As Christmas approaches, it is a time for us all to reflect over the year. For my wife Pam and I, it has been extremely busy since becoming Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham in May, when history was made as we became the first husband and wife team to have been privileged to each be the First Citizens for the Borough of Fareham (Pam was Mayor in 2002/03).

During the summer months we met many local residents from across the Borough as we attended various fetes and fayres from Portchester in the east through to Warsash in the west, not forgetting the town centre and down to Stubbington in the south.

The lovely weather certainly helped to attract large numbers to all events and we hope the charities and their numerous volunteers were able to raise funds to enable them to continue supporting those less fortunate than ourselves.

The Mayor’s charity committee has been working hard to raise funds for my chosen charities, FORT (Friends of Oncology and Radiotherapy Trust) and The British Heart Foundation. On 9 December, a Christmas theme for my charity concert will be performed by The Hampshire Police Band at Holy Rood Church in Stubbington. The committee is also arranging events for the New Year culminating with The Mayorsí Ball at Ferneham Hall on Saturday 21 April. I would be delighted to see you at any of my charity events, details of which are available from the Mayorís Office, tel: 01329 824752.

Finally, Pam and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2007.

Councillor John Bryant,
Mayor of Fareham

TIC Gift Ideas and Christmas Cards

Why not make a trip to the theatre a gift for your friends or family this Christmas? Fareham Tourist Information Centre sells West End Theatre Tokens that can be used in theatres all over the country! Or you may like to book a coach trip or surprise that special someone with an air balloon ride!

TIC also has a great range of books from pub walks or where to take your dog on holiday to hidden haunted sites in Hampshire! Their range of gifts is varied and will suit most pockets.

Once again the centre will be selling Christmas cards for Cards for Good Causes, the charity group that covers up to 30 charities, so pop in today and help raise money whilst sending your Christmas cheer!

Fareham Tourist Information Centre is located within Westbury Manor Museum, West St, Fareham, tel: 01329 221342 or email: touristinfo@fareham.gov.uk

Christmas and New Year waste collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No collections Sun 24 to Tue 26 Dec</th>
<th>No collections Sun 31 Dec or Mon 1 Jan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal day</td>
<td>Revised day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25 Dec Sat 23 Dec</td>
<td>Wed 27 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 26 Dec</td>
<td>Thu 28 or Fri 29 Dec</td>
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<td>Wed 27 Dec</td>
<td>Fri 29 or Sat 30 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 28 Dec</td>
<td>Fri 5 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 29 Dec</td>
<td>Mon 1 Jan 2007</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There will be no garden waste collections for two weeks between Monday 25 December and Friday 5 January 2007. Normal collections will resume from Monday 8 January.
Safer Christmas eating

The perfect turkey!

Whether you’re cooking for one or thirty-one, our Christmas poultry advice can help protect you and your guests from one extra Christmas surprise you don’t want - food poisoning!

Defrosting your turkey

If your turkey is frozen, make sure it’s properly defrosted before you cook it. If it’s still partially frozen, recommended cooking times won’t be long enough to cook it thoroughly. This means bacteria that cause food poisoning could survive the cooking process.

**TOP TIP** - It’s important to work out defrosting time in advance, so you know how much time to allow - it can take at least a couple of days for a large turkey to thaw!

When you start defrosting, take the turkey out of its packaging, put it on a large dish and cover. The large dish is to hold the liquid that comes out as the turkey thaws.

**TOP TIP** - Remove the giblets and the neck as soon as possible, this speeds up thawing.

Don’t forget that giblets are raw meat, so they should either be cooked immediately or stored in a sealed container in the fridge until you cook them. Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling raw turkey, giblets or any other raw meat.

How long to defrost?

First - check the packaging for instructions, if there aren’t any, use the following times as a rough guide for how long it will take to thaw your turkey, but remember to check that it’s fully thawed before cooking.

- In a fridge at 4°C (39°F), allow about 10 to 12 hours per kg, but remember not all fridges will be this temperature.
- In a cool room (below 17.5°C, 60°F) allow approximately 3 to 4 hours per kg, longer if the room is particularly cold.
- At room temperature (about 20°C, 68°F) allow approximately 2 hours per kg.
TOP TIP - keep raw poultry away from food that is ready to eat. If raw poultry, or other raw meat, touches (or drips onto) these foods, bacteria will spread.

