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.

Foreword by Executive Leader, Councillor Seán Woodward

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Ferneham Hall listing

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Front Cover: Youngsters using the new ‘On Street Recycling Bins’ with a Waste & Recycling Officer

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See the online version at www.fareham.gov.uk/farehamtoday

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AN AUDIO VERSION OF THIS MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE EDITOR
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 kW 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 overname, 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).

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 not left on the ground. (Glass placed in the bank is viewed as fly-tipping and can lead to prosecution under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.)

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 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!

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. 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!
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

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.

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
Age Concern, tel: 01329 223142. Help The Aged, tel: 0808 800 6565

Community Action Teams

One year on

It’s been a rewarding first year for the Community Action Teams (CATs). We’ve held 28 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 Methodist Church

- **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 hauagle 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 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

9.30am I take a call from a lady who is in the process of selling her house, her solicitor has commissioned an environmental report that has identified a potential for contamination to be present nearby. I advise her that I can search records available to me and provide her with any factual information held about land contamination. I will need to organise some time to research planning histories; historic maps; environmental health records; GIS data; and aerial photographs.

10.00am I receive a call from a planning officer stating what information has been found and providing any requirements for the sites. All planning applications that relate to the development of land are required to have an environmental impact statement. The statement must include information about land contamination especially if the site is in an area that is likely to be a source of contamination. The planning officer did not have any information about the site.

10.30am 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 a 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.

11.00am 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, fly tipping; 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 a 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.

1.30pm I arrive at Fareham District Council to meet with a building control and planning officer to inform them of our comments and requirements for any further work.

2.00pm I return to my desk to review my email and organise my tasks list for the rest of the day. I follow through with any planning applications that I receive.

2.30pm I receive a call from the planning officer and ask her if I can search records available to me and provide her with any factual information held about land contamination. I will need to organise some time to research planning histories; historic maps; environmental health records; GIS data; and aerial photographs.

3.00pm I spend some time making a phone call to a lady who is in the process of selling her house, her solicitor has commissioned an environmental report that has identified a potential for contamination to be present nearby. I advise her that I can search records available to me and provide her with any factual information held about land contamination.

3.30pm Lunch

4.00pm I return to the office and call a planning officer to ask for some advice about solvent odours that are coming into his flat. He lives above a domestic garage and the owner of the garage has been varnishing a boat, he’s worried about the health effects and wants advice about what he can do to limit the vapours getting into his flat.

4.30pm I spend some time making a phone call to a lady who is in the process of selling her house, her solicitor has commissioned an environmental report that has identified a potential for contamination to be present nearby. I advise her that I can search records available to me and provide her with any factual information held about land contamination. I will need to organise some time to research planning histories; historic maps; environmental health records; GIS data; and aerial photographs.

5.00pm I receive a call from a planning officer who has contacted me. I call him back; he wants some advice on what information his client needs to submit with their planning application. I talk him through the requirements and refer to information on our website www.fareham.gov.uk.

5.30pm I receive a call from a planning officer to ask for some advice about solvent odours that are coming into his flat. He lives above a domestic garage and the owner of the garage has been varnishing a boat, he’s worried about the health effects and wants advice about what he can do to limit the vapours getting into his flat.

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6.30pm I spend some time making a phone call to a lady who is in the process of selling her house, her solicitor has commissioned an environmental report that has identified a potential for contamination to be present nearby. I advise her that I can search records available to me and provide her with any factual information held about land contamination. I will need to organise some time to research planning histories; historic maps; environmental health records; GIS data; and aerial photographs.

7.00pm I receive a call from a planning officer who has contacted me. I call him back; he wants some advice on what information his client needs to submit with their planning application. I talk him through the requirements and refer to information on our website www.fareham.gov.uk.
**Monitoring businesses in partnership**

Our Food Safety; Licensing; and Health & Safety teams are one of a small number of Local Authority Regulatory groups in Hampshire, working together with Hampshire Fire and Rescue and Hampshire Trading Standards to ensure businesses are run to the correct high standards.

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.

**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.

Built around a team of commercial experts, the Network is coordinated by Enterprise Hub Directors who all have experience of developing growing pioneering businesses, and can offer help and advice on every challenge a developing business is likely to face. The hubs act as a channel to specialist business services offered in the south east and can draw on a wide range of experts to help entrepreneurs and businesses realise their potential. The hubs typically help early stage businesses in their start up phase, through to established companies seeking to achieve high growth. Hubs help member companies to go further, faster, and much of the help they offer is free to members of the Network.

There are 20 hubs around the southeast region, two of which are in Portsmouth and Southampton, serving the Fareham area.

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**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 coordinators 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.

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 824543.

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

'Ownhome', and 'MyChoiceHome Buy'. Both offer equity loans to eligible applicants with a household income of less than £60,000 to supplement a mortgage. There are currently two Open Market HomeBuy products to choose from – prefer to purchase an existing home in an area of your choice, then the alternative 'Open Market HomeBuy' scheme offers eligible applicants equity loans to help fund the purchase of a home. You don't need to pay a deposit, although you can if you want to.

'Newbuild Homebuy' is offered through a partnership between Places for People and the Co-operative Bank. Applicants can receive an equity loan for 20% to 40% of the value of the property. The remainder of the purchase is funded through savings and a mortgage from the Co-operative Bank.

