- Greenspace Study
- Indoor Sport Study

Availability:

- Available now
- May
- September
The timing of the Fareham LDF

The adopted Fareham Local Development Scheme (LDS) came into effect in April 2005. It timetables the preparation stages for all documents that make up the Fareham LDF.

The LDS was revised and resubmitted to the Government in December 2005 and published in January.

The amendments include rescheduling of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document to enable us to take into account the emerging South Hampshire sub-regional strategy. Alterations to the Core Strategy mean that the preparation of the Site Allocations DPD will now be prepared later than originally timetabled.

The preparation timescales for the Site Development Brief for Peters Road, Locks Heath and for the Site Development Brief for Hunts Pond Road, Titchfield Common have also been altered. Moving the timescales for preparation will enable full site investigations to be undertaken and also allow enough time to resolve land ownership issues.

Annual Monitoring Report

All local authorities are required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report which forms part of the LDF and will be published every December. The purpose of the Annual Monitoring Report is to assess and report on the progress of the LDF and the impact on planning policies and strategies.

The first Annual Monitoring was approved by the Executive and submitted to the Government in December 2005. Copies of the Annual Monitoring Report can be viewed on our website or are available as a paper copy on request.

For more information about the Fareham Local Development Framework visit www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf or by contacting the Planning Policy Section, tel: 01329 236100.

South East Plan

The development of the South East Plan, which will set out the overall strategy for development in the region up to 2026 and includes how much housing and employment land will be needed and where it should broadly be located, has been continuing with preparation of detailed work for the South Hampshire Sub-Region (including Fareham borough).

The detailed work has been undertaken by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), which is made up of the local authorities within the South Hampshire sub-region. The detailed work was submitted to the South East England Regional Assembly [the body responsible for the preparation of the South East Plan] in December 2005 and includes:

• District Housing Allocations
• Employment land strategy
• Transport and other Infrastructure

For Fareham borough, the advice states that there should be a Strategic Development Area to the north of Fareham and the M27 motorway. This will include up to 10,000 homes together with land for new jobs, shops, schools, health and community facilities, and recreation uses.

Having considered the advice, the South East England Regional Assembly will submit the South East Plan to the Government for their consideration in the spring. This will be followed by a 12 week consultation period ending in June. Further general information about the South East Plan can be found at www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan or tel: 01483 555200.

The PUSH advice to the South East England Regional Assembly can be found at: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/study_areas/south_hamshire.html
Fareham in Bloom – Keep the borough blooming

Having been awarded Winner in the Small City category of Southern England in Bloom the borough was proud to receive a Silver Medal at the nationals of Britain in Bloom. This prestigious Royal Horticultural Society competition is of a very high standard and looks at everything from our soft and hard landscaping and floral displays to the cleanliness of the borough along with our community involvement, parks promotion and events as part of our own Fareham in Bloom. Thanks go to our residents, In Bloom sponsors and volunteers who helped in contributing to this success.

In this 11th year of ‘In Bloom’ we are looking to get our town centre shops involved with a Shop Fronts in Bloom campaign to get businesses decorating and brightening their windows with a floral, seasonal or environmental theme. It’s not just about flowers or plants - shop staff can use their imagination using anything from glass paints and artificial flowers to the more typical floral displays that support the ‘In Bloom’ success.

Trophies kindly donated and supported by Fareham Shopping Centre will be given to the winning entries.

Do you have a passion for gardening? Do you have what it takes to become a winning entry in this year’s competition?

With 20 classes to choose from you’re sure to find something to suit your horticultural talents; so whether it’s your specialist plant collection or the beauty of your ‘busy lizzies’ then we’d love to receive your entry. All entries are judged on individual merit and awards from bronze, silver, silver gilt and gold are given at a presentation that will be held on 14 September at Fareham Hall.

To enter simply fill in the application form (right) and return to: Fareham Borough Council, Parks & Open Spaces, FREEPOST, Fareham PO16 7BR no later than Friday 30 June. Entry is FREE and all entrants will receive a 10% discount card for use throughout the year at selected nurseries.

Parks web gets fresh look

We’ve recently updated our parks and countryside web pages, so you can now find out more about our local parks and countryside by selecting details for every park in the borough at www.fareham.gov.uk/parks

Each entry provides information about the size of the park, its description, opening times and directions on how to get there, as well as fees and charges for sports activities.

