The Mayor’s Christmas Message

Becoming Mayor of Fareham is not only a great honour, it is also a great pleasure. Since becoming Mayor and Consort in May, Peter and I have had a most enjoyable and busy time.

On 12 May we were very proud to host representatives of the Falklands Veterans, Mary Fagan, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Baroness Thatcher, HMS Collingwood and the Lympstone band of the Royal Marines, as Fareham publicly remembered and honoured those involved in the 1982 Falklands Conflict.

In addition to meeting citizens of all ages, from the youngest just starting school to some who have celebrated their 100th birthday, we have also entertained a wide variety of people in the Mayor’s Parlour on floor 8 of the Civic Offices. These have included visitors from every continent of the world, except Antarctica. It has been a particular pleasure to invite to the parlour to meet and thank many volunteers who give of their time so generously including: Special Constables, Community Responders, Citizens’ Advice Bureau workers and the volunteer organisers of ‘Fareham in Bloom’.

With the help of my chosen charities committee we have held a variety of fundraising events in aid of KIDS; Naomi House Hospice and the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Families Association (SSAFFA).

Peter and I would like to thank you for your support and wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and 2008.

Katrina

2008 Events

In January I shall be celebrating my 60th birthday and would like to hear from anyone else who was born in January 1948, to join me for a special event.

Tuesday 15 Jan  Wine Tasting  Wallington Village Hall  8pm  £6
Friday 18 Jan  Fareham Schools Prom  Ferneham Hall  7pm  £6
Friday 7 Mar  Grand Quiz  Wallington Village Hall  7.30 pm  £7
Teams of up to 6  Supper Included

“Tea & Talk in the Tower”
Thurs 10 January
John Thompson
Tsunami, Sri Lanka
Thurs 14 February
Peter Davies
Russia
Thurs 13 March
Matt Wakefield
Fareham in Bloom

For more information on Mayor’s events tel: 01329 310389 or email: ktrott@fareham.gov.uk

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AN AUDIO VERSION OF THIS MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE EDITOR
A day in the life of the Fareham Town Centre Manager, Patricia Gray

As Fareham Town Centre Manager I report to an informal partnership of shops, businesses and property owners in the town centre, plus other organisations including Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire Police and Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Together we are committed to creating a vibrant town centre where people want to shop, relax, work and live. My role is to organise, manage and fund an annual events programme, street markets and Christmas decorations, and to liaise with the many people who contribute to the success of our town centre.

8.30am I arrive at the office and log onto my computer to deal with any email enquiries which need action.

9am I start compiling a summary of all the Christmas trees and lights which have been erected outside shops this year. I ordered 115 4ft Cannan Fir trees from a tree specialist in late summer, along with sets of tree lights. These were delivered to the town centre in November and I organised a contractor to install them in special brackets at those businesses taking part. I now need to invoice them all for a contribution towards the cost of this. Fareham Town Centre Management has sponsored the Christmas trees for many years. The more businesses that participate, the more festive and attractive the town centre looks for everyone to enjoy.

10.15am A local resident telephones me to ask about late night shopping hours during the Christmas period. I explain to her that the undercover Fareham Shopping Centre (which is privately owned) is trading until 8pm on Thursdays, and many other shops in the town centre will follow suit. I’ve also organised a market until 6pm on Thursdays for the run up to Christmas.

10.30am As today is Monday, we’re operating our usual street market in the pedestrianised area of West Street. I visit the market, to have a general look around, check the traders, see how many customers there are and ensure all health and safety requirements are met. I chat with David Harwood, the Market Superintendent (pictured right) employed by Fareham Borough Council, about some safety issues following the high winds when the traders were unloading their vans and setting their stalls up at 6am this morning.

11.15am Back to the office. I need to spend some time organising the next Farmers’ Market, which will be a special one for Christmas on Saturday 22 December. All the farmers book their stalls up to a year in advance, and I need to issue each one with a street trading permit and an invoice in good time before every event. I also write and send out a media release about the forthcoming market to 20 local papers, magazines and radio stations, many of whom will use the information to tell people what is happening in the town centre. Farmers’ Markets in Fareham have been organised by the Town Centre Manager for about 9 years and continue to be very popular with up to 45 stalls per market.