'MyChoiceHome Buy' offers eligible applicants an equity loan of between 15% and 50% of the purchase price. The remaining purchase price is funded through savings and a mortgage from the Co-operative Bank. Thames Valley Housing Association is the appointed MyChoiceHome Buy agent for Hampshire.

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 HomeinHants, tel: 023 8062 8004, or visit their website at www.homeinhants.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 Own home, visit www.ownhome.co.uk or call the OwnHome information line, tel: 0845 607 0110. To contact Thames Valley Housing Association, the MyChoiceHome Buy agent for Hampshire, visit www.ownhome4u.co.uk, or call their information line, tel: 0845 6006699.

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 Sarisbury 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 a 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
   - Please enclose £2.50 or more in an envelope (or online at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com) towards distribution, transport, processing and promotion.
   - 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 don't include the following:

- Food chocolate, crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cakes (or any other food)
- 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

Please include the following:

- Toys - something to do
- Educational supplies - something to do
- Hygiene items - something to use
- Other items - something to eat or wear

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

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

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.

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.

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?

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.

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

To find out more, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation and click on the e-panel link.
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>
<tr>
<td>Introducing parking enforcement</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraging pride in our communities</td>
<td>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 &amp; 13).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
# Review of the Year continued

## A safe and healthy place to live and work

**Our actions** | **The details**
--- | ---
Reducing crime and the fear of crime | 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.

Obtaining Safer Parking awards | Three town centre car parking areas have been granted the Safer Parking Award – Market Quay, Lysses and Civic Way South. Three town centre car parking areas have been granted the Safer Parking Award – Market Quay, Lysses and Civic Way South.

Introducing a Borough wide ban on smoking in enclosed spaces | 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.

## A balanced housing market

**Our actions** | **The details**
--- | ---
Encouraging the build of more affordable homes | Some 116 affordable housing units were completed and became available in 2007/08 – 83 were for rent and 33 under a shared ownership scheme (see page 14).

Encourage the redevelopment of some areas | We’ve been working with Portsmouth Housing Association on a project to develop new homes and shops at Broadlaw Walk. It is expected work will start on this project towards the end of this year.

Develop schemes to help low income families to own their own homes | We have encouraged the development of a social homebuy scheme. This enables people to buy an initial 25% of their homes and to pay an additional amount in rent. As their circumstances change, they are able to purchase up to 100% of their property value.

Introducing a choice based lettings scheme | A new way of allocating homes was introduced in May 2007. LetSelect is a computer based system whereby people can register an interest in a property that has just become available. Allocations are then based on need.

## Leisure for health and for fun

**Our actions** | **The details**
--- | ---
Ensuring that Ferneham Hall meets the needs of the community | 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).

Improving facilities in our communities | 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.

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.

## Building strong and inclusive communities

**Our actions** | **The details**
--- | ---
Introducing community meetings across the Borough | Community Action Teams were introduced last autumn. They brought with them a series of quarterly community meetings in five areas of the Borough. Attached 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).

Encourage NetworkFareham to become a partnership of partnerships | Fareham's Local Strategic Partnership - NetworkFareham has created seven thematic partnerships (see page 17), to look at Borough-wide issues under the headings:

- Children and young people
- Community engagement
- Community safety
- Economic development
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing
- Planning and sustainability

## A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice council

**Our actions** | **The details**
--- | ---
Keeping Council Tax rises low | In 2007/08 Fareham Borough Council set a Council Tax increase of 3%. It was the 10th lowest of all 238 district councils.

Performing well | Fareham Borough Council is in the top third of almost half of the national performance indicators.

Process benefit applications quicker | We are now processing new claims and changes in circumstances quicker than in 2006/07.

Improving our processes | In 2007/08 Fareham Borough Council improved its business continuity planning, set up new anti-fraud and corruption practices and brought staff sickness down from an average of 7.45 days in 2006/07 to 7.22 days in 2007/08 which is comparable with the best performing local authorities.
The town of Fareham was originally called Fearnham or Ferneham—‘ham’ is the Saxon word for village or settlement; so Ferneham may have been ‘the village by the fens’.

A number of archaeological finds, notably flint tools, such as those unearthed during construction of the A27 in the 1970’s, are evidence that the Ferneham area has been occupied since prehistoric times. Later archaeological discoveries such as Roman-British pottery near the High Street and West Street confirm that the town was also occupied during the Roman period.

By the twelfth century Fareham was a small rural settlement centred on the church of St Peter & St Paul (pictured right) at the top of the High Street. The church, which was extended in later periods, dates from the tenth century and surviving Saxon construction.

British pottery near the High Street and West Street confirm that the town was also occupied since prehistoric times. Later archaeological discoveries such as Romano-British pottery near the High Street and West Street confirm that the town was also occupied since prehistoric times.

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## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Sing-a-long-a Sound of Music</td>
<td>£14.50 (£13.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 2</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Amateur Operatic Society presents: Oliver</td>
<td>£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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Antique &amp; Collectors Fayre</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One Night in Vegas</td>
<td>£17 (£16 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Vagina Monologues</td>
<td>£16 (£15 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Lady Boys of Bangkok</td>
<td>£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</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Elvis: An American Trilogy</td>
<td>£18 (£17 Leisure card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 29</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>£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</td>
<td>£15.50, £14 &amp; £13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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