Foreword

by the Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward

The Princess Royal visited Fareham in October to officially open the new Fareham Community Hospital in Sarisbury. I was honoured to meet Princess Anne (pictured below) together with other local dignitaries including the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham (Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford). The Princess was given a tour of the new hospital, meeting staff and patients, before unveiling a plaque to officially open Fareham's Community Hospital. This is a very important event for our Borough as we have been without any form of hospital facilities for many years. Her Royal Highness then visited Fareham College to open a new sixth form centre there.

After the disappointment of Debenhams 'pulling out' of fareham, I was delighted to announce in November that a deal had been completed for them to open a department store in the town centre this year. Debenhams signed for an even larger store than the one originally intended and it is planned to open in the Summer. The renamed Fareham Shopping Centre Car Park, alongside Debenhams and Bhs and leading directly into the Centre, will be completed in time for the store opening.

With Next back in Fareham and Tesco also intending to open at the end of this year, we now have an even better line-up of retailers in the town.

Financial pressures continue to challenge us all. The recent government spending reductions have resulted in the loss of 42 posts (about 10% of the workforce) at the Council, however due to careful management in tandem with a voluntary redundancy programme many of those employees whose posts were deleted have been accommodated in vacated positions in the organisation. Our top priority remains the delivery of high quality services to you, at the lowest possible cost. With this in mind I have asked the Council to agree to freeze the Council Tax again for 2011/2012.

I'm delighted to announce that a Freedom March of HMS Collingwood, led by The Royal Marines Band, Portsmouth will be taking place on Saturday 7 May at 11am in West Street, Fareham. HMS Collingwood was given Freedom of the Borough in 1974, and this entitles them to march through the streets of Fareham with 'bayonets fixed and flags a flying' once every four years (pictured left).

As always if there are any matters you would like to bring to my attention or suggestions you may have to improve the Borough we all share then I will be very pleased to receive them. I promise that all suggestions will be thoroughly considered.

Sean Woodward

(please see page 23 for Cllr Woodward’s contact details)

Email Friends of Fareham Community Hospital: chfriends12@gmail.com
Dealing with the Deficit

Last summer, in preparation for the expected spending reductions in the Government’s Spending Review (which were announced in October 2010) Councillors requested that the Chief Executive of Fareham Borough Council, Peter Grimwood, carry out a thorough assessment of the Council’s spending. This has identified where the necessary savings can be made, whilst avoiding an adverse knock-on effect for the residents of the Borough.

The Council has a long history of good financial management and of achieving efficiency savings. However, due to the large size of the national debt, some tough decisions had to be made by the new government to dramatically reduce public spending and reduce the debt burden on this and future generations.

Chief Executive Officer, Peter Grimwood said: “The review of spending was by no means an easy task and Councillors had to take some very hard decisions, looking at services identified by the public as being low priority and making sure that the front line services that residents say are important to them are not reduced.”

Most of the Council’s costs are on the salaries of employees who provide a wide range of services to the residents of the Borough. When carrying out the systematic review of the Council’s employee structure, the Chief Executive and Councillors had to look at many different aspects, including:

- a review of senior management costs
- a review of those discretionary services identified as a ‘low priority’ by the public through a residents’ survey carried out in 2009
- a review of ‘back office’ costs and
- a review of those posts which could be merged with others or delivered in a different way.

42 posts were identified for deletion and all affected employees were informed at the end of August.

The deleted posts were identified from right across the Council, including four Senior Management posts:

- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Head of Performance and Improvement
- Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer
- Head of Finance

The majority of other posts deleted were from the ‘back office’, including areas such as accountancy, legal, personnel and ICT. No ‘front line’ posts, such as bin collectors, street sweepers or parks staff were deleted.

The Council had already saved £1.1 million from employee budgets over the previous year, to take account of the reduction in income caused by the recession. These savings were made by deleting vacant posts, making changes to departmental structures, offering redeployment and flexible retirement. The recent savings achieved from the Chief Executive’s review will mean the Council will have achieved more than a 17% reduction in employees from 538 posts to 445.

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Sean Woodward said: “Due to careful management in tandem with a voluntary redundancy programme many of those staff whose posts were deleted have been accommodated in vacated positions within the organisation. I hope that we have now reached the position where we have identified the necessary savings given that our government funding is set to reduce by 26% over the next few years. Our top priority remains the delivery of high quality services to our residents at the lowest possible cost. That is why I proposed freezing Fareham’s Council Tax for the second year running and am delighted that this year the County Council, Police and Fire services have followed suit.”

Fareham Borough Council continues to set one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country despite receiving one of the lowest levels of government grant.

tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk  website: fareham.gov.uk  twitter: @FarehamBC
Flood Protection

Wallington Property Level Flood Protection

The Secretary of State announced the launch of a national property level flood protection grant scheme to help protect properties in areas with a high flood risk, that don’t benefit from community level defences. We have successfully gained funding to protect 41 properties in Wallington Village.

The project provides flood protection to individual properties, identifying all likely points where water could enter. This means protection for doors, air bricks, air vents, pipe work, windows and the external fabric of the structure below a 0.6 to 0.9m threshold. Each property has been surveyed to identify the products required to protect it and those products will be installed at no cost to the owner.