1.30pm A quick lunch break.
2pm I have a meeting with Clive Wright, who is Chairman of the Fareham Town Centre Management Steering Group, and a Director of the Lysses House Hotel. I have regular meetings with Clive to keep him up to date with all the day to day issues that arise and report to the Town Centre Management Steering Group formally on all matters, when it meets around once a month.

3pm Following an earlier telephone call from Paul Roberts of Rovers Tackle, I walk up to the western end of West Street to meet him. En route I meet one of the Police Community Support Officers and I congratulate her on the excellent work her team has done in raising awareness of the cycle path which runs around the town centre, which most cyclists are now using and therefore no longer causing a nuisance in the pedestrianised area.

3.15pm I meet with Paul Roberts and we discuss the environmental improvement works going on in West Street. All the shops in this area are delighted to be getting this much-awaited facelift to the area, but there are inevitable concerns that customers are not being too inconvenienced and can get to the shops they want with ease, whilst the works take place.

4.15pm I’m back in the office and deal with a list of telephone and email messages which require my attention. As I walked back, the Christmas lights had started to come on, and I noticed a few bulbs not working. I make a telephone call to the contractor to come out and replace them as soon as possible. He tells me he has already scheduled in a visit for the following evening when he will check all the decorations and deal with any replacements – with over 1,500 bulbs making up the display for around 6 weeks, it’s an on going job ensuring that Fareham town centre has one of the best festive displays in the area.

5pm The final task of the day is to update the West Street events diary. Many businesses and local organisations contact me to use the performance podium to advertise their product or service, or showcase their activities, and I need to ensure that any exhibitor has the required public liability insurances, complies with all conditions and is issued with a street trading permit if necessary.

5.30pm Home time.
Make volunteering your New Year’s resolution

Surveys show more than a quarter of residents get involved in volunteering in our communities. Many do it just for the satisfaction of helping people, but volunteers can get much more out of giving their time for free. You can gain valuable new skills, and even qualifications. And, don’t forget the social side, you’ll meet plenty of people and make some new friends along the way.

Thousands of people of all ages volunteer in Fareham and the choice of roles is endless. You could be a driver, a shop assistant, a carer or companion. You could work directly with people, help out behind the scenes, or maybe offer your IT, finance or admin skills to groups who desperately need this kind of expertise. You could be a trustee making board-level decisions or a fund-raiser persuading others to put their hands in their pockets. You could even choose to be out in the fresh air working on environmental projects. Whatever your interests, there’s a volunteering post for you.

Local volunteers

Penny Bissell volunteers at the Crofton Community Centre. She’s Honorary Secretary to the charity’s council and also serves on the Building Sub Committee at the centre. She’s been involved for over 20 years, witnessing the centre grow and develop.

Derek Gibson’s a volunteer driver at Fareham Community Action. He works with the Community Transport team and enjoys helping people in the Borough get out to the shops and on outings. Volunteer drivers can get involved as much or as little as they want and even if they only have enough spare time to take a group out once a week, their efforts are still valued. Drivers undergo specialist training to transport members of the public.

Neil Parry has been volunteering at Shopmobility in the town centre for two years. He helps make sure the scooters for disabled shoppers are charged ready for their customers and assists the staff in running the organisation. It can get very busy with sometimes more than 40 people using the service.

19 year old Sophie Privett volunteers three days a week at the newly-opened Solent Diabetes Association shop in West Street. Although a health condition means she can’t take on a full-time job at present, she’s learning how a shop works. Her Nan has diabetes so she knew it was a good cause. People with a few hours to spare would be welcomed at any of the Borough’s charity shops.

Grants: Fareham Borough Council is giving £25,000 over three years to develop volunteering in the borough. Jenny Romicheva has been appointed by Fareham Community Action to carry out this work, for more information contact, tel: 01329 223140

Citizens Advice Bureau celebrates 65th anniversary

The Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau, located on the second floor of Fareham library, has been providing FREE, confidential and impartial advice to the Fareham community since 1942.

The bureau offers advice on subjects such as benefits, debt, relationship issues, taxation, legal issues and more. All advisers working in the bureau are volunteers, who undergo an extensive training programme, to ensure quality of service. Their service is regularly assured by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau reviews, and is supported by a team of volunteer receptionists; admin workers and the volunteer trustee board.