Remember, bacteria can also spread from raw meat and poultry to worktops, chopping boards, dishes and utensils. So, to keep your Christmas food safe:
- Always keep raw poultry away from other foods, to help stop bacteria spreading
- Store raw poultry at the bottom of the fridge so it can't drip onto other foods
- Always clean worktops, chopping boards, dishes and utensils thoroughly after they have touched raw poultry
- Always wash your hands with warm water and soap, and dry them thoroughly, after touching raw poultry.
- Never use the same chopping board for raw poultry and ready-to-eat food without washing it thoroughly in warm soapy water. (If possible, use a separate chopping board just for raw meat and poultry.)
- Don't wash your turkey (or other poultry) - this is because bacteria can splash onto worktops, dishes and other foods. Proper cooking will kill any bacteria, so you don't need to wash poultry.

This advice applies to poultry such as turkey, chicken, duck and goose, and game such as partridge and pheasant.

Cooking your turkey

TOP TIP - before you start cooking, make sure there aren't any ice crystals in the cavity. You could also test the thicker parts of the turkey with a fork, to tell whether the meat feels frozen.

Plan your cooking time in advance and get the turkey in the oven early enough to cook it thoroughly. Remember an undercooked turkey (or other poultry) could cause food poisoning.

Your turkey is cooked if:
- the meat is piping hot all the way through.
- when you cut into the thickest part of the meat, none of the meat is pink.
- juices run out when you pierce the turkey, or when you press the thigh, and they're clear.

Often cooking advice is included on the turkey's packaging, or you can look in your oven handbook or a cookery book. These may be based on an unstuffed turkey, which will cook more easily and quicker than if you cook your turkey with the stuffing inside.

If you're cooking portions of poultry, rather than a whole bird, follow the advice on the packaging or in a recipe, but always check that they are properly cooked.

Leftovers

It's very important to keep cooked meat and poultry in the fridge. If it's left out at room temperature, food poisoning bacteria can grow and multiply. When you're serving cold turkey, try to take out only as much as you're going to use and leave the rest in the fridge.

If you're reheating leftover turkey, or other food, always make sure it's piping hot all the way through before you eat it. And don't reheat more than once. Ideally, try to use leftovers within 48 hours.

For more information on food safety, including an on-line defrosting and cooking time calculator visit the Food Standards Agency website: www.food.gov.uk
Activities for all the family at Fareham Leisure Centre!

Since our re-furbishment 2006, the centre has a fresh and inspiring new look with a great range of activities. Creating a truly family-friendly environment, we want to encourage more people to be more active more often. Here’s a taster of what’s on offer...

- **banana fitness**
  A fantastic fitness suite plus brand new group exercise studio with over 70 classes per week and banana active: a fitness experience for 11 – 15 year olds.

- **splash**
  Make a Splash with us! Whatever your swimming needs - from Mother and Baby classes to Learn to Swim courses.

- **x-cite**
  Find out more about our new Sports Nursery and Crèche.

- **planet sports**
  Gymnastics, Trampolining, Squash to name a few - why not learn skills with us to keep you healthy for life.

- **cafe**
  Why not visit our café for all your nutritional needs?

Call us now to find out more:

**01329 233652**
Healthy Lifestyle

Binge Drinking

Alcohol is something to be enjoyed and most of the time, drinking doesn’t cause problems. But drinking too much or at the wrong time can be harmful.

Definition

Binge drinking is a term that can be applied to a number of groups of drinkers, including older dependant drinkers and young people under 18 who drink large amounts. Binge drinking is generally taken to be drinking more than 8 units a day for men and more than 6 units a day for women. Binge drinkers are more likely to be psychologically, not physically addicted to alcohol.

Binge drinking and regular heavy drinking above the recommended limits can be harmful to health. Alcohol affects physical coordination, reaction times and decision-making. People who are drunk are more likely to have an accident, get into arguments or take risks. They may feel sick, have blackouts or lose consciousness. Alcohol gets into the bloodstream within a few minutes of drinking and is carried to all parts of the body.

It is important to note that there are no guidelines for young people who haven’t reached physical maturity. Drink for drink, alcohol has a greater effect on women than men. Women are generally smaller and lighter, their bodies contain less water and their metabolism is different.

It takes one hour for your liver to remove one unit of alcohol — so if you drink heavily in the evening, you may still be over the legal drink-drive limit the next morning. Only time can remove alcohol from your bloodstream: black coffee, cold showers and fresh air will not sober you up.

An estimated 80-90,000 adults in Hampshire are drinking at harmful levels and around 52% of young people aged 11-15 drink alcohol on a regular basis!