The parks webpages are displayed in an easy to read, ‘at a glance’ guide, plus feature details such as site history, planting information, lists of equipment in play areas and skate parks, along with recommended age ranges, and recent photographs of the sites.

Stubbington Recreation Ground, Blackbrook Park, Westbury Manor Gardens, Garden of Reflection, Portchester Park and Priory Park are all available to view, together with all the local play areas and skate parks in the borough. A general page on habitats and sites of importance has also been included, with coastal, wetlands, woodlands and amenity sites.

Children Invited to get artful

The 2006 Children’s Art Competitions will focus on the significance of trees and their importance in our lives.

With three categories this year, children are invited to create their own masterpiece.

Pre-school children may create a picture entitled ‘Trees of Tree’ and children aged 5-8 years may produce the picture with the theme ‘Trees through the Seasons’.

Eight to eleven-year-olds can use their imagination to create a picture entitled ‘Trees for Life’ to create a design which could be used as a flower bed for the summer of 2007.

For all categories, a Heritage Learning Pack is available at the Wakefield (see below) and all participants are invited to present their work giving details of their...
Invited to get artistic

The Civic Office’s Art Competitions will focus on the trees and their importance in our lives.
Entries this year, children are invited to create a piece.

Younger children may create a picture entitled ‘My Favourite Tree’
while those aged 5–8 years may produce their artwork entitled ‘Trees through the Seasons’.

Younger children can use their imagination with the title to create a design which could be turned into a tree in our gardens next summer.

For all categories an A4 template picture frame printed on white paper is provided for kids to create and submit their work. A guide and application form are available from Matt Wakefield (please see below) and winning entries will be invited to a presentation and prize giving during June.

Gardens to open again in aid of charity

Following the resounding success of the first Gardens Open Day in 2005 which raised a staggering £1,238 for charity, the doors will once again open on even more Fareham in Bloom prize winning gardens.

This wonderful one day event will be held on Sunday 16 July from 11am - 6pm when you can visit at least eight gardens for £3.50 inclusive that will be donated to charity. Tickets are available for £3.50 inclusive that will be donated to charity. Tickets are available at selected gardens.

For more horticultural information contact Matt Wakefield, tel: 01329 824474 or email: parks@fareham.gov.uk

For more horticultural information contact Matt Wakefield, tel: 01329 824474 or email: parks@fareham.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Are you planning a project? Would a Community Grant help?

Does your voluntary group, organisation or club have a project in mind that would benefit from a Community Grant? Local groups can apply for funds between £100 and £1,500 to support and assist in actively providing community, play, sport or leisure opportunities within the borough (but not funding trips or computer equipment).

In 2004/05, the Community Grants Programme awarded 38 grants to voluntary groups, organisations and clubs to the total value of £28,729. These grants have helped:

- A number of sports clubs with equipment to encourage young people to join.
- Community associations to improve their facilities to benefit local residents.
- Clubs for older and disabled people to improve their facilities and equipment, as well as specialist advice to improve quality of life.
- Art, music and drama groups to help with production costs or specialist equipment.
- Young Fareham residents, providing support to help with funding their sporting expertise at county or national level.

Applicants for grants of £500 or less will receive a decision within 8 weeks. However, applications for grants between £501 and £1,500 are considered by the Executive in March and September each year. The next deadline for the larger grants is 30 June 2006.

Help shape their future

Stonham, one of the largest providers of housing, care and support services in the country, is running a scheme to provide supported lodgings for young people between the ages of 16 and 21 in Fareham and are seeking householders in the borough who can offer a home to a young person, for either; short or long periods of time.

Part of a county-wide initiative, funded by Hampshire County Council’s Children Services, their aim is to provide a family environment for young people approaching adulthood.

All across the county there are young people who, through no fault of their own, have no family to fall back on. Many of these are vulnerable young people who have come from a very unsettled background. If you think you can help with accommodation, support and encouragement to help teach these individuals gain the skills they need to move on in their lives, then Stonham wants to hear from you. In return, you’ll be paid and supported by Stonham’s Supported Lodgings Scheme. Full training sessions will be given to help you adjust to your important role in the youngsters’ lives; great care is given to ensure that everyone involved will be compatible.

