Foreword

This month sees the end of year one of the Community Action Team two-year project. These quarterly meetings have been your chance to tell us about issues of concern to you and for us to share our plans with you for the future of the Borough of Fareham.

We have been fortunate to have received the support of many of our partner agencies, in particular the police, and we hope you agree that the meetings have provided an additional channel for dialogue between you and the organisations that provide services for you.

The issues raised by those attending CAT meetings have been varied and interesting and we have worked hard to address these. What has come through quite clearly is your desire to work with us to further improve communities in which you live.

For me as the Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, there is still much work to be done in improving the Borough for all and with your support I will continue to do this.

Another key point that has emerged is that our two-tier system of local government needs to be better explained to our residents. As a Borough Council we are unable to address some of the concerns you have raised, as these fall under the Hampshire County Council remit. I am conscious that you as residents are not necessarily aware who provides your services, so I will also be looking at ways of improving this. At the end of the day of course it does not matter who provides services as long as they are delivered in as efficient a manner as possible. It is for this reason that we work closely in partnership with all who provide public services in the Borough.

The next round of CAT meetings takes place next month with the main topic being the Review of Community Buildings - to inform residents about the proposed vision for the future provision of community buildings and how the project will be taken forward.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to these meetings.

Many of you will have seen media coverage of the Pitt Review into the flooding of Summer 2007. I wanted, therefore, to stress that Fareham Borough Council has a rigorous approach to preparing for emergencies. We work jointly with Hampshire County Council, the ‘blue light’ services and other responders to prepare for possible emergencies.

As well as reassuring you that we strive to be ready I also wanted to direct you to information you would find helpful in preparing for an emergency. And whilst we all hope that nothing ever befalls us here in the Borough of Fareham, it is always advisable to be prepared.

I encourage you to visit www.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk or contact the Cabinet Office, tel: 020 7276 1234 for a copy of the ‘Preparing for Emergencies’ booklet.

Seán Woodward
Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council
Recycling

The benefits of recycling glass

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled again and again. The quality of the glass does not deteriorate and the environmental benefits are clear.

For every tonne of glass recycled:
- 145 kWh hours of energy is saved
- 225 kg of CO₂ is saved
- 1.2 tonnes of raw materials are saved and
- 1 tonne of refuse is saved.

Recycling the right type of glass

Most recycled glass is used by the re-melt industry to make new bottles and jars. However, not all types of glass can be recycled together.

For example, glass ovenware, and glass used for windows, drinking glasses or light bulbs contain metals and other materials to strengthen them which seriously affect the re-melting process. Therefore we can only collect glass packaging - bottles and jars used for food, liquids and medicines (green, blue, clear and brown).

Mixing it up!

Traditionally when you’ve taken glass to the bottle banks you’ve had to separate them (green/blue; clear; and brown) but soon, thanks to the latest optical technology, this process will be done at the sorting stage. What this means for you, is that once we’ve introduced the new bottle banks (due across the Borough by March next year) you won’t have to separate the coloured bottles anymore, the different colours can go in together!

This will be more convenient for you because all colours are put into one container.

Glass Collection and Recycling in Fareham

Between April 2003 and March 2004, 1,342 tonnes of glass were collected from the 25 bottle bank sites across the Borough. Last year you recycled a staggering 2,239 tonnes of glass via the 31 bottle bank sites. An increase of 66.84%! We’ve increased the number of sites to make it more convenient for you to recycle your glass and now that we’re introducing mixed bottle banks, you’ll hopefully recycle even more!

How and when to use the bring bank sites

More glass recycling brings with it more noise at the collection sites for nearby neighbours; therefore we ask that you only use the glass banks between 8am and 8pm.

Please contact us (tel: 01329 236100) if the recycling banks have been damaged, are full, or if waste has been fly-tipped at the sites.

Please note that the recycling bank sites are not the same as the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and shouldn’t be used to deposit rubble, furniture, household appliances, or garden waste. This sort of waste must be taken to a HWRC.

Finding a recycling bank site near you

A full list of all the sites is available on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk or by contacting us tel: 01329 236100.

Here are some top tips on recycling your glass

Please ensure:
- All glass bottles and jars are empty and clean.
- Corks, lids and tops are removed.
- Only bottles and jars are recycled in the glass banks. No other types of glass are recyclable.
- All plastic carrier bags are put in the litter bins provided or taken home for reuse.
- All cardboard boxes are taken home for recycling in the blue top bin.
- All bottles and jars are placed inside the glass bank and not left on the ground. (Glass not placed in the bank is believed to have the highest footfall in these areas.)