Nationally, it is predicted that around half of all violent crimes committed (1.2 million cases) are alcohol-related and a third of all domestic violence cases (approx 360,000 incidents) can also be attributed to alcohol consumption.

The Law

- The Police can confiscate alcohol from under 18’s if they’re drinking in a public place (e.g., in parks or on the street)
- Except for 16 or 17 year olds having a meal in a pub, it is against the law for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence, supermarket, or other outlet. It is also an offence for anyone to buy alcohol for someone under 18 to consume in a pub or a public place (e.g., a recreation ground, park etc).

Personal Safety

Make sure you don’t accept drinks from strangers and keep hold of your glass/bottle to prevent it being spiked. Think before you accept a drink from someone and share looking out for each other’s drinks with your friends.

Got the car tonight? Stick to soft drinks when you’re out socialising so that you can be the designated non-drinking driver. Next time round they can return the favour and get you home safely. For more info visit: www.desdriver.co.uk

Need help?

Please contact either of the following Fareham based agencies: ëSpotlightí, tel: 01329 237014 or the ëAvalon Centreí, tel: 01329 281186 for advice and treatment for alcohol and drug misuse.

Or: Parentline Plus, tel: 0808 800 2222 and www.parentlineplus.org.uk

HAVE A SAFE NIGHT OUT AND ENJOY A SAFE FESTIVE SEASON!
Bringing home the Gold

In September Fareham took the title of overall winner and received a Gold Award for the Large Town/Small City category at the South and Southeast Regional In Bloom Awards.

For eleven years Fareham in Bloom has strived to improve the provision of horticultural excellence across the borough and for the third consecutive year has taken the regional title with the added glory of realising our dream of winning gold!

The borough also picked up a Silver Gilt and Overall Winner for Best Countryside Park along with the only regional award from the Royal Horticultural Society, the Britain in Bloom, RHS Biodiversity Award which was given for all aspects of our campaign and consistent good practice and excellence throughout the borough in its parks provision in relation to its community, environment and education.

This prestigious Royal Horticultural Society backed competition is considered to be of a very high standard but its not just about flowers. This environmental quality award looks at everything from our landscaping and floral displays to the cleanliness of the borough and its recycling initiatives along with our community interaction, publicity and parks provision to mention a few.

Portchester Northern Junior School also took a Gold and was the overall winner in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight, out of 28 other participating schools, with its first entry ever into the competition!

A wonderful year and a BIG thank you to all our participants, sponsors, communities and grounds maintenance team that have supported the campaign and helped us to bring home the Gold!
A sizzling summer

An amazing 180 medals were awarded to the residents and businesses that help to fill Fareham with Flowers with 13 residents taking their own Gold level awards in this year’s local Fareham in Bloom competition.

The hot summer weather brought a riot of colour with many new entries showing off their horticultural wizardry which makes a big difference to the local community and all those who see their work on a daily basis.

There were many new hidden treasures to be found in the back garden category where people’s collections of the rare and treasured or simply dazzling floral delights captured the imagination. We hope some of these will join the Gardens Open Day in 2007 and be open for all to see.

Supported by our principle sponsors Warner, Goodman and Streat Solicitors, a glittering evening was held for the winners at Ferneham Hall as a grand finale to a magnificent year.

Details of the 2007 competition will appear in the Spring edition of Fareham Today magazine.

Children’s Art Competition

This year saw a staggering 1,450 entries received by the children of Fareham in our Annual Art Competition as part of Fareham In Bloom.

For 2007 the competition moves to the spring and children of all ages will be able to showcase their artistic talents in one of three categories with the theme set around butterflies.

Children up to four years of age can colour in a template drawing entitled ‘My Favourite Butterfly’ and children aged 4-5 may draw their piece with the title ‘The Life Cycle of a Butterfly’.

Older children from 7-11 are invited to create a work of art by designing a mural with the title ‘Butterfly Art’ and explaining their design in no more than 100 words.

Winning designs will then be considered for the making of a large scale piece of artwork in a local park.

For all categories an A4 template printed on white paper will be available from mid February and a presentation for the winners will be held on 30 May.

A guide and application are available on request.

For more information on Fareham In Bloom contact the council’s Horticultural Development Officer, Matt Wakefield, tel: 01329 236100, email: parks@fareham.gov.uk or visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/parks
Energy Efficiency

The average household spends in the region of £700 a year on its fuel bills. Up to £200 can be saved by improving the levels of thermal insulation, replacing inefficient heating systems and household appliances.