This scheme is a valuable way of giving young people who have little or no family contact the best possible start in adult life and the opportunities that so many of us take for granted: helping them mature, allowing them to experience the benefits of family life and giving them the possibility of continuing their education.

If you’re interested in finding out more on the Supported Lodgings Scheme, please contact Ann Sibley or Heather Glover at Stonham, tel: 023 8020 2688 or email: carol.harrowell@homegroup.org.uk
Elections

On Thursday 4 May electors in the borough will have an opportunity to vote for councillors to represent them on Fareham Borough Council. There will be sixteen seats in contention, one for each of the borough’s wards, but with two in Portchester East due to its larger population. Each councillor elected will serve for four years until May 2010.

Who will be the candidates?
Nomination of candidates takes place about a month before the election and details will be published on our website www.fareham.gov.uk Information will also be posted on public noticeboards throughout the borough and will be available at the Civic Offices, Fareham.

Who can vote?
To vote in this election you must have been registered as an elector for an address in Fareham by 13 March. If you’re not registered, you can apply at any time but the registration will not take effect in time for you to vote at this election. If you’re still registered at your previous address, you may be able to vote in respect of that address, by post if necessary. For further advice, contact the Elections Office (details below).

Where do I go to vote?
Poll cards will be delivered to all electors (except those who’ve already applied to vote by post) to let them know when and where to go to vote.

I can’t get to the polling station that day - what can I do?
If you’re unable or unwilling to go to the polling station in person, you may vote by post. An application form is available from the Elections Office or can be downloaded from our website www.fareham.gov.uk/elections We must receive it before 5pm on 18 April. A ballot paper will then be sent to you approximately ten days before the election. Please bear in mind that once you’ve been granted a postal vote, you can’t change your mind and vote in person instead.

I shall be abroad for a couple of months - can someone vote for me?
Yes, in certain circumstances you can make an application to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. The person you appoint must be qualified to vote in a local government election and should be someone you trust. Applications will need to be received by 5pm on 25 April.

How will I find out who’s been elected?
The election results will be published at the Civic Offices and on our website. Contact details for all your local councillors will also be available and will be put on to noticeboards throughout the borough during May.

To contact Election Services, tel: 01329 236100 or email: elections@fareham.gov.uk Alternatively, visit our website: www.fareham.gov.uk/elections for information and application forms.
We try to be a listening authority and want to shape services to meet your needs. To help us hear you we carry out an annual residents’ survey.

Last year's survey told us that 88% of you were satisfied with the way the council runs things and with the overall service provided.

In addition, 91% of Fareham residents think that the borough is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

Our goal in 2006 is to provide the services that ensure you continue to think this way. But first – a look back at 2005.

Over the next four pages we'll be looking at the following:

- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Maintaining and extending prosperity
- A safe and healthy place to live and work
- Leisure for health and fun
- Towards a balanced housing market
- Strong and inclusive communities
- A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice council
- Fareham’s firm financial foundation
Protecting and enhancing our environment

In 2005 we transformed the waste and recycling service by introducing a fortnightly collection service, as well as a garden waste collection service.

Thanks to your continued support in this, the council has been able to recycle more of your waste – increasing the amount from 21% to 29% of household waste.

More and more Fareham residents are taking the green challenge even further, with an additional 1,500 households composting their vegetable peelings, tea bags and egg shells – thanks to the council’s low-cost composter deal.

The findings of the Audit Commission’s Clean and Tidy Borough Review were reported early in 2005. The commission found that public satisfaction levels were high and that the borough was generally tidy, attractive and well-maintained.

We’re grateful to Fareham residents who play an enormous part in helping to keep the borough clean, tidy and attractive.

This partnership between the council and residents saw us scoop a number of prizes in the South and South East in Bloom competition. There were first prizes in the large town/small city, parks/recreation/small/country park, best display on public highway categories and the community involvement award. There was also a silver medal in the national finals of the Britain in Bloom competition.

Maintaining and extending prosperity

The July completion of the Market Quay development – with its new shops, restaurants and the Apollo five screen cinema has further increased the town centre’s retail and entertainment offer.

Ensuring that the adjacent car park is pay on foot (along with the multi-storey car parks at Civic Way and Osborn Road) has meant that drivers are only charged for the time they spend in the town centre, rather than having to guess how long they’ll be.