Funding

Following the bid we were initially awarded £162,450 to fund flood protection work for 28 properties. These properties plus a further 13, were surveyed in line with the scheme guidelines. During this survey period we secured a further grant of £70,000 to extend the scheme so that 41 homes will now benefit. In total £232,450 has been allocated to the Wallington property level flood scheme by Defra.

Progress

Surveys were completed in October. Following a tendering exercise the contract was awarded to UK Flood Barriers and the installation phase began in early 2011. This stage will be completed by 31 March.

Public Consultation

During the course of the project, residents in Wallington have been consulted and were given opportunities to comment at open evenings and drop in events at the local village hall. The Wallington Village Community Association (WVCA) has also had key input to the project throughout. Our thanks go to the WVCA for their valuable assistance and the use of Wallington village hall.

Photographs courtesy of Wallington resident, Richard Boswell

Community Safety

Tackling Domestic Abuse

 Fareham’s Community Safety Partnership is supporting the Police and working with local services to tackle domestic abuse across the area.

Together with agencies such as Victim Support and Fareham and Gosport Family Aid, they’ve launched the Fareham & Gosport Domestic Abuse Forum. The forum will work to ensure tailored services are available across the Borough to support those suffering from abuse. Further campaigns will focus on raising awareness of this serious crime and encourage reporting of abuse by victims, concerned neighbours, relatives and friends.

If you're a victim of domestic abuse, confidential advice and support is available to you by calling the 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on *0808 2000 247. If you’d prefer to speak to someone locally, Fareham and Gosport Family Aid offers support and advice any time of the day or night, tel: 07967 387243.

If you’re concerned about a friend, relative or neighbour you can report these doubts anonymously, contact Crimestoppers, tel: *0800 555 111.

For a link to the forum, visit: saferfareham.co.uk

For more information on this scheme visit: defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/manage/property/level/grant-scheme.htm

SNAP - date change!

SNAP (the alcohol and drugs free dance nights for young people) was re-launched at Ferneham Hall in November with great success. Please note the SNAP night due to be held on 29 April has been rescheduled due to the Royal Wedding. The new date will be Friday 13 May. Tickets are available in advance only from Ferneham Hall’s box office, tel: 01329 231942. For further information visit: snapdc.co.uk

tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk website: fareham.gov.uk twitter: @FarehamBC

* NB Calls to 0800 and 0808 numbers are FREE to landline users but mobile phone charges may apply
Managing your money

Dealing with money issues can sometimes be off-putting and if you don’t understand how things like credit or mortgages work, you could end up losing out financially or getting yourself deep in debt.

You can avoid losing money and getting into debt if you have enough information to make the right choices. You’ll find a lot of the facts you need on the Citizens Advice Bureau website, including help to deal with your debt problems, how to avoid losing your home and how to get your finances back into shape. Or if it’s face-to-face advice you need, we’re here to help.

To make a start on getting to grips with your finances, see the contact details at the bottom of this page.

Rights for lodgers

Lodgers and sub-tenants have much less legal protection than other types of tenants – especially if they don’t have a written tenancy agreement.

Fareham CAB has helped several sub-tenants with landlord issues recently and is warning people taking this type of tenancy to check their rights by visiting our website (see contact details below).

How to ring the changes - without being overcharged

Householders who change their fixed-line telephone can end up being charged twice over. This warning comes from Fareham CAB which has been asked for help by people surprised to receive two sets of phone bills covering the same period of time.

The problem is that if you enter into a phone contract with a new provider, this will not necessarily bring your existing contract to an end.

Take the recent case of someone with a telephone service provided via a cable connection to their home. They asked for a new service via a BT line, but the new connection did not replace the old one – it was in addition to it. So the customer had to pay two lots of line rental.

The customer should ensure that, as well as starting a new contract, the old contract has been terminated. People who’ve changed their bank account or their gas and electricity provider may be used to the idea that the new supplier will see to all the admin, including terminating the old contracts. However, this is not necessarily the case with fixed-line phones. The CAB believes that telephone companies should be required to co-operate and ensure that contract switches are trouble-free. But this doesn’t happen in every case at present, so consumers have to be vigilant.

Case Study

When a will-writing company refused to return a client’s £495 fee after she changed her mind the following day, she turned to Fareham CAB for help.

The CAB helped her to make a claim against the company in the County Court, which resulted in the payment of her £495 fee and expenses.

Don’t ignore the problem! Come to the Citizens Advice Bureau.
Walk your way to better health this Spring

The Fareham Walking to Health Scheme offers a range of organised walks throughout the Borough, all led by qualified walk leaders. Walks are graded for different abilities and cover various distances. They’re ideal for helping you to get or remain healthy and active whilst meeting and socialising with others.

For further information about the scheme or to sign up to receive the FREE walk programmes, please contact Community Action Fareham, tel: 01329 223142, email: enquiries@fareham4h.org.uk or visit: fareham4h.org.uk

New walks will start soon from North West Fareham Community Centre and Buggy Walks from the Broadlaw Centre.