The bureau would be unable to operate without the contribution made by all the dedicated volunteers, whose generously donated time is estimated to be worth approximately £234,000 per year. This contribution is essential in providing the service the bureau offers and helps to ensure that value for money is provided to the residents of the Borough. In addition an annual grant provided by Fareham Borough Council, pays for running costs (rent, stationery, photocopying) and a small team of paid staff; as well as funding from Hampshire County Council for training and a Welfare Rights consultancy service.

The Bureau is very busy, but they always do their best to help as many people as they can. For more information about how you can help, perhaps through volunteering, fundraising, making a donation or bequest, please write to:

Karen Randall, Fareham CAB, 2nd Floor, County Library, Osborn Road, Fareham PO16 7EN

Monday: 10am to 4pm
Tuesday: pre-booked appointments only
Wednesday: 10am to 4pm
Thursday: 10am to 4pm & 5pm to 6.30pm
Friday: closed

Fareham CAB: www.farehamcab.org.uk or the national site: www.adviceguide.org.uk
Citizens of Honour

Nominate a good citizen

Is there someone you know who helps others before themselves and never looks for praise? Do you know a friend, relative or neighbour who lives in the Borough and deserves recognition for their contribution to the local community? Well now you can say a very public thank you for their hard work and dedication to the local community, by nominating them for the Citizen of Honour Award 2008.

There are three categories for nominations, 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
(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.

Young Person of the Year
(9-18 years)
This is awarded in recognition of community and voluntary work which benefits the local community, charities and also for providing on-going care to individuals. We would like to encourage nominations both from group leaders and other young people who feel that their peers deserve recognition.

Closing date for entries is 25 January 2008. Please return to Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU. Nominations can also be submitted online at www.fareham.gov.uk/citizenawards

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
New businesses are the lifeblood of a successful economy and support for business start-ups is a key part of the process for nurturing the ideas and talent of local people. It’s an established fact that business success rates are boosted by taking advantage of the advice and training available to prospective business start-ups.

Case Study
Mother of two Julie Bishop had a dream business idea but was unsure where to start. She realised that there was a gap in the local market for a music and movement group for the under 5s, but turning the idea into a business was daunting. Did she have the confidence to do it? How should she start? Where would she hold her sessions? How would she finance it?

Julie signed up for the Women into Business programme offered by Business Link. She completed a six week course and learnt the value of sales and marketing, how to put a business plan together and get financial backing. It also taught her about the legal aspects of liability insurance, and health and safety. By the end of the course, she came away with confidence, prepared to make her dream become a reality.

Julie set up Spring-a-Lings (pictured below) in September 2006 and had a great response, with 32 children attending her first public session. Julie was soon running sessions at various family centres in Stubbington and Lee-on-the-Solent. All the activities she now offers fit with the national curriculum, and as well as ‘fun whilst learning’ public sessions, Spring-a-Lings run regular sessions at preschools and nurseries, are hired as entertainment at birthday parties, by toddler groups and various under 5s events. Julie is now so busy she’s expanding into franchising and employs two local people.

Where can I get help?
There are two key organisations in the Fareham area, offering free, impartial, independent, friendly, client focused advice and services:

Business Link is the Government’s business support organisation, providing a wealth of advice and services through its website and through its local Fareham office. Business Link provides the information, advice and support you need to start, maintain and grow your business.

Enterprise First is the enterprise agency for Hampshire and Surrey. The company offers practical help from experienced business advisers accredited to a national standard. Business Advisers can be seen for 1-2-1 advice sessions at the Fareham Enterprise Centre.

Website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast
Tel: 0800 600 9 006
email: info@businesslink southeast.co.uk

Website: www.enterprisefirst.co.uk
Tel: 0845 458 7535
email: info@enterprisefirst.co.uk

More information is available at www.fareham.gov.uk by clicking on Business & Economy or by contacting Tony Mundy, Fareham Borough Council’s Economic Development Manager, tel: 01329 824686.
Community Safety

Doorstep Crime

Recent figures demonstrate that the Borough of Fareham is a safe place to live. However it’s still important that we all take simple precautions when answering the door to strangers.