It is very pleasing to find from the residents’ survey that more of you are satisfied with the range of shopping facilities (from 78% in 2004 to 86% in 2005) and leisure and social facilities (from 66% in 2004 to 75% in 2005) in the borough – something which we’ve worked hard to achieve.

More new jobs have been created in the borough with the opening of the new National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Technical Centre at Solent Business Park and the relocation of Estée Lauder’s regional HQ from Petersfield to Fareham.

In addition, we continue to see a very low unemployment level of only 1.1% within the borough.
Looking forward with you in 2006

A safe and healthy place to live and work

New regulations giving premises and personal licensing responsibility to local authorities came into force last year. These resulted in a huge increase in officer and member workload – with an additional 40 licensing panels and the issue of 261 premises and 441 personal licences.

Our enforcement team issued 85 fixed penalty notices in 2005. This new team has been praised for its work in helping to keep the borough clean and tidy. 72 notices were issued for littering and 13 for dog fouling. In addition, three people were prosecuted for littering.

We’re committed to dealing with nuisance on your street. As a result we respond to reports of abandoned vehicles within 24 hours. In 2005 you reported 736 abandoned vehicles which led to 201 having to be removed. Your continued support to rid the streets of abandoned vehicles is essential in maintaining an attractive and safe borough.

Leisure for health and fun

May 2005 saw management of the borough’s leisure centre transfer to SLM. A substantial capital investment has followed with improved health and fitness facilities for all.

The long-awaited return of a town centre cinema has been welcomed by groups of all ages. The state-of-the-art five screen Apollo cinema offers the very best in quality and comfort and is a welcome addition to the town centre entertainment offer.

Coming soon to complete the town centre is the Smith and Jones pub in the former United Reform Church building.

Ferneham Hall continues to be a popular success. In a recent national award, run by the Association for Public Service Excellence, Ferneham Hall was short-listed to the top five, from 90 other venues in the Civic, Cultural & Community Venues – Best Performing Venue category.

The residents’ survey showed that 68% were unhappy with outdoor facilities for 12-17 year olds in the borough. As a result we introduced new neighbourhood facilities at Stubbington recreation ground and are planning a further three more in Locks Heath, Park Lane and Whiteley in 2006. In addition we’re developing a new play area at Salterns open space and additional play facilities at Portchester Park and Harbour View for younger children.
Towards a balanced housing market

Fareham Borough Council helped bring 73 new affordable homes into the borough last year. In addition, we’ve granted planning consents for a further 182 affordable homes.

Work to prevent homelessness over the past two years has resulted in 60% fewer people presenting themselves as homeless to the council. Equally, we continue to meet the target of no homeless families being placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.

We also continue to work hard to reduce the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation. We’ve been very successful here and achieved our 2005/06 target some four months ahead of schedule.

We’ve worked with our house building partners (Registered Social Landlords) on bids to the Housing Corporation totalling £34 million (the highest ever for Fareham.) If successful, these bids would help fund 682 affordable new homes over the next five years.

In 2005 we completed our housing options appraisal, with most tenants clearly wanting to remain under council management. Ninety-eight more homes met the government’s decent homes standards. In 2005 we installed 163 kitchens, 102 bathrooms and 130 new boilers in council properties.

Strong & Inclusive communities

We’re keen to ensure that everyone within the borough feels a part of the borough. We’re striving to achieve equality of opportunity for everyone in our community.

To help this, our newly created Civic Offices based Customer Service Centre has provided a focus for all queries into the authority. When fully operational the centre will be able to resolve customer issues in one place – reducing the risk of calls going astray or enquiries taking longer than they should.

Our benefits team can now visit customers to calculate and check benefits claims. In addition, we’ve cleared a backlog of benefits claims and reduced the time taken to process a claim.

In a further bid to improve services, housing applicants can now access their housing register application on-line – giving them the chance to see how well placed they are on the housing register.

We’re very keen to ensure we hear your views and have now submitted to the government a document called our ‘Statement of Community Involvement’. This document identifies how we’ll consult you on the future of Fareham (under our Local Development Framework.)
A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice council

We’re trying hard to look after your money and spend your council taxes wisely. Equally, we’re keeping Council Tax rises to a minimum. Our increases in 2005/06 and for the upcoming year 2006/07 are both below inflation.