Cams Community Club
This popular club offers affordable, fun and sociable activities for the retired residents of Fareham. Held on site at Cams Hill School, there are a whole range of activities for you to try and get involved in, including New Age Kurling, Art, Cooking, Learning Spanish, Fitness, Tai Chi and much more.

For further information about the club or to book your space, please contact: 01329 231641(Mon - Fri 9am-1pm)

New for Spring:
New Age Kurling, every Thursday 9.45-10.45am

For more information about the club or to try and get involved in, including New Age Kurling, Art, Cooking, Learning Spanish, Fitness, Tai Chi and much more. There are a whole range of activities for you to try and get involved in, including New Age Kurling, Art, Cooking, Learning Spanish, Fitness, Tai Chi and much more.

Walkers will start soon from North West Fareham Community Centre and Buggy Walks from the Broadlaw Centre.

Cams Community Club
This popular club offers affordable, fun and sociable activities for the retired residents of Fareham. Held on site at Cams Hill School, there are a whole range of activities for you to try and get involved in, including New Age Kurling, Art, Cooking, Learning Spanish, Fitness, Tai Chi and much more.

For further information about the club or to book your space, please contact: 01329 231641(Mon - Fri 9am-1pm)

New for Spring:
New Age Kurling, every Thursday 9.45-10.45am

Art (jewellery making) Wednesday 9.45-10.45am or Thursdays for generic art from 11.05am-1pm

Exercise Referral Scheme
Exercise referral offers Fareham residents suffering with a long term health condition the opportunity to attend a ten week programme at Fareham Leisure Centre. If you have a condition such as, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Asthma, Osteoarthritis, Obesity or Depression, then this scheme could enable you to take part in physical activity that will positively influence your health and wellbeing.

In addition to this, you’ll receive two FREE personal training sessions, access to nutritional workshops and group exercise sessions at £1 each and be eligible for membership discount.

To access this scheme you must be referred by your GP. For general enquiries please contact Fareham Leisure Centre, tel: 01329 226370 or email: fareham-er@slm-ltd.co.uk

We’re looking for volunteers over the age of 16 to assist the Play Rangers. If you’d like to find out more about volunteering at the play sessions, please contact the Community Development Manager, email: communityinfo@fareham.gov.uk or tel: 01329 236100. As part of the Council’s Safeguarding Children Policy, all volunteers will be required to undertake a short interview and complete a Criminal Records Bureau check in order to help assess their suitability to work with children.

For more information about the Play Ranger service, please contact Amy Kretowicz or Cheryl Balson, tel: 01329 236100, email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk or visit: fareham.gov.uk

tele: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk website: fareham.gov.uk twitter: @FarehamBC

A day in the life...

of Fareham’s Play Rangers,
Amy Kretowicz and Cheryl Balson

By Amy Kretowicz

In our role, we promote and provide FREE play opportunities for children aged 0-19 years within the Borough of Fareham. There are currently 16,830 children under the age of 14 living in the Borough so we feel the success of our role is especially important.

09:00 The day begins with Cheryl (pictured above left) over at the Council Depot moving our van, making all the necessary checks and putting the correct equipment in the van for the week. Meanwhile I’m at the Civic Offices answering emails and messages.

10:00 I take a phone call from a lady who runs a non profit making charity who would like to know about the Play Ranger service. I chat with her about how we can support and provide help to her organisation and arrange an appointment for Cheryl and me to visit her.

10:15 I put the next timetable together. Our timetables are for two month periods so we try and get them together a timetable in advance. I discuss with the Council’s Childcare Development Officer, the various sites we visit and we decide whether any changes need to be made to location or times.

11:30 Cheryl returns to the office and we make our way to a local primary school to deliver a presentation about a play park due to be located close by. We like to consult the children about the different equipment on offer and see which is the most popular. This information is then collated and the most popular pieces get picked for the park.

13:30 After lunch we head over to Ferreham Hall, where they’ve kindly allowed us to use their kitchen to make some salt dough shapes. During the Easter half term (11 to 25 April) we’ll be visiting the parks to let the children decorate the Easter egg shapes we’ve made for them. They can then take these home.

15:00 We make our way to our play session at Stubbington Recreation Ground. We prepare monthly plans for what we’d like to do at each play session so Cheryl has already prepared the van with the necessary equipment.

15:25 We arrive at our location and unload the equipment for this particular session and put out our flags and van signs. Now we’re clearly visible to everyone in the park. The equipment includes cardboard boxes for den making and painting, our football goal and balls and the balancing board which the children really enjoy. We also have other things in the van they can play with if they want to.

16:30 During our session the children want to play with and paint the boxes and paint the balancing board but also ask to use the soft play equipment and the tyre swing from the van. We have 28 children at this session which is great. We encourage everyone to come along! We take note of our numbers and the most popular sites and keep a record in order to report back to the Big Lottery which funds us.

17:30 We pack up all the equipment and make our way back to the depot, fill in our final paperwork, including the session review for the day and then head off home.

Exercise referral offers Fareham residents suffering with a long term health condition the opportunity to attend a ten week programme at Fareham Leisure Centre.