Most cold callers are nothing more than a nuisance, but a small number pose a serious threat. Some salespeople can be very forceful and pressure you into signing for something you don’t really want. Others specialise in distraction burglary, where they tell lies to get into your home and then steal your possessions.

None of us can tell at first glance whether the person at the door is a genuine doorstep seller or, in fact, a bogus caller. Here are some simple steps to take when you get an unexpected caller:

• **STOP** – As you approach the door. Think, are you expecting anyone? Use a window to check who is at the door.

• **CHAIN** – Put the chain on the door before opening it.

• **CHECK** – Ask to see the caller’s identification before letting them in and check it by phoning the telephone number of the business given in Yellow Pages (not the number that the salesperson gives you!). A genuine representative will understand your concerns and give you time to check. Remember, you don’t have to let anyone into your house and can close the door on them if you’re not satisfied!

If the person is genuine but once they have entered your house, you feel pressured into buying something you don’t think you want or didn’t know you needed, phone the Trading Standards advice line, below.

Every year residents across the area fall victim to doorstep criminals. Although the real number is unknown due to massive under-reporting, the British Crime Survey and anecdotal evidence indicates that as many as 95% of victims do not tell anyone that they’ve been robbed or cheated. Many are embarrassed, feel guilty for letting the rogue traders in, don’t want a fuss or, if they are older residents, are concerned that their independence may be threatened if they let anyone know.

It’s very important that details of these criminals are passed on, so the Police and Trading Standards are able to target these people to prevent anyone else suffering because of them. Ways to do this include:

• **Crimestoppers** tel: 0800 555 111 is a charity operating a call centre to take information about criminals and crime. Calls are not billed, recorded or captured. All callers are protected by anonymity so no one will know they called. Valuable information is passed to the police. Currently in Hampshire & IOW there are some thirty calls a week. One in seven results in an arrest. Appeals for local crime can be found on www.mostwanted.org.uk - many of which concern distraction burglaries.

• **Trading Standards** tel: 01962 833 620. Ask for the Quick Response Team if you have any concerns that you may have a rogue trader or pushy salesman at your house.

• **Local Police** tel: 0845 045 45 45. If you’re suspicious of callers in your area.

Some useful contact numbers to check a caller’s identity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AccuRead (meter readings)</td>
<td>0800 393 499</td>
<td>London Energy</td>
<td>0845 603 9261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Electric and Gas</td>
<td>0870 013 2080</td>
<td>Npower</td>
<td>0845 601 1102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT</td>
<td>0800 321 999</td>
<td>Powergen</td>
<td>0500 240 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Gas</td>
<td>0845 966 8866</td>
<td>Scottish Power</td>
<td>0800 400 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countrywide Gas</td>
<td>01386 750300</td>
<td>Southern Water</td>
<td>0845 278 0845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimestoppers</td>
<td>0800 555 111</td>
<td>Trading Standards</td>
<td>01962 833 620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fareham Borough Council</td>
<td>01329 236100</td>
<td>Transco (to confirm your gas supply)</td>
<td>0870 608 1524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire Constabulary</td>
<td>0845 045 45 45</td>
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</table>
Recycling

Think before you throw

Is Father Christmas packing a new Game Boy or Nintendo Wii for a lucky member of your family this year? Perhaps you’re treating yourself to the latest flat screen TV to get the best out of the Christmas telly?

If you’re buying electrical items, new rules apply to the way you dispose of the old ones. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive makes manufacturers and retailers responsible for financing the recovery and recycling of electrical equipment. It aims to increase ‘re-using and recycling’, and to reduce the amount going to landfill or incineration. The new regulations will also help to ensure that safe dismantling for reuse or recycling is built in at the production stage.

Many retailers now take back old appliances when you buy a new one, this is as a result of the European WEEE Directive.

Alternatively, old electrical equipment should be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for recycling. All sites have a separate collection area for these items before they are taken to accredited reprocessors.

Computer equipment can also be donated to Jamie’s Computers; a Social Enterprise division of The Society of St James, Southampton’s largest social welfare charity. They offer an environmentally responsible collection of IT hardware for recycling and reuse. Please visit www.jamies.org.uk; email: enquiries@jamies.org.uk or tel: 023 8063 2198.

Old mobile phones can now be recycled through a number of schemes run by different stores and charities, such as the Oxfam shop in Fareham.