Insulation schemes
The diagram shows that up to 60% of the heat you create in your home can be lost through poorly insulated walls and loft spaces. Housing built today must meet the latest Building Regulation requirements of 250mm roof insulation and adequate cavity wall insulation.

Boiler schemes
Gas fired boilers and heating controls that are over 15 years old could be wasting between 20% and 30% of the gas being burnt.

The council is working with both British Gas and Warm Front (a government funded initiative) to assist Fareham households owning their own home to improve the level of cavity wall and loft insulation, install a new central heating system or to replace old inefficient boilers. The council is helping local people to make annual savings on their heating bills through promoting 5 schemes offering a range of improvements based on the particular circumstances of the household:

- **British Gas Insulation Scheme**
  Providing free loft and wall insulation to households in receipt of qualifying financial benefits.

- **Fareham Home Energy Insulation Scheme**
  Providing free loft and wall insulation to certain households with low incomes and high fuel bills.

- **British Gas Discounted Insulation Scheme**
  Providing discounted loft and wall insulation to all other households living in their own home.

- **Fareham Home Energy Heating Scheme**
  Providing an interest free loan for full central heating or a replacement boiler to certain households on low incomes and receiving high fuel bills.

- **Warm Front Grant Scheme**
  Providing full central heating or a replacement boiler and providing loft and wall insulation to households in receipt of qualifying financial benefits.

For a brochure with full details of the various schemes, contact the Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100 or email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk More information regarding Home Energy Conservation is available at: www.fareham.gov.uk
The festive season is meant to be a time for fun ñ not fires. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to reducing the number of incidents in the county and helping everyone have a Happy Christmas.

Follow these guidelines to make sure your celebrations donít end up in smoke:

ï Keep decorations away from heat sources such as lights and candles.
ï If people are smoking, make sure you provide suitable ashtrays and never light up a cigarette if youíre feeling tired.
ï Avoid cooking if youíve been drinking.
ï Before going to bed or leaving the house, ensure all candles, oil, incense burners and smoking materials are properly extinguished. Never leave burning candles unattended.
ï Make sure smoke alarms are fitted on every floor of the house, check them weekly, and never take the batteries out.

Fire safety may be the last thing on your mind when youíre celebrating. But think about it, a lot of guests, decorations, people drinking and smoking, all the everyday risks are increased.

Donít let fire safety stop you enjoying yourself, but know the risks, plan ahead and have a great - but safe - Christmas.

For more fire safety advice visit: www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Recycling

Recycle for Hampshire this Christmas!

Did you know Ö?

- Nearly a quarter of a million real Christmas trees will be decorated in Hampshire this year! When the lights come down, take yours to be composted at your local household waste recycling centre or chop it up and put it in your garden waste sack.
- We send each other over 28 million cards in Hampshire at Christmas! These can be placed with other cardboard in your recycling bin.
- We use 14 million glass bottles and jars in Hampshire over Christmas and the New Year! Recycle all your empties at your local bottle bank.

As usual please put paper, cardboard, food and drink cans and plastic bottles in your recycling bin. Please remember NOT to include gift wrap, plastic carrier bags, black bags, cartons and other plastic items because we’re unable to recycle them.
Why can’t I recycle gift wrap?

The vast majority of gift wrap is either made of plastic film, foil or heavily over-printed, low grade paper; it is often scrunched up and covered with sticky tape. Overall it has very little, if any, material benefit for recycling.

Christmas is obviously the peak season for gift wrap and in the past, large quantities have been put in recycling bins, unfortunately this hinders the efficient processing of the useful quality material you’ve sorted into your blue top bin. So please remember don’t recycle gift wrap, even if it says its ‘recyclable paper’.

What are the alternatives? Well, most used gift wrap put into your non-recyclable, refuse bin will be cleanly incinerated at one of the Energy Recovery Facilities. The heat produced is used to generate electricity for the national grid.

The best alternative though, is not to always reach for that roll of gift wrap – the type used once and thrown away. Consider using decorative bags or boxes and ribbons that can be used again. For some imaginative ideas on how to present gifts more sustainably, and other hints and tips about recycling during the festive period, visit www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk

To find
- your nearest recycling bank or household waste recycling centre
- lots of other hints and tips for recycling
- more about what can and can’t be recycled
- what happens to all your recycling

Visit:
www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk

To find
Your revised Christmas and New Year collection dates

See:
The table on page 3 of this magazine
Nominate a good citizen

Nominations are now being invited for the 2007 Citizen Awards. There are three categories to nominate against, each with their own set of criteria to help make nominating worthy candidates easier.