Around 1/3 of all the food we buy ends up being thrown away, when in fact most of it could have been eaten. Some of the waste is made up of things like peelings, cores and bones, but the majority is, or once was, perfectly good food. It’s not just an issue of good food going to waste, or that this costs us, as consumers, a significant amount of money; there are serious environmental implications too - the amount of food we throw away is a waste of resources. Just think about all the energy, water and packaging used in food production, transportation and storage. This all goes to waste when we throw away perfectly good food. If we stopped wasting food which could have been eaten, it would have the same impact on carbon emissions as taking 1 in 5 cars off UK roads!

As part of the national “Love Food - Hate Waste” campaign, we’re organising a number of events during the autumn, to raise awareness about the importance of reducing the amount of food we throw away and some helpful tips to benefit both our wallets and the environment.

At the events you’ll find out about:
- Recipes to make use of all the odds and ends that invariably get leftover from previous meals or forgotten in the fruit bowl or the back of the fridge.
- How to find out what types of food can be frozen and how to make your fridge a “true food saving hero”.
- Portion planning to remove the guesswork by suggesting how much to cook, depending on who’s coming for dinner, and ways to measure it.
- How simple changes to routine can prevent food waste.
- Smarter storage and shopping habits.
- What the ‘Best Before’ and ‘Use-By’ dates really mean.
- Home composting - as there will always be unavoidable food waste.

A pie made from leftovers

Taking part

Would you like to take part in our campaign? We’re looking for a number of households to keep a “food diary” to find out how much food is wasted by Fareham’s residents - your diary can be anonymous, we’d like to find out about common food wastage and offer help or advice on cutting it down.

We’d also like you to send in your favourite recipes for using up leftovers. What do you do with leftover mashed potatoes? Do you have a great recipe for using up bananas past their best? Recipes should be your own creation and sent to us before 30 September.

We’d also like you to send in your favourite recipes for using up leftovers. What do you do with leftover mashed potatoes? Do you have a great recipe for using up bananas past their best? Recipes should be your own creation and sent to us before 30 September. The top ten recipes will be printed onto recipe cards that will feature as giveaways during our main campaign week. We’re also keen to hear from local community groups, schools and organisations who’d like to join in with our “Love Food - Hate Waste” campaign.

Send your diary requests, recipes, and ideas entitled “Love Food - Hate Waste” to: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk or tel: 01329 236100 and ask to speak to a Waste and Recycling Officer.

Keep an eye out for information on our website www.fareham.gov.uk/recycling and in the local press about event dates and locations. In the meantime check out www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for full details and information of the national “Love Food - Hate Waste” campaign.

On street recycle bins

Have you seen the new on street recycling bins? (pictured right and on the front cover) They’re located in six locations across the Borough in Portchester precinct; Civic Way path, Fareham; Henry Cort Drive, Fareham; Salterns car park, Hill Head; Centre Way, Locks Heath; and Shore Road HM office, Warsash; the places believed to have the highest footfall in these areas.

Thank you

We’d like to thank you for your continued use of the recycling services and facilities provided across the Borough and congratulate everyone in helping Fareham achieve the highest recycling rate (42.12%) in Hampshire for the year 2007/08. Keep up the good work!

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Health

Health and wellbeing in later life

Earlier this year we launched the Strategy for Older People, to give advice and help to our senior residents on remaining independent and enjoying life.

Keeping fit

Gentle exercise helps people to keep active as well as providing other benefits including improved posture; mood, sleep patterns, and digestion. Strong muscles and flexible joints also reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls.

Now in its 4th year our Walking to Health programme continues to grow in popularity. There are 30 different walk routes across the Borough, ranging in ability and length, lead by our fully trained volunteer walk leaders. If you’d like to join our mailing list to receive an information pack and regular updates about the latest walk groups please contact, tel: 01329 236100 ext 2392 or 2463, email: communityinfo@fareham.gov.uk

Following the success of Walking to Health, we’re developing a seated exercise initiative aimed at increasing strength, mobility and flexibility for older residents wanting to participate in exercise in a gentle and comfortable way. Initially launching in many of our sheltered housing schemes, a trained instructor will be offering regular ‘chairobics’ sessions, to help improve fitness and general wellbeing. The hope is to eventually have seated exercise classes available in various venues such as community centres; libraries; day centres; and church halls. Watch this space for more information.

FREE electric blanket testing

Is your electric blanket safe? Has it been tested in the last three years? Approximately 40% of electric blankets fail the safety check, so if you haven’t had your old one tested since 2005; book an appointment to have it tested at our event in October.

In partnership with Hampshire County Council Trading Standards & Hampshire Fire and Rescue, we’re checking electric blankets for FREE on Wednesday 15 October at Ferneham Hall between 9am-4pm. To ensure you get yours checked, contact Trading Standards, tel: 01962 831620/833625/833626, or email: electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk

There’s more...

The Ferneham Hall event will also have information on a range of subjects including: home safety; home security; energy efficiency and advice on Grant Schemes; staying on your feet this winter; fire safety; council tax and housing benefit entitlement; and healthy eating.