Batteries should be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centres for recycling.

WEEE includes:

• Large household ‘white goods’ such as washing machines, cookers, fridges, dishwashers;

• Any item with a cathode ray tube, such as televisions and computer monitors;

• Smaller items such as DVD players, stereos, irons, toasters and hairdryers;

• Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, and energy efficient light bulbs. The traditional type of light bulb is not included.

Current estimates show Hampshire diverts 11kg of WEEE per head from landfill or incineration, a long way ahead of the target of 4kg per head. Let’s keep up the good work!
Recycling and waste over Christmas

As in previous years there will be day changes to the refuse and recycling collections over the Christmas period. Please ensure that your bins are out by 6am on the earliest date shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual Collection Date</th>
<th>Revised Collection Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24 Dec</td>
<td>Monday 24 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 Dec</td>
<td>Thu 27 or Fri 28 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26 Dec</td>
<td>Thu 27 or Fri 28 Dec</td>
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<td>Thursday 27 Dec</td>
<td>Fri 28 or Sat 29 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28 Dec</td>
<td>Monday 31 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31 Dec</td>
<td>Mon 31 Dec or Wed 2 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 Jan</td>
<td>Wed 2 Jan or Thu 3 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 Jan</td>
<td>Thu 3 or Fri 4 Jan</td>
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<td>Thursday 3 Jan</td>
<td>Fri 4 or Sat 5 Jan</td>
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<td>Friday 4 Jan</td>
<td>Monday 7 Jan</td>
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<td>Monday 7 Jan</td>
<td>Tuesday 8 Jan</td>
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<td>Tuesday 8 Jan</td>
<td>Tue 8 or Wed 9 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 Jan</td>
<td>Wed 9 or Thu 10 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 Jan</td>
<td>Thu 10 or Fri 11 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11 Jan</td>
<td>Fri 11 or Sat 12 Jan</td>
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</table>

Normal collections resume from Monday 14 Jan

Please use the glass recycling banks for all bottles and jars. Unwanted clothing can go in textile banks. For more information on your nearest bring bank visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/recycling or tel: 01329 236100

Household permit scheme at recycling centres

From February 2008, householders who only have a commercial type vehicle such as a van for their domestic use must have an HWRC household permit before entering Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire.

Vehicles which will require a permit are those which have no rear windows and/or no rear seats, and/or have an open back.

The HWRC household permit is being introduced to ensure only household waste is deposited at HWRCs. Sites are not licensed to accept trade waste, however significant amounts are brought in by traders attempting to avoid paying for disposal of their waste. Studies show that the majority of trade waste is delivered to HWRCs in commercial type vehicles such as vans. These vehicles will therefore have restricted access to HWRCs to prevent trade waste being deposited, making sites quicker and easier for householders to use.

We recognise however that some householders only have access to a commercial type vehicle for their domestic use, so they can apply for a free permit allowing them to access the sites in these vehicles.

An HWRC household permit allows access to HWRCs, but does not allow users to deposit non-household waste.

To apply for or for more information contact Hampshire County Council on 0845 603 5634 from January 2008 or visit: www.hants.gov.uk/recycling.

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

Air quality within the Borough of Fareham

We are required, under the Environment Act 1995, to carry out regular reviews and assessments of air quality in the Borough. Where pollution levels exceed target levels, we must designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). An air quality action plan is then developed to tackle the air pollution problem.

An AQMA has already been declared for part of the Gosport Road, Fareham for the air pollutant, nitrogen dioxide, which is mainly due to traffic emissions. A further AQMA must now be declared for Portland Street, Fareham. Details of the AQMAs and previous air quality reviews are available from the Regulatory Services Department or by visiting the air quality pages at: www.fareham.gov.uk

We currently have over 30 air quality monitoring tubes at various locations throughout the Borough measuring monthly levels of nitrogen dioxide. The tubes are situated on lamp posts and on houses close to busy roads. With financial assistance from the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs, and Hampshire County Council, we are in the process of purchasing a continuous monitor for Gosport Road, Fareham. This will more accurately monitor future nitrogen dioxide levels and improvements in air quality resulting from the action plan measures.