Citizen of Honour (18 years +)
In recognition of community and voluntary service which benefits the local community. This could include a long-term commitment to volunteering with a local charity or voluntary group whose aim is to improve the quality of life for local residents.

Young Person of the Year (9-18 years)
In recognition of community and voluntary service which benefits the local community. This could be volunteering with a local charity or voluntary group, or providing on-going care to an individual.

Young Person of the Year (4-8 years)
In recognition of an outstanding act of bravery, a regular selfless act for others or for overcoming and learning to adapt to a registered disability. This could include making a positive endeavour to take part in community or voluntary activities or regularly providing care support to a relative or friend.

Nomination forms and further information are available from our Community Development Officer, tel: 01329 824401, email: communitydev@fareham.gov.uk or visit the website: www.fareham.gov.uk/citizenawards

The closing date for nominations is 26 January 2007.
A day in the life of an EPO

by Kevin Wright

Part of my role at Fareham Borough Council is as an Emergency Planning Officer and I thought I’d give you an insight into a day in the life of an EPO. A big part of my work recently has been with the operation for the removal of the WW2 pipe mines at Daedalus Airfield. The following is a timeline of my day on Monday 2 October, the second week of the operation.

04:45 My alarm goes and I awake to a double whammy - it’s Monday morning and I’ve got to be at Gosport Police Station at 06:00.

05:50 It’s dark, wet and windy and there’s a group of bleary-eyed people huddled outside the entrance to the Police Station waiting to be let in. Two representatives from Hampshire County Council (HCC) Emergency Planning Unit; Gosport Borough Council and South Central Ambulance Service.

06:00 We’re given entry to an Operations Room. The Police traffic and communications people are already in place as well as the Army Major from 33 Regiment, looking bright and alert as you would expect from an officer in the armed forces. I set up my laptop and contemplate what lies ahead. Last week went very smoothly with the work on site - will we be that lucky again?

06:30 The Police begin door knocking all properties in the evacuation zone to advise people to vacate their homes or sign a disclaimer should they decide to stay at home.

07:00 I check in with Dave Bate (FBC) who’s manning the pick up point at the Golden Bowler Pub, he confirms that the coach is ready to pick up any residents who require a lift to the rest centre at Crofton Community Centre. I then call Christine White and Kim Puddick (FBC) who’s at the rest centre awaiting the arrival of residents taking up the opportunity to spend the day there.

07:15 Confirmation by the Police that all the road diversion signs are in place.

07:30 It’s confirmed that a member of the depot team is manning the overflow car park on the paddock near to Crofton Community Centre.

07:45 Confirmation that the Rest Centres at Lee-on-the-Solent and Crofton Community Centres are open and ready for business.

08:00 We listen to the news on the radio to check that the media are pushing out the correct information.

08:30 First of a number of briefing meetings between all agencies to ensure everything is going according to plan.

08:45 Salvation arrives in the form of bacon butties that have, as if by magic, found their way from the Lee Community Centre to the Police Station. They’re slightly cold but lim not complaining. The Police start putting road closures in place.

09:00 Message from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD), led by Lieutenant 33 EOD Regiment at Daedalus. They’re ready to start work on site once given the nod that the evacuation area is clear. There are 4 mines to dispose of this week, including one that is known to be live.

09:40 Confirmation from the Police that all road closures are in place and the evacuation zone is clear. EOD is given the go-ahead to start work.

10:00 Everything seems to be going smoothly, the EOD equipment is behaving and the Polarite explosive inside pipe mine there are “no dramas”.

10:30 I check in with Christine at Crofton to make sure everything is OK. She’s dealing in her usual efficient way, with enquiries from anyone at Crofton.

12:00 Everything seems to be going according to plan.

13:00 Lunch on the hoof.

14:00 Promising news from EOD - 3 mines have been cleared and they’re now working on the live one, it’s possible that evacuations/road closures won’t be necessary tomorrow if they can work on an extra half-hour - hooray!

15:45 Bad news, the Army has come across a slight problem so it will be another day of evacuations etc. and an early start again tomorrow.

16:00 Work stops on site and stand-down command given.

16:40 End of day briefing.

17:10 Leave Gosport police station, a bit tired and weary, not looking forward to the 04:45 wake up call tomorrow!

Thanks are due to everyone who has put work in to make this operation run smoothly.