If you have a condition such as, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Asthma, Osteoarthritis, Obesity or Depression, then this scheme could enable you to take part in physical activity that will positively influence your health and wellbeing.

In addition to this, you’ll receive two FREE personal training sessions, access to nutritional workshops and group exercise sessions at £1 each and be eligible for membership discount.

To access this scheme you must be referred by your GP. For general enquiries please contact Fareham Leisure Centre, tel: 01329 226370 or email: fareham-er@slm-ltd.co.uk
Bringing People and Parks Together

Getting Red Hot and Blue

Last year’s Fareham in Bloom was outstanding, with a host of accolades from both the regional and national competition entries. With seven consecutive regional wins, five at gold level and silver gilt at the Britain in Bloom national finals, Fareham in Bloom continues to be at the forefront of parks provision in the region. Its ever-developing, diverse range of activities involves the widest number of people in parks and green spaces.

Autumn 2010 saw the launch of the new theme Red Hot and Blue, when thousands of bulbs were given away to communities across the Borough to brighten their local areas. This was complemented by trees with red or blue flowers given as part of the tree adoption scheme in support of national tree week.

The new theme will be continued this summer when displays and hanging baskets will be made up of a contrasting palette of hot and cold with red and blue shades making for a striking display.

How does your garden grow?

Every year as a result of our Fareham in Bloom activities we see some spectacular gardens that make a real difference to the local street scene and the look of the area.

Communities across the Borough turn their love of gardening and the environment to the benefit and enjoyment of others, working together and lifting the spirits.

Our participation in last year’s national finals helped us greatly in looking at further development opportunities. We’re keen to work with new community groups wishing to improve their local green spaces, whether through creative planting schemes, care of the environment or people working together.

Our in bloom community gardening competition is open to all residents, schools and businesses within the Borough and all entries are judged during the first two weeks of July on individual merit with awards of Bronze, Silver, Silver Gift and Gold. These are awarded at a gala presentation evening to be held in the autumn at Fareham Hall.

So how does your garden grow?

If you feel you or your street have that special garden then we’d love to receive your entry and participation. Simply complete the application form (left) and return it to: Fareham Borough Council, Parks & Open Spaces, FREEPost, Fareham PO16 7BR no later than Friday 17 June. Entry is FREE and all entrants will receive a 10% discount card for use throughout the year at selected nurseries.

Take a walk on the wild side

Our annual events guide, organised with the partnership in Fareham in Bloom volunteers, offers another season of fantastic themed events, workshops and walks to bring people into the great outdoors. Including some of Fareham’s lovely parks and countryside, the guide is now available from Fareham Tourist Information Centre; Fareham Shopping Centre; community centres; libraries; the Civic Offices or can be viewed online: fareham.gov.uk/parks. To book an event contact Fareham Tourist Information Centre, West Street, Fareham Tel: 01329 221342 email: farehamtourism@se.co.uk

Sat 16 Apr - The Great Easter Egg Hunt
The annual Easter extravaganza through the beautiful woodlands of Holly Hill. Location: Holly Hill main car park, off Barnes Lane, Sarisbury Green. Time: Start 12noon with phased entry times until last entry by 3.30pm. Tickets: £3.50 per child. 150 tickets available. This event is always a sell out so book now.

Dress: Dependent on weather but waterproof shoes recommended. Fancy dress is optional.

Sat 9 Jul - Holly Hill, A Walk Through History
A guided tour of the park. Location: Holly Hill main car park, off Barnes Lane, Sarisbury Green. Time: 2pm start for approx 2 hours. Tickets: £3 limited to 10 places.

Dress: Sensible clothing, walking shoes and sun protection.

Sun 24 Jul - Gardens Open Day
A chance to visit some Fareham in Bloom award winning gardens. Time: 11am - 6pm. Tickets: one £5 ticket for all gardens open. No booking required.

Wed 10 Aug - Beach Bonanza
A family afternoon down at the seaside. Location: Meet at the Salters Road Park car park, off Salters Road, Head Road. Time: Start 12noon until approx 3pm. Tickets: £3 - limited to 40 places.

Dress: Sensible clothing for the weather and sun protection.

Sat 17 Sep - Nature’s Hamper
An afternoon sampling a feast of natural delights. Location: Warsash Common - meet at New Road (track). Off Fleet End Road. Time: 10am start for approx 2 hours. Tickets: £5 These seasonal events are always popular so book well in advance.

Dress: Sensible walking shoes and sun protection.

Sat 1 Oct - Fabulous Fungi
Discover the facts and superstitions associated with the magic of the mushroom. Location: Gull Coppice, Whiteley. Meet at Whiteley Community Centre, Yew Tree Drive. Time: 11am. Tickets: £4 limited to 40 places.

Dress: Warm clothes and stout footwear.

Sat 8 Oct - Quest and Conker
The annual quest to find the Holly Hill conker champion. Location: Holly Hill main car park, off Barnes Lane, Sarisbury Green. Time: 2pm. Book this event through the Friends of Holly Hill Tel: 01329 310290. Tickets: 50 payable on the day.

Dress: Warm clothing and stout footwear.