Action plans are currently being developed for the AQMAs with a view to improving air quality in these areas and are due to be completed by Spring 2008. The success of the action plans will depend on communication with the public and the business community. Other agencies such as Hampshire County Council, through the Local Transport Plan 2006–11, will assist in the development of the action plan. Examples of solutions may include car sharing and walk to school initiatives.

If you have any comments to make in respect of possible solutions to the problem of traffic congestion on the Gosport Road, Fareham and/or if you’d like to attend any future public meetings on the same subject, please write to:

Regulatory Services, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7PU
or email: hcusack@fareham.gov.uk
We’re committed to developing a parking strategy for the town centre that provides the right number of parking spaces in the best locations. We also have to review the types of parking controls and charges for parking.

Parking plays an important role in supporting the economic viability of the town centre shopping and leisure activities. Therefore, to ensure that we’re meeting the needs of residents, workers and visitors to Fareham, we’re asking for feedback on the draft Town Centre Parking Strategy.

We want to hear your views on the location and capacity of the car parks as well as the provision and charging of long-stay and short-stay spaces. We are also looking at the impact on residents in the Fareham Town area, of people parking on-street to avoid paying.

When deciding on the future of parking in the town centre, we need to balance the current demand and predicted future growth with the increase in traffic congestion that this would bring.

There are a number of policy options set out in the draft strategy, and we’d like your views by 31 December 2007 to be considered for the final report to the Executive.

A full version of the draft strategy and a questionnaire can be found online at www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation where you can leave your comments or alternatively telephone 01329 824601 and we’ll arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

The results of the completed questionnaires will be reported to councillors before the final strategy is published and adopted.
The second round of Community Action Team meetings (CATs) will take place across the Borough in January. Dates, times and venues are all listed below.

An average of 82 residents attended each Community Action Team meeting in September and we would like to thank all of you for attending. Many important issues were raised and these are now being followed up by the Community Action Team and the police. There was some criticism over venues, organisation and items discussed and these too are being addressed, with a commitment from all to ensure the meetings deliver what you, the residents, are asking for.

The agendas for the next meetings reflect the key issues raised by residents in each of the five CATs meeting areas. At each there will be a presentation about what we, the Community Action Team partners, will be doing to resolve these concerns. Please put the dates in your diary now and come along to hear about the next steps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATs area</th>
<th>Date &amp; time of meeting</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Main topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fareham Town</td>
<td>Wednesday 9 January 7pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Neville Lovett School, St Annes Grove Fareham PO14 1JJ</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crofton</td>
<td>Thursday 10 January 7pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Large hall, Crofton Community Centre Stubbington PO14 2PP</td>
<td>Traffic management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portchester</td>
<td>Monday 14 January 7pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Portchester Community Centre, Westlands Grove, Portchester PO16 9AD</td>
<td>Parking enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wards</td>
<td>Monday 21 January 7pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>St Margaret Mary Church Hall, Middle Road, Park Gate SO31 7GH</td>
<td>Traffic management &amp; Coldeast Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titchfield</td>
<td>Wednesday 30 January 7pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Locks Heath Free Church, 255 Hunts Pond Road, Titchfield Common PO14 4PG</td>
<td>Traffic management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neighbourhood policing

Police in Fareham have been working to reduce crime across the Borough. Tackling local issues is at the top of the agenda in Fareham and so far this year there have been 450 fewer crimes compared to the previous year. All calls to the police and to the Single Non Emergency Number 101, along with Neighbourhood Surgeries and the Community Action Team meetings (CATs) help them build up a picture of the sorts of crimes and anti-social behaviour taking place in the Borough.

At the CATs meetings you identified several hotspots and we are now tackling this at a very localised level with patrols and other problem solving approaches.

The Fareham Town meeting highlighted issues over anti-social behaviour in Broadlaw Walk, Crossfell Walk, Highlands Road shopping, Colenso Road, Park Lane recreation area, Dryden Close, and Broadcut. You also raised concerns about cyclists in the town centre, moped riders on the A32, underage drinking and some drug related anti-social behaviour.

In the Tichfield area you were concerned with some criminal damage and youth nuisance, as well as graffiti and some underage drinking. At Crofton residents were most troubled by vehicle nuisance at the Speedfields Industrial Park, as well as anti-social behaviour and drinking at Seafield Park, in Stubbington and at the Stubbington Recreation Ground. Moped and juvenile nuisance was also raised as a problem in the Plymouth Drive area.