Kevin Wright is FBC’s Enforcement Team Manager, dealing with such issues as fly tipping, litter, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, stray dogs and pest control.
Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Irrespective of the type of behaviour (the list below gives examples only and is not a complete list) the main test of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is if there is a pattern which continues over a period of time causing harassment, alarm and distress.

Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

- Intimidating gatherings of young people in public places where there is persistent unruly behaviour
- Harassment (including racist and homophobic incidents)
- Verbal abuse
- Aggressive and intimidating behaviour
- Drunk and disorderly behaviour
- Damage to property (including graffiti and vandalism)
- Excessive noise
- People dealing and buying drugs on the street
- The misuse of fireworks

As well as knowing what is considered as ASB it is also important to recognise what is not, for example; young people playing football; young people gathering in a group in a public place; disputes between neighbours; one-off events eg a house party, are not considered to be anti-social behaviour unless they are accompanied by the above list.

Reporting ASB

Your complaint will be treated as confidential and we won’t disclose your identity to the perpetrator/s unless in extreme cases when formal action is required. In such circumstances you will be guided and supported throughout the process.

Information required

When you report incidents of ASB to the council we need to have substantive evidence:

- An overview of the ASB
- How long has the ASB been affecting you?
- How often does it occur including days of the week and specific times?
- Who is involved (please provide names if you can)?
- Whether you have reported it to any other agency eg the police?
- Whether you have spoken with the alleged perpetrator/s?
- Whether you are the only person affected by the behaviour or is it affecting others, eg your neighbours?

The ASB Officer or a member of the Community Safety Team will be able to advise you on the most appropriate course of action, depending on the seriousness of the ASB. This may include a visit to your home together with your local beat officer or we may send you some ASB recording forms for you to record the incidents to help us understand the nature of the problem (ASB recording forms are available from www.fareham.gov.uk).

We may advise you to contact the police directly if a criminal offence has occurred including criminal damage, or contact the council’s Regulatory Service regarding noise nuisance, tel: 01329 236100, or tel: 0800 374485 on weekends and after 11pm.

It is important to report the incidents to us on a regular basis and provide as much information as you can. Please be aware that if the complainant is found to be provoking the situation despite our advice, we will no longer be able to assist them with their complaint.
What action can we take?
If an individual under 18 comes to the attention of the police for low level anti-social behaviour on a couple of occasions, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer will make a home visit to speak to the individual and their parents. This will be to outline the next steps and appropriate action to be taken if the undesirable behaviour continues.

The officer may decide to carry out a visit to the young person whilst they're at school to highlight the concerns raised by the school and other agencies. Parental consent is obtained prior to the visit.

Although initially the ASB officer may become involved, it might be that signposting to another agency will best suit an individual's needs in the long term.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) - are voluntary agreements that can be used on any person aged 10 years and over (in exceptional circumstances we use them for persons under the age of 10). The contracts set out the type of behaviour that must not continue. Contracts last for approximately 6 months and are reviewed on a regular basis. If an ABC is breached then evidence may be gathered with a view to applying for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (see below).

Parenting Agreements/Contracts - can be used alongside ABCs as it is important to engage with parents in enforcing the change in their child's behaviour.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) - are issued by the courts and can be made for any person aged 10 or over. The order sets out a list of behaviours or locations from which the defendant is prohibited. ASBOs can last for a minimum of 2 years and a breach can incur a fine, a prison sentence of up to 5 years or a combination of both.

Dispersal Orders - are used for areas where there is a persistent problem of groups of people gathering and causing intimidation to residents and damage to property often exacerbated by drinking. The police together with the council give authorisation to designate an area with a Dispersal Order. The order gives the police the power to disperse groups of two or more people in a designated area and tell them not to return for 24 hours. If the group fails to follow this direction they can be arrested.

To report incidents of ASB, tel: 01329 236100, email: antisocialbehaviour@fareham.gov.uk or visit: www.together.gov.uk

If you're a housing tenant with the council or a housing association, you will need to report the ASB direct to your Area Housing Officer.

More information about ASB is available in our eGuide to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and eWhat does being on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract mean for my child? for parents dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour in their family.
In 2005 we consulted people on our housing waiting list about how they’d like to have properties allocated in the future. The overwhelming response was for applicants to be given the choice of selecting their future home, rather than being offered whatever is next on the list. Since then we’ve been busy setting up a Choice Based scheme and simplifying how applications get priority. The scheme is due to start in April 2007.