Ensuring everyone pays their way is a cornerstone of our financial policy and as a result, we collected almost 99% of all council taxes due in 2004/05. We also work hard to ensure business rates are collected – some £24.9 million.

Fareham Borough Council spends £47.2 million on services – 11% of which comes from council tax payers. We raise an income from services of some £33.7 million and receive an annual government grant to administer housing benefit costs of some £11.5 million.

We’re also working hard to ensure you can transact with us how you want to. To this end we’ve introduced e-billing systems that allow citizens and businesses to access their Council Tax or Business Rates account over the internet – whatever time, day or night.

2005/06 was a good year for Fareham, its residents and its council. We hope that through our partnership with you, the residents, we can make 2006/07 a successful, safe and prosperous year for us all once again.

Fareham’s firm financial foundation

Fareham continues to serve its residents well, whilst maintaining a firm financial foundation.

For the financial year 2004/05 (ending on March 31 2005)

• Some £47.2 million was spent on providing services to borough residents
• At the same time we collected £33.7 million in income
• We collected £5,067,000 in Council Tax during this year, which accounts for 11% of our total spending

As well as ensuring we maintain high level services across the borough, there were a number of capital schemes that further improved our surroundings.

• £38,000 was given in grants to community groups across the Fareham area
• We spent £70,000 on improving neighbourhood facilities for our young people
• £99,000 on environmental improvements and improvements to community lighting in the borough
• In addition some £54,000 was spent on the redevelopment of Fareham town centre
• We also spent £209,000 on improvements to borough car parks

You can find a full copy of the council’s accounts on the website at www.fareham.gov.uk
Welcome to the revitalised Westbury Manor Museum

The final stages of Westbury Manor Museum’s £200,000 refurbishment is due to be completed at Easter when the Museum will reveal all the exciting redevelopments that have been taking place behind closed doors over the winter months. Work has been underway on new displays, historical resources and improvements to the building and its facilities; including the installation of a platform lift providing mobility impaired visitors’ access to the revitalised first floor.

In January, the ground floor re-opened to reveal a new resource room containing items from museum collections, local history information and a “Pride of Place” showcase for mini exhibitions. If you or your group would like to use the case to highlight your collections, achievements or work, the museum would like to hear from you - please contact Julie Biddlecombe, Museum Curator, tel: 01329 824895 or visit the museum reception.

The temporary exhibitions gallery has been refurbished, providing a more modern and welcoming space for the exhibitions programme. The Museum’s reception and coffee area have also undergone a new look - although regulars will be pleased to know that the popular coffee and cakes are as good as ever!

The first floor’s re-opening will kick off with displays about the clay industries and a timeline gallery charting changes in the way that people have lived, worked and visited Fareham throughout history. You’ll also see recent additions to collections and hands on exhibits designed to bring history to life for younger visitors.

The refurbishment to revitalise the museum and refresh its displays was funded partly by a generous grant from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport’s ‘Wolfson Foundation’ with additional funds donated from the Winifred Cocks Bequest, administered by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

Further information about Westbury Manor Museum can be found online at www.hants.gov.uk/museum/westbury by emailing julie.biddlecombe@hants.gov.uk or tel: 01329 824895.
Letters

Contact us...

Do you want ‘air your views’ or do you have a question about a borough matter that concerns you? Or some useful tips to share with other readers? If so, Fareham Today would like to hear from you, email: publicity@fareham.gov.uk or write to: The Editor, Fareham Today Magazine, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU. The star letter will receive a pair of cinema tickets for use at Fareham Hall.

Dear Fareham Today

I was distressed to hear that conmen have been preying on vulnerable residents in the borough pretending to be from the council. They’re doing this by sending threatening and frightening letters or by turning up on your doorstep. As an elderly member of the borough I’m concerned about this happening to me or my friends. What advice can you offer us?

Mr Wright, Portchester

All genuine correspondence from the council is sent in an official envelope that is franked and carries the Fareham Borough Council logo. If any member of the public is unsure of the legitimacy of any correspondence (or a visitor to their home claiming to be from the Council) they should contact the Civic Offices, tel: 01329 236100.