Portchester residents voiced their concerns over some drinking and anti-social behaviour in the precinct, at Portchester Castle and around Harbour View. Also causing concerns were pavement and precinct cyclists and football nuisance. A major concern to some residents was an issue of anti-social behaviour and access in the Winnham Drive and Rockingham Way areas and a separate meeting was convened to discuss this.

Those living in the Western Wards were most concerned with anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the areas around the Locks Heath Centre, Whiteley, Priory Park and Schooner Way. There was also a call to increase foot patrols in the area.

All of these issues are now being considered, along with finding the best possible solution for all those living in the area.
Update
South East Plan Panel Report

A public examination of the draft South East Plan was carried out by planning inspectors and their report published in August this year. This set out key recommendations for the Borough of Fareham, including:

• Endorsing the concept and general location of the Strategic Development Area (SDA) north of Fareham.
• Acceptance that Fareham should not be expected to provide greenfield sites in addition to the SDA
• An annual rate of 186 new homes, totalling 3,720 over the plan period (excluding the SDA)

Full details of the panel report are available at the South East Plan website: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/index.html

Public Consultation

We’d like you to get involved in shaping a number of our Development Planning Documents this winter. The Core Strategy (which sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Fareham), the Fareham Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Site Allocation Document (allocating land for new development) are being prepared and will all be going through a period of consultation in the early part of 2008. Full details of the expected timescales of these consultation periods can be found within our Local Development Scheme online at: www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf

Please note that some of the dates included in the Local Development Scheme may be subject to change.

Peters Road & Coldeast Draft Development Briefs

The Peters Road Development Brief was due to be adopted in November 2007 following public consultation on a draft document during August and September. The preparation of a Development Brief for Coldeast Hospital was started during November and December, with public consultation on understanding the issues and potential options for the site. These briefs, when finished, set out requirements and guidance on how the sites should be developed, including the protection of sensitive areas, access, public open space and affordable housing. Visit www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf for the latest information.

To find out more, or to be notified when details of the consultations become available, please contact the Planning Policy Team, tel: 01329 236100 or email: planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk.
Local Housing Allowance

Housing Benefit - New Rules from April 2008

The Government is introducing a radical reform of Housing Benefit for tenants renting in the private sector. Known as the Local Housing Allowance (LHA), the new scheme has been piloted by 18 local authorities across the country over a two year period. From April 2008 the LHA will apply across the UK for all new Housing Benefit claimants in privately rented housing.

What does this mean to me?

This means that unlike the present Housing Benefit scheme, entitlement is no longer based on the tenant’s rent. Instead, within each local area, there’s a flat-rate allowance for all privately rented claimants, which varies only by household size and structure. This amount is not directly related to the rent that’s charged, so the Housing Benefit received by claimants may be higher or lower than the rent. The rate of LHA that claimants receive will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Another significant change is that local authorities will only be able to pay the LHA to the claimant. Payment to the claimant’s landlord can only be made if it’s considered that the claimant is ‘vulnerable’ and incapable of managing their financial affairs, is unlikely to pay their rent or has accrued 8 weeks rent arrears.

The Government hopes that paying Housing Benefit to claimants will promote personal responsibility and empower them to budget for themselves; that it will help the unemployed to develop the skills they will need when they move into paid work; and that it will encourage them to open bank accounts and pay their rent by standing order or direct debit, thereby helping to promote financial inclusion.

The new scheme will apply to claimants in the private sector and mainstream private tenancies only. The following types of tenancy will be exempt from this new scheme:

• Housing Association tenancies
• Protected cases, such as supported housing provided by some other local authorities, social landlords, charities and voluntary organisations
• Tenancies which commenced prior to January 1989
• Caravans, houseboats and hostels
• Tenancies where part of the rent is attributable to board and attendance

Claimants renting within these sectors will continue to receive Housing Benefit calculated under existing rules.

For further information about this new scheme or any other aspect of Housing Benefit, tel: 01329 824646 or visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/benefits
Did you Know that...?

Chequers, the Prime Minister’s country residence, was given to the nation by Lord Arthur Lee, the 1st Viscount Lee of Fareham.