Q How will I know when a new property is available?
A We’re planning to publicise details of available properties on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk

Q What information will be available about the properties on offer?
A The web pages will include photographs of the individual properties, a brief description about each property and a location map, which will all be available at the click of a button.

Q I don’t have access to the internet, how can I find out about the properties on offer?
A We’re also intending to use answer phones and texts, and for the very few who are unable to use these forms of communication, special procedures will be set up.

Q What do I have to do next?
A Those currently on the waiting list will be kept up to date with changes as things progress.
Environmental improvements

Tree Avenue Harper Way  
(Completed 2006)
An avenue of London Plane trees was planted to soften views of the side wall of the Market Quay development and to provide an attractive entrance to the town centre from the bus station. The intention is to create the feeling of a French boulevard, using French pedestrian barriers and resin bonded gravel surfacing. The trees are floodlit using angled up-lighters set in the paving to create a dramatic night time entrance to the town centre (as shown on the front cover).

Upper Wharf, Town Quay Conservation Area  
(Completed 2006)
This is an area of private land crossed by a public right of way to the entrance to Bath Lane Recreation Ground, which had become neglected over the years. The objectives of the improvement scheme were to make the public right of way more legible, whilst retaining areas for private parking on each side, and to create an attractive entrance to the recreation ground. An opportunity to improve the area arose when part of it was being re-developed and, with a contribution from the developer, granite setts were used to create a high quality and clearly legible public right of way, with bitmac for the private parking areas on each side. Street lighting was also improved and traditional style lanterns were introduced.

Lower Quay Town Quay Conservation Area  
(Current)
A partnership scheme with the Hampshire County Council Regeneration of Older Urban Areas programme. Current proposals, which have been subject to public consultation, include the replacement of concrete blocks with granite setts and the replacement of concrete kerbs with granite kerbs. The surfacing of footpaths and roads will also be improved with the use of resin bonded gravel, small areas of York stone and panels of granite setts.

The Square, Titchfield Conservation Area  
(Current)
This is a partnership scheme with the Hampshire County Council Country Towns Initiative. Current proposals include re-surfacing the footpaths in this historic square with high quality York stone and the installation of traditional granite kerbs and more appropriate street lights.

For more information about the borough’s Environmental Improvement Schemes, tel: 01329 236100, email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk or visit: www.fareham.gov.uk
The Rainbow Centre

A Groundbreaking Year

The innovative centre that helps babies and young children learn to overcome the difficulties caused by cerebral palsy and similar motor impairments, using the world renowned method of Conductive Education, has had an outstanding year.

In May the Rainbow Centre opened the doors to its stunning new £1m premises in Fareham, made possible by the council making the land available and generous gifts from individuals and charitable trusts including a £10,000 pledge from The Lions Club and £2,300 from The Fareham Meon Rotary Club for equipment and a sensory garden for the children.

The new building named the “Bradbury Building” marks the realisation of a 16 year dream for co-founder and appeal director Helen Somerset How, together with many others associated with the charity. The long-awaited new facility has been a huge success for the Rainbow Centre and will enable them to help many more youngsters in the future.

The new building is just the beginning for the charity in its mission to become a Centre of Excellence for the Motor Impaired. The Rainbow Centre is keen to build relationships with all healthcare professionals involved with early years development to ensure that they’re aware of what a difference the Rainbow Centre can make to a child’s life. In the coming months the Centre will be holding open days and workshops targeting these very important groups. However, fundraising is as always a necessity for the charity and with grand plans for the future to expand the service (costing £400,000 a year in running costs and development ideas) the Rainbow Centre needs you!

Whether you’re a group or individual every penny helps. So this Christmas why not send a donation to the Rainbow Centre instead of sending Christmas cards? It will make a real difference to a special Rainbow child.

For more information about the Rainbow Centre please contact Helen or Julie, tel: 01329 289500 or visit their website: www.rainbowcentre.org

Local Development Framework

Blueprint for Fareham’s future

We’re continuing to compile the borough’s Local Development Framework (LDF). This is a collection of planning policies and proposals that will provide the blueprint for future development and land use in the borough of Fareham.

In essence, the LDF will answer the following questions:

1. What will the borough of Fareham look like 20 years from now?
2. Where should new houses, hospitals, schools, shops, offices and the infrastructure for a growing population be built?
3. What criteria should be used when evaluating planning applications?