Sat 22 Oct - Autumn Crafts and Wishing Trees
Pumpkin carving, willow weaving and decorative ideas for Christmas, along with the art of tree dressing. Time: 1pm start for approx 2 hours. Tickets: £5. Numbers limited to 100. Refreshments available at both activities.

Dress: Warm clothing and suitable shoes for the woodland park.

Mon 31 Oct - Fright Night
Join a psychic investigator for a spooky walk through the centre of Fareham. Time: 7.30pm start for approx 2 hours. Numbers limited to 50.

Dress: Warm clothing and suitable shoes.

For more information on ‘In Bloom’ events and horticultural activities, please contact Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer, tel: 01329 236100 or email: matt.wakefield@fareham.gov.uk To book any of the above events, contact Fareham Tourist Information Centre, West Street, Fareham Tel: 01329 221342

Thank you.
New scheme in Locks Heath

If you're an older person looking for a home to rent or buy, there's a new scheme in Locks Heath. Offering companionship, care and practical support to older people within the comfort of their own community, it ensures residents can enjoy an assisted independent lifestyle without the worries of running a household or being left alone.

The aspirations and expectations of today's older people and those of future generations are changing, with a bigger focus on quality of life. This includes providing home-from-home environments; supporting purposeful daily lives with strong community links; offering personalised support and care where appropriate; facilitating important relationships and respecting personal control and autonomy.

A New Development (with a difference)

Set in the context of a bustling community, the new scheme in Locks Heath caters for those who want to live later life in a safe and interesting setting which is well connected to other local communities and offers peace of mind through its support service.

The development offers mixed tenures with shared ownership on four new apartments for sale, two of which are available immediately, and two which will be completed in the summer. The site is run by a manager, assisted by a small team of staff who will ensure that the site and services run smoothly, the social calendar is busy and interesting and that existing and prospective residents have a safe, comfortable environment. The emphasis is on residents feeling at home and part of the community.

Key Facts:
- 10 x 1 bed apartments for rent
- 2 x 2 bed apartments for rent
- 4 x 2 bed shared ownership apartments
- Juliette balconies on upper floors
- On-site parking
- Telecare emergency support system
- Dedicated on-site manager
- Communal dining facilities with breakfast provided and two cooked meals
- Activities room (with hairdressing and chiropody)
- Landscaped gardens
- Regular outings

If you'd like more information on the new scheme in Locks Heath, please visit homesinhants.co.uk (search by schemes for over 55s in the Fareham area) or abbeyfield.com. Alternatively, contact Heather Mohammed, Abbeyfield Area Housing Manager, tel: 07501 475055. We welcome enquiries from potential residents and their families. For information on renting, please contact Fareham Borough Council, tel: 01329 236100.

Environmental improvements

The improvements at the eastern end of West Street are due to be completed by early March. New street lighting, and most of the new paving was completed in 2010, with work at junctions taking place in early 2011.

The scheme features the same York stone paving used for the Henry Cort Millennium Scheme in the adjacent pedestrian area. One new tree has been planted: the original intention was to plant more trees but this was not possible due to the confined space and large numbers of underground services.

Safety at the junction of Quay Street and West Street has been greatly improved by the provision of pedestrian control buttons. In addition, footpaths have been widened where possible to provide more space for pedestrians and clearer views of approaching traffic. A new bus shelter, new seats and cycle racks have completed the scheme.

The scheme was jointly funded by Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council who also managed the tendering and supervision of the works contract using specialist highway engineers from Eastleigh Borough Council and local highway works contractors, Graham Moyse Construction.

The design and construction team wishes to thank local businesses and residents for their support and patience during the works.
**Events along West Street**

**Dates for your diary:**
- **Fareham:**
  - **Beauty Outside & In**
  - Saturday 26 March
- **FREE health tips and beauty advice**
- **Music Month**
  - Mondays and Saturdays in April
- **Fareham Gardeners’ Fairs**
  - Saturday 14 May & Saturday 11 June

**Support your local Traders**
Fareham town centre has more than 100 independent shops and stores. From bakeries to bathrooms, cakes to cycle shops, fireplaces to fishmongers, giftware to glassware and schoolwear to sweet shops. For full details visit: shopinhampshire.co.uk

**Don’t forget:**
- **Fareham’s traditional open market** every Monday 9am - 3pm
- **Fareham’s independent Farmers’ Market** First Saturday of every month 9am - 2pm now in its 14th year!
- **Hampshire Country Market** Last Saturday of every month 9am - 3pm and NEW for 2011 last Friday of every month 9am - 3pm

For up to date details on town centre events, visit: fareham.gov.uk/towncentre. If your group would like to perform in the Performance Podium, contact the Town Centre Manager, tel: 01329 824474.

**National Referendum**

On Thursday 5 May it’s likely that electors will have an opportunity to vote in a referendum on the parliamentary voting system. There are no Council elections due this year.

This will be the first referendum in the country for 36 years. Voters will be asked to vote YES or NO to a simple question about the voting system. An explanatory booklet will be sent to all households by the Electoral Commission a few weeks beforehand but here is what’s being suggested:

**Voting systems**

We currently elect MPs by a ‘first past the post’ system - the candidate with the most votes wins. It’s suggested we change to an ‘alternative vote’ system where voters rank candidates in order of preference. Anyone getting more than 50% of first-preference votes is elected. If no-one gets 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their backers’ second choice votes are allocated to those remaining. This process continues until one candidate has at least 50% of all the votes in that round.