Useful contacts and information: Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau, tel: 08444 77 22 32; NHS Direct, tel: 0845 4647 111; Age Concern, tel: 01329 223142; Help The Aged, tel: 0800 800 6565

Community Action Teams

One year on

It’s been a rewarding first year for the Community Action Teams (CATs). We’ve held 20 meetings, in 17 locations across the Borough of Fareham, discussing issues such as parking enforcement; recycling; and speeding traffic. CAT meetings allow you the opportunity to discuss issues about your local community, as well as seeing presentations from organisations such as Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Road Policing Unit, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Highways and Fareham Youth Council.

Sixty-three expressions of interest have been received for funding to support local community projects that you’ve asked for and so far we’ve allocated over £43,000.

Your responses to the CAT meetings have been favourable. You’ve told us that four evening meetings each year for your area is the right number and nearly 80% of you said you’d attend another CAT meeting.

The fifth round of Community Action Team meetings will take place across the Borough during October, giving you the chance to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your local community; ideas for improvements; and the chance to bid for funds for local projects.

October meetings

All meetings start at 7pm until 8.30pm, at the following locations:

Western Wards

Thursday 2 October

Sarisbury Social Club

Crofton

Monday 13 October

Stubbington Baptist Church

Portchester

Monday 20 October

Portchester Methodist Church

Fareham Town

Wednesday 22 October

Fareham Youth Council

Titchfield

Monday 27 October

Locks Heath Free Church

The main topic of discussion will be the Review of Community Buildings in the Borough.

For more information about CATs visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/cats

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk

A day in the life...

of a Contaminated Land Officer
by Wendy Harrison

I work within the pollution section of the Department of Regulatory Services (often referred to as Environmental Health). My role is to identify and assess areas of potential contamination; work with planners and building control officers when land is redeveloped; organise and manage the investigation of any Council land and privately owned land on a risk based approach; and provide advice to members of the public, developers, environmental consultants and internal staff.

No two sites are the same; gathering information on land contamination is like a jigsaw puzzle; you have to be prepared to look for information in lots of different places and think ‘outside of the box’.

9am I arrive at work and log onto my PC, responding to emails and checking my tasks list.

9.15am I’m currently checking a site investigation report relating to the redevelopment of a former haulage yard. The common types of contaminants found on these sites are oils and fuels, metals and asbestos. Developers are responsible for ensuring a safe development and that professional advice is available to carry out any necessary investigations, assess risk and do the work. We require developers to carry out investigations as part of their planning permission and this is usually carried out by a specialist consultant who works on behalf of the developer, it can involve taking soil and groundwater samples and in some cases monitoring for the presence of gases or vapours in the soil. Once we’ve read the reports, we write to the developer, their consultant and the planning officer to inform them of our comments and requirements for any further work.

10.00am I meet with one of the team to discuss our day’s work and assign tasks.

10.30am I sit down with Richard, the Technical Officer (pictured left) who works with me, to discuss the planning consultations that have been sent up over the past couple of days, and talk through any requirements for the sites. All planning applications that relate to new buildings come up to Environmental Health, Richard goes through historic records to check whether there is a potential for pollutants to be present, this is usually when the land has been used as a petrol station; for an industrial process; or as a landfill. However, flytipping; small scale chemical storage; and raising land levels can all introduce pockets of contamination to a site. After all the checks have been carried out a memo is sent to the planning officer stating what information has been found and providing any recommendations for approval or refusal.

12noon Lunch

12.30pm I put on my Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and carry out a joint visit with a building control inspector. At the building site we’re visiting, they’re installing gas protection membranes within the houses and I’m checking that the products they’re using on site and the method of installation is in line with the plans and details they’ve submitted.

1.05pm I drive to another building site and after putting on my PPE and signing into the site office, I meet with the site manager and specialist remediation contractor. The site has an area of soil that has been affected by a historic fuel leak, the developers have removed the affected soil and have stock piled it. The specialist remediation company is treating the soil to encapsulate the pollutants and turn the soil into a product that can be used as a sub-base underneath pavements and car parking areas. Sustainability is an important consideration and developers increasingly have to limit the environmental effects of their developments and reduce the amount of soil sent to landfill.

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2.30pm I return to my office and make a call to the developer to check that they’ve carried out any further works.

3.00pm I have a meeting with one of the building control officers to discuss previous works that are ongoing. We need to check that they are in line with the requirements of the planning permission.

3.30pm I make a call to a local estate agent to inform them of a new client that has instructed us to carry out a site investigation.

4.00pm I type up some minutes for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight contaminated land liaison group, this group meets quarterly and provides a forum for contaminated land officers across the region to speak to the Environment Agency; discuss key topics; attend group training; present case studies and progress group projects. I’m the secretary of the group so keeping up with minutes and progressing projects is a requirement of this role.