A legitimate caller will carry identification and be happy to wait outside while you check it. If you turn anyone away from your home because they couldn’t provide you with a legitimate reason for being there, or you’re suspicious of callers in your area, please contact the Police, tel: 0845 045 4545. (In an emergency or if a crime is in progress, tel: 999).

Remember these 3 simple safety rules:

STOP – are you expecting anyone?

CHAIN – always put your security chain on before you open the door, it will give you that extra ‘safe space’ and barrier between you and the caller

CHECK – ask for an identification card, take it and look at it carefully. Close the door and telephone their local office – don’t use the number on their card, look it up the phone book.

I missed my recycling collection because I was away and by the next collection I had built up a lot of recyclables. As my bin was full I left some cardboard and bags of recycling beside the bin. The bin men took the cardboard, but not the bags. I went up the street with the bags to speak to the men, and was told they can’t take bags.

Why is cardboard taken and not bags? Surely, it discourages recycling if bags are not taken, as I ended up putting them in the rubbish bin.

Miss Hawkins, Fareham

We’re keen to collect as much recycling as possible from households, but we can’t accept items in plastic bags. The machinery at the sorting plant can’t open them and employees aren’t allowed to in case the bags contain hazardous materials, such as broken glass. If your blue top bin is full please put recyclables loosely in a cardboard box”, this way they can be seen. Don’t forget if you regularly fill your blue top bin; why not contact us for a second? Tel: 01329 236100.

*Please note this only applies to recycling. We can’t take extra, or ‘side’ waste with the refuse collection.

Send us your pictures

Do you have a favourite place in the borough that you’ve captured in a photograph and would like to share with other readers? If we print your photo we’ll send you a pair of cinema tickets for Fareham Hall.

Mike Kershaw has sent in this picturesque view of the Castle Street Conservation Area in Portchester - with the ‘The Jubilee Oak’ in the foreground. Did you know the tree was planted in 1935 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V?
**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 13</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival: Feast of Fiddles</td>
<td>£16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Hayseed Dixie (plus support)</td>
<td>Seated £16.50, standing £15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 15</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 15</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 16</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Easter Folk Festival Afternoon Concert</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Saw Doctors</td>
<td>Seated &amp; standing £20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18 - Fri 21</td>
<td>From 09:00</td>
<td>Fareham Stage Dance Festival</td>
<td>Daily £5, session £3 U16 ½ price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 22</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Fareham Breakthrough Group Spring Ball</td>
<td>£35 Tickets from Michelle Harris Tel: 01329 827706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25 - Sat 29 (Sat matinee 14:30)</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Amateur Operatic Society: Anything Goes</td>
<td>£10 (U16s/Over 60s £9) Tue only 2 tickets £16</td>
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**MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 2</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Derren Brown</td>
<td>£19.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Moscow by Night</td>
<td>£19.50 &amp; £17.50 (U16s £17.50 &amp; £14.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 7</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>The Sooty Show</td>
<td>£8 (SuperSaver 4 tickets £28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 14</td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Academy of Musical Theatre Show</td>
<td>£7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>The Comedy Bar</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Uri Gellar</td>
<td>£13 (U16s £7, SuperSaver 4 tickets £40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 20</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£15, £12.50, £10 &amp; £6 (Students ½ price U16s £1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 21</td>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Rentaghost The Musical</td>
<td>£9.50 (£8.50 Leisure Card, SuperSaver 4 tickets £32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Tony Hadley</td>
<td>£19.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 27</td>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Tractor Tom</td>
<td>£8 (SuperSaver 4 tickets £28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 31</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Stage One Youth Theatre: Les Miserables (Youth Version)</td>
<td>£8 (U16s/Over 60s £6.50)</td>
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**JUNE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 1</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Stage One Youth Theatre: Les Miserables (Youth Version)</td>
<td>£8 (U16s/Over 60s £6.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 3</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Pendyrus Male Voice Choir</td>
<td>£13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 21</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>The Comedy Bar</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 22</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Chas and Dave</td>
<td>£15 (£14 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 23</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Voice of the Heart - A Tribute to Karen Carpenter</td>
<td>£14 (£13 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24</td>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Centre Stage presents: Tick Tock</td>
<td>£8.50 (Over 60s/U16s £8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on at Fareham Hall and to book your seats, please contact the Box Office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk or visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/fernehamhall ...ONLINE BOOKING COMING SOON...