Arthur Hamilton Lee, was born on 8 November 1868. Educated at Cheltenham College, he then joined the Royal Military Academy, in Woolwich.

He became the Conservative MP for Fareham in 1900 and served successively as civil lord of the Admiralty, 1903–05; director general of food production, 1917–18; minister of agriculture and fisheries, 1919–21; and first lord of the Admiralty, 1921–22.

Lee fought in the First World War between 1914 and 1915, where he was mentioned in despatches twice. He was invested as a Knight Grand Cross, Order of the British Empire in 1918 and became the 1st (and only) Viscount Lee of Fareham in 1922.

Chequers

In 1917 he gave the estate of Chequers to the nation as residence for the Prime Minister; however it wasn’t until 1921 that the first Prime Ministerial resident, Lloyd George began to use it. An Elizabethan mansion set in the Chiltern Hills near Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, Chequers dates from around 1565. The estate which contains approximately 500ha/1,235 acres of farmland and woods, was extensively altered by Lord Lee and holds a collection of Cromwell portraits and relics.

Winston Churchill, made much use of the estate during the World War Two air raids on London. Many of his broadcasts - including the famous “fight them on the beaches” - were made from Chequers. To mark his affection for the place Churchill planted an avenue of beech trees on the estate.

Lord Arthur Lee died in 1947, leaving no heirs and making his title extinct.

Fascinating Fareham facts?

Do you have any interesting/historical facts about the Borough of Fareham? Write and tell us about them and your information could feature in the next edition of the Borough magazine. If your interesting/historical facts are featured we’ll send you a pair of cinema tickets for you to use at Ferneham Hall.

Champion of Champions awarded to Fareham

Fareham has been given the prestigious accolade of Champion of Champions and overall winners in the South and South East in Bloom awards 2007.

In addition we once again received a Gold Medal for the whole Borough, as well as Silver for Holly Hill Woodland Park, and a Silver Gilt and Best Small Park for the Sensory Garden. Northern Junior Community School in Portchester was also awarded a gold medal and overall winner for schools in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Congratulations to all involved.

Buy charity cards this Christmas

Fareham shoppers can buy Christmas cards to help more than 25 national and local charities, from the Fareham Tourist Information Centre based in Westbury Manor, West Street, Fareham.

Over the past 5 years alone the charities have received £20 million from Cards for Good Causes from their Christmas card sales. Because Cards for Good Causes keeps its operating costs to an absolute minimum, charities receive at least 80p in every £1 from their card sales, out of which they have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards and any applicable VAT.

Fareham TIC is open 9.30am–5pm weekdays and 10am–4pm Saturdays. Cards for Good Causes will be on sale until 21 December.

Wetherspoon’s pub in West Street, Fareham is named after Lord Arthur Lee.
Contact your Councillors

Key: ● Conservative ● Liberal Democrat
For email addresses, @ is followed by fareham.gov.uk

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January

Fri 18 19:30  The Drifters  Mayor of Fareham’s Schools Charity Prom Concert £6

Sun 27 15:00  Ker Mel School of Dance: Celebration £9.50 (U16s/over 60s £8.50)

February

Sun 3 14:00 & 18:00  Kim Ellen School of Dance: Showtime £9.50 (U16s/over 60s £8.50)

Sat 9 19:30  Havant Chamber Orchestra £16.50, £14, £11, £6.50

Thu 14 19:30  The Drifters - Valentine’s Day Special £17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)

Sat 16 19:30  Antony Ferraro & the Moondance Swing Band £15 (10% discount on tables of 10)

Wed 20 14:00  Snow Queen £8.50 (U16s £7.50, 4 seats £29)

Fri 22 19:30  Live and Unsigned: Semi-finals Info: www.liveandunsigned.co.uk

Thu 28 19:30  Moscow Ballet La Classique Swan Lake £19.50 & £18 (U16s £18 & £15)

Fri 29 19:30  An Evening with Derek Acorah £17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)

March

Sat 1 19:30  Pam Ayres £16.50 (£15.50 Leisure Card parties of 10+ £15)

Sun 2 11:00  Exquisite Brides - Wedding Fair admission £2

Sat 8 19:30  Voulez Vous £15.50 (£14.50 Leisure Card)

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