4.40pm I have an action from the minutes to progress a group project so I call the Health Protection Agency to arrange a meeting with one of their health protection practitioners; we’re working on a joint framework for reporting and managing chronic environmental risks to health.

4.47pm I spend the last 43 minutes of my day reading through a remediation strategy that I have received for a small former car repair workshop, in my response I ask for more details on how the remediation will be carried out and I ask the consultants to contact me to agree remedial clean up targets and set up a meeting on site.

5.30pm I sit down with Richard to discuss the planning consultations that have been sent up over the past couple of days, and talk through any requirements for the sites. All planning applications that relate to new buildings come up to Environmental Health, Richard goes through historic records to check whether there is a potential for pollutants to be present, this is usually when the land has been used as a petrol station; for an industrial process; or as a landfill. However, flytipping; small scale chemical storage; and raising land levels can all introduce pockets of contamination to a site. After all the checks have been carried out a memo is sent to the planning officer stating what information has been found and providing any recommendations for approval or refusal.

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Enterprise Hubs
supporting high growth business

The Enterprise Hub Network (www.enterprisehubnetwork.co.uk) was set up by the South East England Development Agency to assist new or expanding companies working in areas that have the potential to grow rapidly. The Network focuses on entrepreneurial individuals and companies, helping them to bring ideas to market quickly and profitably. Each hub offers firms the opportunity to benefit from mentoring, access to finance, and the chance to meet with like-minded organisations. Crucially, each hub is linked to local universities - offering the chance to turn cutting-edge research into lucrative businesses.

A pilot scheme has been established to help save officer time and money by sharing information about businesses, with the aim of leading to better regulation. Traditionally businesses have been inspected individually by the different agencies mentioned above, but the new trial (Retail Enforcement Pilot) using mobile technology, allows the agencies to share the information. This helps to distinguish between well-run organisations (saving duplicate visits) and those most at risk; performing poorly or trading illegally, therefore giving advice and support to those who need it most.

REP is being used across Hampshire and is a key part of the Government’s Better Regulation Executive’s programme, to provide improved collaboration between local authorities and national regulators. It aims to:

- reduce inspections of compliant businesses
- make local authority regulatory services more efficient through joint local working
- give consumers and employees better protection by focusing resources on high-risk or non-compliant businesses.

This new way of working is being tested in approximately 45 local authorities throughout the country, with the hope of being used in more areas if successful.

Solent Enterprise Hub
(www.solenthub.co.uk) is centred on the University of Portsmouth, specialising in support for firms engaged in software; medical devices; mobile phones; Web 2.0 or any other knowledge based high growth potential business.
Director: Arthur Monks
tel: 023 9265 8202,
email: amonks@solenthub.co.uk

Southampton Enterprise Hub
(www.southamptonhub.com) is centred on the University of Southampton and its science park at Chilworth. They specialise in ICT; electronics; photonics; biotech and biomed; marine industries; and advanced engineering.
Director: Stephen Davis
tel: 023 8076 3794,
email: info@southamptonhub.com

Local Development Framework

Following the consultations that took place in the spring, we’ve now reviewed all the comments which will be taken into consideration during the next stage in the Local Development Framework’s progress.

The Core Strategy is now the main focus, with work being carried out on a set of Topic Papers which will outline the preferred options for each subject (i.e. housing; employment; retail; etc). The completed Preferred Options Stage is due for public consultation later this year, with the final document on course for publication in February 2010.

Evidence Studies & Supplementary Planning Documents

Work is currently taking place to expand the evidence base of the LDF which will provide our documents with strong and up-to-date evidence on which to base decisions. An update to the Retail Study is expected to be produced later this year which will provide evidence on the anticipated need for retail floorspace for the Borough up to 2026. This study will take account of the existing level of retail in Fareham and will assess the potential impact on Fareham Town Centre of large developments outside the Borough, such as the Northern Quarter in Portsmouth.

Work has also started on a Residential Car Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document which will set parking standards for new residential developments across the Borough. Following government guidance, in the form of Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, this document aims to encourage more efficient use of land when providing new parking schemes.

For more information on these documents and all other recently produced documents, please visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf
Flying the Flag

The Green Flag Award, run by the Civic Trust is a national award scheme which recognises outstanding levels of excellence in the provision of parks and their management. It's designed to recognise the highest standards amongst England's best parks and publicly accessed green spaces.

Holly Hill Woodland Park in Sarisbury has won the Green Flag for ‘Outstanding Park’ in its first year of entering the award. Congratulations to all those who have worked so hard to develop and maintain this fantastic park.