**Will you be able to vote?**

You’ll only be able to vote in the referendum if your name appears on the register of electors. If you have registered, you’ll receive a poll card in early April telling you where you can go to vote. If you have registered to vote by post, you’ll receive a notice telling you when your postal vote is likely to arrive.

If you haven’t yet registered to vote, there’s still time to do so. The deadline will be in early April so please contact the elections office as soon as you can.

If you haven’t yet registered to vote, there’s still time to do so. The deadline will be in early April so please contact the elections office as soon as you can.

Further information will be published as it becomes available. Please visit: fareham.gov.uk/elections or contact us, email: electionservices@fareham.gov.uk tel: 01329 824587 or write to: Election Services, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ

**Democracy**

Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on and to book your seats, please contact the box office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk, visit: fernehampal.co.uk or follow us on twitter: @Fernehampal
Green Initiatives

As part of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy, we’ve been making great efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. We’ve taken action to reduce energy consumption in our buildings and fuel consumption in our vehicles. This has been successful so far and 2009/10 saw a 12% reduction in our energy consumption compared with the previous year. We’re also looking at the potential for renewable energy in the Borough as part of a Hampshire wide partnership.

However, to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Borough, everybody in the Borough needs to work together by becoming more energy efficient, reducing energy consumption and reducing the number of journeys we make by car. Not only will this reduce our impact on the environment and help preserve precious energy resources, it will also help save money on fuel bills. Everybody can play their part and even the smallest actions can help towards making a big cumulative impact.

In recent months a number of community led initiatives have begun:

The Greening Campaign is an innovative idea to help motivate people to reduce their energy consumption and lower their personal and community carbon footprint by committing themselves to a number of challenges. It’s based on the principle that individuals may feel powerless to change things on their own but that communities working together can make a real difference. The Council is supporting the development of up to five Greening Campaigns in the Borough and this has been enthusiastically taken up. The Stubbington Greening Campaign is the most advanced and held its public launch with a display at Stubbington Library in November. A second campaign in North Fareham is due to have its public launch in March. Further Campaigns are planned for Central Fareham, Portchester and Broadland Walk. To find out more visit: greening-campaign.co.uk

Transition Fareham has recently been set up by members of the local community. It’s part of a national network of Transition towns and its aim is to make Fareham a more sustainable place to live and in particular to draw attention to the need to reduce energy consumption in the light of the depletion of the world’s energy resources. Like the Greening Campaign, its ethos is that acting as individuals may be too difficult, but acting as a community is the way forward to making real change. It also emphasises that small things can make a difference and act as a catalyst to greater change. As an example of this, one of its initial projects was to arrange the planting of apple trees at a number of junior schools in the Borough to help educate children on the benefits of growing and eating your own food (page 18). To find out more visit: transitionnetwork.org or youforum/transitionfareham/index.php

Greener Fareham is a new website which aims to co-ordinate information about the activities and events taking place around the Greening agenda in Fareham. If you want to find out what’s going on or if you want to contribute information visit: greenerfareham.org.uk

All of these initiatives are led by concerned members of the community and are designed to help remove some of the complicated scientific issues and mystique surrounding the future sustainability of the environment. Above all they aim to make addressing these issues interesting and fun.

For more information or if you’d like to support the Greening Campaign in your area please contact Mark Holt (Fareham), email: markjholt@googlemail.com or Oriana Taylor (Stubbington), email: orianataylor1@yahoo.co.uk or you can email: info@greening-campaign to put you in touch with your local group.

Community Action Teams

Funding success

Fareham Community Action Team (CATs) has funded £12,500 for new multi-user equipment at Fareham Leisure Centre, as part of its latest programme of major improvements.

The equipment enables people with a disability to undertake physical activity and restorative therapy alongside non-disabled people in the same environment. This includes a hand ergometer IFI (Inclusive Fitness Initiative) bike, which has easy access for wheelchair users. In addition there are four pieces of strength equipment with IFI easy access: Shoulder press, lat pulldown, chest press and seated row.

Derek Biggs (pictured below) who’s a resident from Portchester submitted the successful bid for the CATs funding. In order to make the gym more inclusive, he carried out extensive research to find equipment that can be used by people with a more severe disability as well as the able bodied.

Everyone Active, in partnership with the Council, has invested in a programme of major improvements centre-wide including the very latest in hi-tech equipment for the fitness suite, a new group exercise studio and an indoor rotating climbing experience.

The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) is a programme supporting the fitness industry to cater for the needs of disabled and non-disabled people, raising physical activity participation levels. The model is built around developments in four key areas: Accessible facilities, inclusive fitness equipment, staff training and inclusive marketing strategies.

Fareham Leisure Centre has purchased the suite, a new group exercise studio and IFI easy access: Shoulder press, lat pulldown, chest press and seated row.

The initiative, thought to be the first of its kind in Hampshire, was run by voluntary group, Transition Town Fareham, whose goal is to champion less carbon-intensive living in the area and teach children about the benefits of growing their own food.