As each part of the LDF is produced, there are opportunities for you, the residents of Fareham, to express your views. You can find out more about the policies and proposals of the Framework, such as Area Action Plans for those local areas that need specific action, from the Fareham Borough Council website: www.fareham.gov.uk

Currently the team is working on development briefs to guide the future housing developments at Hunts Pond Road, Titchfield and Peters Road in Locks Heath.

Alternatively you can email the LDF team at ldf@fareham.gov.uk or you can speak to someone working on the LDF, by calling 01329 236100.
Have you ever wondered how your council tax is spent, who pays for the essential services in your area, or where the council gets its money from? Fareham Borough Council has recently published its audited Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 March 2006. What follows is a summary of the major types of income and expenditure, and how our services are funded.

**Council services**

£48.3 million was spent on services to residents across the borough in the last financial year:

- Development Control: £1,286,000
- Economic Development: £808,000
- Environmental Health: £1,790,000
- Recreation and Sport: £2,643,000
- Waste Collection: £2,233,000
- Street Cleansing: £923,000
- Transport and Parking: £2,425,000
- Other Cultural and Environmental Services: £2,328,000
- Housing: £25,680,000
- Corporate and Democratic Core: £3,019,000
- Central Services to the Public: £5,206,000
- Net Cost of Services: £48,344,000

**Income**

Income from services: £17,341,000
Government grants: £16,075,000
Council tax payers: £5,200,000
Non-domestic ratepayers: £3,133,000
Use of reserves and corporate income: £6,595,000
TOTAL: £48,344,000

**Capital expenditure**

As well as maintaining high level services across the borough, the council spent £9.2 million on capital schemes that further improved our infrastructure.

**Where does the money come from to cover these costs?**

Council tax money pays for just over 10% of our revenue spending. The rest of the money comes from income generated from services, grants from central government and business ratepayers. The council also manages its reserves and corporate income to help fund its expenditure.

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Use of reserves and corporate income: £6,595,000
TOTAL: £48,344,000

**Capital funding**

A further £28.5 million is planned to be spent on capital schemes in the coming four years, going towards priority projects to ensure we meet our aims of being a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

A full copy of the council’s accounts is available on request, tel: 01329 236100, email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk or visit: www.fareham.gov.uk. Further information about the council’s finances is published in the estimates book which is available from the Finance and Resources department at the Civic Offices and also through the council’s website.
Do you want to éair your viewsí or do you have a question about a borough matter that concerns you? Or some useful tips to share with other readers? If so, Fareham Today would like to hear from you, email: publicity@fareham.gov.uk or write to: The Editor, Fareham Today Magazine, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU. The star letter will receive a pair of cinema tickets for use at Ferneham Hall.

Dear Fareham Today,

I would like to let you know that I appreciate all your measures you have instigated to help us recycle more in a free and easy way. I think you have proved that the public is very enthusiastic about saving the environment if they were only given the tools to do it. I am due to move house later this year and will be governed by a neighbouring council. Is there any chance you could share your ëbest practiseí with them? If you could encourage them to provide a free green waste facility and perhaps arrange a sale of composting bins, I would be getting a comparable service when I move. If not, is there any chance your refuse collectors could make a special journey out to us in our new house?!

Regards,
Jonathan Boughton, Whiteley, by email

It is encouraging to know that our work is appreciated. I agree that most people are keen to do their bit to help the environment if it is easy enough.

Good luck with your house move. You will be pleased to know we do work in partnership with the rest of the councils in Hampshire, and across the Country best practice is shared. Although other councils make a charge for garden waste collections many are working in other directions, for example some collect glass from households free of charge.

The discounted sale of compost bins in Fareham is run in partnership with WRAP, a government agency concerned with reusing resources. The good news is that the rest of Hampshire is joining this partnership and offering the same deal from next year.

I am sorry our refuse collectors will not be able to make a special journey to you in your new house, but I hope you will find your new council equally helpful!

Best wishes in your new home

As itís Christmas weíre sending Jonathan and Edwin a pair of cinema tickets each for their ëstar lettersí ñ congratulations!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers, from the team at Fareham Today magazine
Buy one get one FREE!

Friday 15 December at 6.30pm*

Take this voucher to Ferneham Hall’s Box Office: get one FREE ticket for one ticket purchased at full price**

* Subject to availability  ** Voucher must be presented at time of purchase. No other discounts or offers apply. Cannot be used against tickets previously purchased nor exchanged for cash.

To book your seats or for more information about future performances contact the Box Office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk or book online: www.fareham.gov.uk/fernehamhall