Preparation for the Green Flag entry began back in October 2007, with a new 10 year management plan. Schedules for landscaping and interpretation were drawn up with consideration to the stringent criteria required: A welcoming place; healthy, safe and secure; well maintained and clean; sustainability; conservation and heritage; community involvement; marketing and management.

Considerable upgrading and improvement works have been carried out to the site, including:

• New artistic sculptured entrance
• Commissioned wrought iron work
• Re-landscaped car park
• Upgrading of main path network within site
• New interpretive signage and way marking
• Highway directional signage

The award is the culmination and recognition of many years of dedicated hard work and management, working in partnership with volunteers to continually improve and sustain the site for today and future generations.

A Green Flag will be flown at the entrance and a plaque erected in recognition of the achievement and pride that it brings to our borough.

Going for Gold

Situated within a short walk of Fareham Town Centre, the Sensory Garden, in Osborn Road, was opened ten years ago in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Once an area of grass, with just a few mature trees, this small quarter of an acre of green space was transformed into a lively public garden based on the senses of touch, sound, vision and smell.

The ‘green oasis’ is packed with rare, unusual and exotic plants from all over the world, with areas of subtropical planting, hot sunny Mediterranean borders and cooler winter planting with varieties from New Zealand and China.

The site has become very popular since opening in 1998 and regular events are held to encourage people into the garden to look at aspects of horticulture and arts such as Tree Dressing (pictured right).

To celebrate the garden’s 10th anniversary the site has undergone some major improvements that will define the beauty of this wonderful garden to an even greater extent.

Interpretation has been installed by means of a stunning information board (pictured below) detailing the garden and 24 key plants. This enables users to take a self guided walk following marker posts giving the plants’ Latin and common names, which ties in with a leaflet and map produced about the site.

In June, over 500 new plants were added to the garden by the Fareham in Bloom co-ordinators to bring the site back to its original planting concept and the whole area has been mulched with a high quality pine bark, which will assist in moisture retention and prevent weed growth.

Repairs to brickwork and the repainting of the seating have also added to the beauty of the garden and ‘Green Thumb’ is kindly treating the lawns through sponsorship.

The garden received a Silver Gilt Award and Best Small Park in last year’s south and southeast in bloom, so it’s hoped, with the host of additional features and attention to detail, that the site might be lucky and take a Gold award for 2008. And with luck the site will be entered into next year’s prestigious Green Flag award.

The Sensory Garden is a discovery of the Senses

Site information and leaflets for Holly Hill Woodland Park and the Sensory Garden of Reflection are available from Fareham Tourist Information Centre; Fareham Shopping Centre and the Civic Offices or via www.fareham.gov.uk/parks. For further information on Fareham in Bloom, horticulture, parks and related events, please contact Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer, tel. 01329 824343.
Can’t afford to buy a place of your own in Fareham?

Despite the recent downturn in the housing market it can still be difficult for some residents in Fareham to buy their first home. We’re continuing to work in partnership with many housing associations to offer real opportunities that could work for you, if you’re trying to get onto the housing ladder.

There’s a whole range of affordable HomeBuy housing solutions designed to provide purchasers with an opportunity of buying a home in the Borough. Although each HomeBuy scheme is different, they’ve all been designed to help first time buyers; key workers; social tenants; and others who couldn’t otherwise afford to buy a property in an area where they live or work.

‘Newbuild Homebuy’, also known as shared ownership, offers an eligible applicant the opportunity of purchasing shares in a newly built property, with the option of buying more shares later on. The scheme enables people who aren’t able to raise a sufficient mortgage and a deposit to buy a property outright, the opportunity to buy an initial share of usually 50%, and pay rent on the remaining shares they don’t own. After 12 months, the purchaser has the opportunity to buy further shares until they own the property outright.

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Who do I contact to find out more about HomeBuy?

If you’d like to find out more information and check eligibility for all the affordable HomeBuy schemes, contact the local HomeBuy Agent HomesInHants, tel: 023 8062 8004, or visit their website at www.homesinhants.co.uk where you’ll also have access to their online property search.

If you’re interested in the ‘Open Market HomeBuy’ schemes, contact the equity loan providers direct. For further information about Ownhome, visit www.ownhome.co.uk or call the OwnHome information line, tel: 0845 607 0110. To contact Thames Valley Housing Association, the MyChoiceHomeBuy agent for Hampshire, visit www.homebuy4u.co.uk, or call their information line, tel: 0845 607 0110. To contact Thames Valley Housing Association, the MyChoiceHomeBuy agent for Hampshire, visit www.homebuy4u.co.uk, or call their information line, tel: 0845 607 0110.

operation Christmas Child

Shoe Box Appeal 2008

Last year’s Shoe Box Appeal was a fantastic success, thanks to the generosity of the readers of Fareham Today. In the Borough alone 11,975 gift filled shoeboxes were sent to children in Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Bosnia. Thank you.