A range of apple tree varieties were chosen, to let children learn about the seasonality of different apple varieties as well as their individual tastes and textures. Children will be able to compare and contrast varieties as different as Ashmeads Kernel, Kidd’s Orange Red, and Spartan amongst others.

The five CAT Chairmen for the Borough of Fareham with their respective Officers are: Cllr Kay Mandy (Crofton), Gerry Hill-Jones Cllr John Bryant (Fareham Town), Mark Dunning Cllr Nick Walker (Portchester), Richard Wright Cllr Tiffany Harper (Titchfield), Narinder Bains Cllr Brian Bayford (Western Wards), Janine Hensman
On the round with the glass collection crew

Far East Today met with Steve Kent and Trevor Wright, Fareham’s glass collection crew, making their regular visits to the 35 glass banks across the Borough.

Q1 How much glass do you collect each year?
A1 The public do a great job recycling their glass; last year we picked up over 2,000 tonnes of bottles and jars for recycling.

Q2 What happens if the glass banks are full?
A2 Sometimes we arrive at a site to find one bank is full and overflowing while the others of the same colour are empty. People just haven’t checked and have left bottles around the site.

If the first bank is full, please try another bank. You may find that even if one bin is overflowing, others of the same colour have space in them. If there’s a pile of bottles around the banks, please don’t just add to it. Leaving your glass around a recycling bank is no different to throwing litter near a litter bin. It delays the emptying process because we have to move the bottles before we can move the banks. If they’re all full please try another site, or come back another day.

Q3 Is it okay to fill the banks right up?
A3 No, if you try and force bottles into the banks when they’re full, the lids buckle, which makes it very difficult to remove and refill the paddocks when they’re emptied.

Q4 Can I recycle other types of glass in these banks?
A4 No sorry, only glass bottles and jars can be recycled. Sometimes, glass vases are left beside the banks but unfortunately we can’t recycle them as they’re a different type of glass.

Q5 How many times can glass be recycled?
A5 Glass bottles and jars can be recycled endlessly and there’s no loss of quality in the final product; no matter how many times the material has been recycled, it’s made into new bottles and jars, so when you buy products in glass, it probably contains some recycled glass.

Q6 Is collecting the glass hazardous?
A6 Health and safety is a prime concern. We have to judge when to put barriers out around the vehicle. In a small, confined site like Highlands Road, they’re vital to protect the public. People don’t look up when they’re walking along, and don’t see the large bin above their heads.

There is a risk that bottles can come out when the bin is tipped. We wear hard hats in case a stray jar or bottle comes across the top of the vehicle. It’s also incredibly noisy when a bin full of bottles is tipped, especially when the vehicle is empty; so the hard hats have ear protectors. We’re grateful to the public for their patience when they sometimes have to wait for a few minutes to recycle their bottles when we’re emptying the bins.

The Council operates 35 glass recycling sites, and there are also facilities in some flats. To find your nearest recycling bank, please visit: fareham.gov.uk/recycling

Coldeast Consultation

Moving forward at Coldeast - How to get involved

Significant progress is being made with development opportunities at the former Coldeast hospital site in Sarisbury Green. The Council has been discussing different options with landowners and developers on how best to bring community benefits to the public. This followed a consultation event on the various issues and ideas concerning the site at the end of 2007.

Approximately 250 people attended exhibitions at Brookfield School and we received a wide range of views on what people would like to see happen on the site. The key issues raised were:

• concerns over traffic and road safety
• the need to improve facilities and services
• the importance of protecting the open landscape and wildlife on the site

We’re now preparing a planning document called the ‘Draft Development Brief for Coldeast’. This will set out in more detail the type and location of community benefits within the site and how these are likely to be provided. The benefits include:

• access to future public open space and recreational facilities
• retention and protection of woodlands and nature conservation interests
• retention and future restoration of the locally listed buildings
• provision of playing pitches and changing facilities
• land to provide future allotments, cemetery and swimming pool with other indoor sports facilities

The above facilities and benefits can only be provided through some new housing on the site. This will include much needed affordable family homes to help local people rent or buy a new home as well as sheltered accommodation for elderly people.

How to have your say

The Draft Development Brief for Coldeast is expected to be published for comments at the end of March and we’d like local people to tell us what they think. During the six week consultation period we’ll be holding an exhibition of the proposals at a local venue. For dates and location, look out for the advert on the public notice boards or visit our website and click on the ‘Have Your Say’ page. If you’d like us to contact you directly about the exhibition, please let us have your name, address and telephone number and/or email address. These details should be sent to planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk or Strategic Planning and Design, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ (tel: 01329 236100).

The draft development brief will be guided by planning policy for the site which is set out in our planning strategy for the Borough as a whole. To view this document (see page 48 of the Core Strategy) visit: fareham.gov.uk/ldf and click on: core strategy then core strategy pre-submission document.

Details view of the Coldeast site showing the River Hamble to the west

The mansion at Coldeast

Moving forward at Coldeast - How to get involved

The draft development brief will be guided by planning policy for the site which is set out in our planning strategy for the Borough as a whole. To view this document (see page 48 of the Core Strategy) visit: fareham.gov.uk/ldf and click on: core strategy then core strategy pre-submission document.