Once again Operation Christmas Child is asking for gift filled shoe boxes for 2008, to help put smiles on the faces of many more children that have been affected by civil wars, natural disasters and extreme poverty. Choosing gifts and then filling and wrapping a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity for all the family, especially when you know these gifts are going to be used and treasured.

Please take your gift filled shoe boxes (including £2.50 or more towards distribution, transport, processing and promotion per box) to Salisbury Green United Reform Church from 10 to 21 November, Monday to Friday 10am-5pm. If you’re unable to drop the box off between these times, please contact, tel: 01449 972718.

What to pack?

All items should be new. Please include items from each category below and please make your box both fun and educational.

How to pack your shoe box

1. Find an empty medium sized shoe box (18cm x 30cm x 13cm). Wrap the lid and box separately in wrapping paper.
2. Decide if your gift is for a boy or girl. Cut out the boy or girl label, tick the appropriate age and stick it to the top right on the outside of the wrapped lid. Secure the label with sticky tape.
3. Fill your box with gifts
   a. Please enclose £2.50 or more in an envelope (or online at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com) towards distribution, transport, processing and promotion
   b. Please secure the lid with an elastic band, and do not seal the box as it will need to be checked to ensure it meets Customs requirements

Your gifts in a shoe box could be the first Christmas present a disadvantaged child has ever received. Your shoe box will make a child feel special and valued.

Please include the following:

- **Toys** - something to love
  bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, (for boys - trucks and cars, for girls - doll, clip-on earrings, make-up or hair accessories) etc.
- **Educational supplies** - something to do
  felt pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, notepad, picture/puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.
- **Hygiene items** - something to use
  toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, flannel etc.
- **Other items** - something to eat or wear
  sweets (self-by date to be at least March of following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

Please don’t include the following:

- Food chocolate, crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cakes (or any other food)
- Medicine medicines or vitamins of any kind
- War related items toy guns, soldiers or knives
- Clothing (other than listed left)
- Fragile items glass containers; mirrors
- Liquids of any kind including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toilettry sets or aerosols
- Dangerous items marbles or sharp objects - scissors or razors
- Novels
- Anything of a political or racial nature

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit: www.samaritanspurse.uk.com

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Join us for the fun! Wander along the whole of West Street, Fareham to find special promotions; outdoor events and hospitality, as our local independent retailers welcome you to West Street Speciality Shopping. The newly refurbished western end of West Street now boasts an avenue of trees and new street furniture to create a continental style area.

9:30am to 2:30pm See a collection of classic cars from the 1930s to 70s, courtesy of the South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society; on show in the pedestrianised area of West Street near the podium.

11:30am to 2:30pm A FREE vintage bus will be running up and down West Street from Westbury Manor Museum to West Street Speciality Shopping. So why not hop on board?

2:30pm to 4:00pm Batala Portsmouth Samba Band will be getting the party into full swing with a lively procession of music along the street, joined by the classic cars as part of the celebration of the new look western end of West Street.

Join our online panel and help improve services. If you live in the Borough of Fareham and are aged 16 or over you can register to become a member of Fareham’s new e-panel. We’ll be consulting in partnership with other agencies on a number of topics, so we can work together to improve the quality of life for residents. We need you to tell us what you think, good or bad, so we know where you want us to do better.

- Are the priorities for Fareham right?
- Are we spending too much money on some things and not enough on others?
- What do you want done differently?
- Have your say and join the e-panel today.

Let’s Celebrate! - Fareham Past and Present - Saturday 20 September

Join in the fun! Wander along the whole of West Street, Fareham to find special promotions; outdoor events and hospitality, as our local independent retailers welcome you to West Street Speciality Shopping. The newly refurbished western end of West Street now boasts an avenue of trees and new street furniture to create a continental style area.

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Looking ahead

What’s it like to live, work and play in Fareham? And what will it be like in 2020? networkfareham is a partnership for the communities of Fareham, which brings people together from all walks of life from across the Borough, to look at what affects the quality of your life in Fareham, including:

- Children and young people
  How do the young get a good start in life?
- Community engagement
  Could you volunteer to help?
- Community safety
  How safe will our homes and streets be?
- Economic development
  What about people’s local job prospects?
- Environment and transport
  How do we solve traffic congestion?
- Health and well-being
  What makes us stay fit and healthy?
- Housing
  Could your children afford to live here?

Engaging @ Fareham

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- Are the priorities for Fareham right?
- Are we spending too much money on some things and not enough on others?
- What do you want done differently?
- Have your say and join the e-panel today.

To find out more, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation and click on the e-panel link.

Working in Partnership

What’s it like to live, work and play in Fareham? And what will it be like in 2020? networkfareham is a partnership for the communities of Fareham, which brings people together from all walks of life from across the Borough, to look at what affects the quality of your life in Fareham, including:

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  What about people’s local job prospects?
- Environment and transport
  How do we solve traffic congestion?
- Health and well-being
  What makes us stay fit and healthy?
- Housing
  Could your children afford to live here?