The mansion at Coldeast

Coldeast Consultation

Moving forward at Coldeast - How to get involved

The draft development brief will be guided by planning policy for the site which is set out in our planning strategy for the Borough as a whole. To view this document (see page 48 of the Core Strategy) visit: fareham.gov.uk/ldf and click on: core strategy then core strategy pre-submission document.

The mansion at Coldeast

Coldeast Consultation

Moving forward at Coldeast - How to get involved

The draft development brief will be guided by planning policy for the site which is set out in our planning strategy for the Borough as a whole. To view this document (see page 48 of the Core Strategy) visit: fareham.gov.uk/ldf and click on: core strategy then core strategy pre-submission document.

The mansion at Coldeast
Radio Haslar

Radio Haslar is a charitable organisation that broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year to the patients and staff in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and can now be heard online too at radiohaslar.co.uk - click on ‘listen live’.

Radio Haslar began in 1993, broadcasting solely to the Royal Hospital Haslar, then in 1996 to the War Memorial, becoming a network. Sadly, due to the closure of Haslar Hospital, the station had to find a new home and is now situated on the first floor at Bury House in Thornigate Hall, Gosport. The volunteers at the station built the new studios, office, music library and ‘racks room’ (which houses the transmission equipment) by themselves, only contracting help from a local carpet fitter and an aerial installer.

Radio Haslar is currently on the lookout for new volunteers aged 16 or over who can help with fundraising, request collecting, on-air presenting, assisting with outside broadcasts or joining the station engineers. Whatever you can do and whatever time you can spare will be very useful.

Please note that due to insurance requirements, we’re unable to offer membership to anyone under the age of 16.

If you’d like to be a part of the team, please contact our membership secretary, Pete Fletcher for more information, email: pete.fletcher@radiohaslar.co.uk or tel: 023 9260 1600.

Census 2011

Did you know that the centre of this year’s Census operations for the whole of England and Wales is in Titchfield, at the Office for National Statistics! The census will take place this year on 27 March. You may have already received your questionnaire envelope through the door - you’ll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it even if, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, you’ll still need the individual internet code printed on the front.

The Office for National Statistics, based in Titchfield, produces a rich source of statistics from census and other data. These are used by local authorities for policy planning; academics for research; businesses for product development and central government to help shape our future.
Get your FREE Everyone Active card now!

Whatever your age or ability, fitting activity into a busy lifestyle helps you feel healthier and better. To help, Everyone Active is offering the opportunity for two people to be active at Fareham Leisure Centre for the price of one.

There’s a whole host of activities to try for FREE!

Adults can use the gym or try an exercise class!

Children can swim or try one of the new dance classes at the Everyone Active School of Dance!

Take this FREE activity voucher to Fareham Leisure Centre!

Voucher entitles an adult or child to try one activity for free at the same time as a second person pays full price. Free activity must be of an equal or lower value to the one purchased. Children under 8 must be accompanied with an adult over 18 years. Offer is valid until April 17th 2011. Only one voucher per person throughout the promotional period. Full terms and conditions are in centre.

2for1 Activity

Everyday at everyone ACTIVE

There’s a whole host of activities to try for FREE!

Voucher entitles an adult or child to try one activity for free at the same time as a second person pays full price. Free activity must be of an equal or lower value to the one purchased. Children under 8 must be accompanied with an adult over 18 years. Offer is valid until April 17th 2011. Only one voucher per person throughout the promotional period. Full terms and conditions are in centre.

Voucher entitles an adult or child to try one activity for free at the same time as a second person pays full price. Free activity must be of an equal or lower value to the one purchased. Children under 8 must be accompanied with an adult over 18 years. Offer is valid until April 17th 2011. Only one voucher per person throughout the promotional period. Full terms and conditions are in centre.

3 for 1

NEW Hi-tech, interactive, gym machines with personal TV screen and iPod connection

NEW Trxter Bikes & Reaction Trainers

NEW studio and over 90 group exercise classes every week

NEW Climb Zone

Centre facilities include:
State-of-the-art fitness suite
NEW Hi-tech, interactive, gym machines with personal TV screen and iPod connection
NEW Trxter Bikes & Reaction Trainers
NEW studio and over 90 group exercise classes every week
NEW Climb Zone

Plus:
Adult and child swimming pools
Café
Inflatable sessions
Holiday activities
Body Fusion sports therapy
3 glass back squash courts
Sports halls
Free parking

Fareham Leisure Centre
01329 233652
www.everyoneactive.com

NEW & IMPROVED FAREHAM LEISURE CENTRE

• NOW OVER 90 group exercise classes including NEW advanced pilates
• AWARD WINNING swimming lessons programme for all ages
• CLIMB ZONE a totally NEW, rotating climb experience
• STAY ACTIVE with our kids’ sports courses, gymnastics, trampolining, soft play sessions & NEW Dance School
• SAVE with our no contract adult, 11-16 & family memberships

Everyone Active manages this facility in partnership with Fareham Borough Council.

www.everyoneactive.com