Some of the answers to the above will be found in a Sustainable Community Strategy, a document that sets out a vision for the future - including everything Fareham’s communities would like to see and ideas to make it happen. networkfareham aims to deliver the ideas by:

- explaining how well existing projects meet your needs
- listing the actions, services and support needed for improvement
- tackling poverty and things we don’t do well
- joining up services to avoid wasteful overlaps
- including you in planning services and improving the area where you live
- bringing together the public sector, private organisations & voluntary and community groups
- linking in with plans for Hampshire and the south east region
- putting together a plan for Fareham in 2020
- letting you know if we’re winning!

Here’s where you come in... we want to hear from you. What needs to be improved in your neighbourhood or across the Borough as a whole? Which things should be done first?

Would you like to take part in the consultation process? If so, please send your name and address to:
Partnerships Officer, FREEPOST, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7BR
or send an email to: networkfareham@fareham.gov.uk
We’ll send you a copy of the draft Sustainable Community Strategy and a short survey to capture your views.

networkfareham@fareham.gov.uk is our mailbox for your views at any time. For more information, visit the website: www.networkfareham.org

Sat 27 Sep; 25 Oct & 29 Nov Fareham Country Markets

➤ Sat 4 Oct; 1 Nov & 6 Dec Fareham Farmers’ Markets
Buy from the people who actually produce, taste the difference in quality whilst supporting your local farming community.

Fri 24 - Fri 31 Oct Fareham October Fest Daily funfair
From Thu 20 Nov Special Christmas Markets every Thursday

Sun 23 Nov Christmas lights switch on
Fun activities all day, including live performances from local groups. See the town burst into festive illumination when the lights are switched on at 4.30pm.
Review of the Year 2007/08

Setting the priorities for Fareham

Within this special report you’ll see the progress we’ve made on our seven overarching priorities for the Borough.

• Protecting and enhancing the environment
• Maintaining and extending prosperity
• A safe and healthy place to live and work
• A balanced housing market
• Leisure for health and for fun
• Strong and inclusive communities
• A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice council

This list of seven priorities, along with an overall vision for the Borough of Fareham followed extensive discussion and consultation with elected members of the council, officers, and our public and voluntary sector partners.

We then consulted on these priorities in a survey carried out with just under 1,000 residents across the Borough. Some 95% of residents surveyed agreed with the priorities we had proposed.

As well as endorsing the overarching priorities we had proposed, residents were also asked to consider specific projects that would help us achieve these, for example:

• 95% agreed with the introduction of Community Safety Officers
• 95% agreed that the NHS should be encouraged to provide a new community hospital in the Borough
• 97% agreed that we should work hard to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2010
• 97% agreed that Council Tax should be kept to a minimum
• 76% agreed with a target of 100 new affordable homes every year
• 90% agreed that Fareham Borough Council should lead a project to improve the western end of West Street

What has Fareham Borough Council achieved between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008?

Protecting and enhancing the environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our actions</th>
<th>The details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2010</td>
<td>In 2007/08 Fareham residents recycled 42.12% of their rubbish. This is the highest rate in Hampshire. By 2010 residents of all flats in the Borough will have access to recycling facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring air quality</td>
<td>We continue to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels at two sites in the Borough – Gosport Road and Portland Street. Nitrogen Dioxide can affect breathing, so an action plan to reduce these levels is being developed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introducing parking enforcement

In April 2007 we took over responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions and regulations in the Borough. These have helped keep traffic moving and ensured greater safety in key areas such as at junctions.

Encouraging pride in our communities

Residents and volunteers continue to support the Fareham in Bloom event, with more than 400 entries in 2007. The Borough was awarded Gold Medal and Champion of Champions in the South and South East competition. The Holly Hill Woodland Park received a Silver award in the Country Park category. The Sensory Garden was awarded a Silver Gilt and the Best Small Park award and Portchester Northern Junior Community School was awarded the Gold Medal in the Schools in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight category (see pages 12 & 13).

Enhancing our conservation areas

We have made improvements to The Square at Titchfield. These have included replacing footways with York stone, improving street lighting and making improvements on the footpath to Barry’s Meadow. In addition improvement works have also taken place at Town Quay where we have reconstructed and resurfaced footways and carriageways.

Maintaining and extending prosperity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our actions</th>
<th>The details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvements to the western end of West Street</td>
<td>New paving, replacement lamp columns and new trees and floral displays have now been installed in West Street between Westbury Manor and Aldi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the retail offer in the town centre</td>
<td>Work to develop a new two-storey 20,000 sq ft ‘Desire by Debenhams’ store continues. The development will also bring three further retail outlets varying in size from 1,000 to 6,000 sq ft and will be completed by a new state of the art multi-storey car park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
### A safe and healthy place to live and work

**Our actions**
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Obtaining Safer Parking awards
- Introducing a Borough-wide ban on smoking in enclosed spaces

**The details**
- The Community Safety Partnership (police and Fareham Borough Council) has reduced crime by 17%—breaking the government’s 15% target. The area already had one of the lowest crime rates in Hampshire.
- There were 900 fewer victims of crime in the Borough last year.
- The Borough is now served by 16 Police Community Safety Officers and four Accredited Community Safety Officers.
- A Borough-wide ban on drinking in public places was introduced in June last year. This has enabled the police to seize alcohol from people acting in an anti-social manner and has had a positive impact across the Borough.
- Three town centre car parking areas have been granted the Safer Parking Award—Market Quay, Lysses and Civic Way South.
- Training courses for businesses in the Borough helped to explain the ban and its implications for restaurant and pub managers, as well as all types of business.

### Leisure for health and for fun

**Our actions**
- Ensuring that Ferneham Hall meets the needs of the community
- Improving facilities in our communities

**The details**
- Ferneham Hall celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007. It continues to provide a range of entertainment opportunities.
- Costs at the venue are being challenged and there is a plan in place to reduce net costs. Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, overall cost to the taxpayer of providing Ferneham Hall was reduced by over £120,000 and further cost reduction work is ongoing (see page 24 for listing).
- A £375,000 grant from the Football Foundation has brought improvements to football at Seafield Park.
- A £20,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund to improve play facilities was secured in December 2007. The cash will be used to develop and organise events for children and young people in the Borough.
- A £200,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund brought with them a series of quarterly community meetings in five areas of the Borough. Attacked to the Community Action Teams is a neighbourhood initiative fund. This has been accessed by several projects to fund capital projects within the community (see page 7).
- Henry Cort Community College Student Council lead a project to develop a Friday night youth facility in the Highlands Road area. We assisted with the project, which now welcomes around 50-60 young people each week.
Dear Fareham Today

It is a pleasure to walk along the old West Street, into the new modern shopping centre of Fareham town. The improvements of the wide pavements and trees with new look of the lights plus the new benches has made the older part of the West Street come to life.

Thank you to all who made this project work, it is nice to live in a Borough where the old and new works.

Mr Peter Hoe, Bishopstoke Road, Fareham
## OCTOBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 5</td>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Central Band of the British Legion&lt;br&gt;£8 (U16s/over 60s £7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 11</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>John Hylton’s Real Diamond&lt;br&gt;£16 (£15 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 12</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Wrestling&lt;br&gt;£12 (U16s £10, family 4+4 £35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Don Cossacks&lt;br&gt;£21.50, £19.50 (£20, £18 Leisure card U16s £19 &amp; £17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Essence of Ireland&lt;br&gt;£15.50 (£14.50 Leisure card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Tony Stockwell&lt;br&gt;£18.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>The Alter Eagles&lt;br&gt;£13.50 (U16s/over 60s/unemployed £12.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 18</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra&lt;br&gt;£16.50, £14, £11 &amp; £6.50 Students ½ price/U16s £1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>STP Production presents&lt;br&gt;The Full Monty&lt;br&gt;TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 26</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Idol 2008 - The talent competition for both singers and dancers&lt;br&gt;Go to <a href="http://www.idol.uk.com">www.idol.uk.com</a> for more information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Moscow Ballet presents: Coppelia&lt;br&gt;£19.50 &amp; £18 (U16s £18 &amp; £15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 30</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular&lt;br&gt;£17 (£16 Leisure card)</td>
</tr>
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## NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music&lt;br&gt;£14.50 (£13.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 2 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Amateur Operatic Society&lt;br&gt;presents: Oliver&lt;br&gt;£10 (U16s/over 60s £8, Students with valid NUS ID £5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 8</td>
<td>(Sat matinée 14:30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Antique &amp; Collectors Fayre&lt;br&gt;£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One Night in Vegas&lt;br&gt;£17 (£16 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Vagina Monologues&lt;br&gt;£16 (£15 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Lady Boys of Bangkok&lt;br&gt;£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 23</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>His Story - A musical like no other&lt;br&gt;TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Elvis: An American Trilogy&lt;br&gt;£18 (£17 Leisure card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 29</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Symphony Orchestra&lt;br&gt;£16.50, £14, £11 &amp; £6.50 (U16s £1, Students ½ price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30</td>
<td>14:30 &amp; 19:30</td>
<td>The Band of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines&lt;br&gt;£15.50, £14 &amp; £13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on at Ferneham Hall and to book your seats, please contact the box office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk or online visit: www.fernehamhall.co.uk