Mayor’s Christmas Message

Christmas is the time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and his message of goodwill to all men. It is a special day of celebration around the world for all people of the Christian faith and indeed by the believers of many other faiths who hold in common the ideals of service to mankind, and pray for tolerance, understanding and international peace.

It is a time of wonder and excitement for children everywhere, of happiness and tranquillity for their parents and families and a time to remember absent friends.

As Mayor and Mayoress, we will also be celebrating the extended family of our twin towns of Vannes in France and Pulheim in Germany, reflecting on the success of the original aims of the twinning* and remembering the warm hospitality in each other’s towns that has fostered the friendship and shared values that have blossomed over the years.

The year ahead may be a trifle more stoney than the year past but be of good heart and enjoy the twelve days of Christmas. We wish you all the very best of health, wealth and happiness. Merry Christmas!

The Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham, Councillor Ernest and Mrs Enid Crouch


Citizens of Honour 2009

Nominate a good citizen

Is there someone you know who helps others before themselves and never looks for praise? Do you know a friend or neighbour who lives in the Borough and deserves recognition for their contribution to the local community? Why not nominate them for the Citizen of Honour Awards 2009?

There are three categories to nominate in, each with their own set of criteria to help make nominating worthy candidates easier, they are: Citizen of Honour (18 years +); Young Person of the Year (4-11 years); and Young Person of the Year (12-18 years).

The closing date for entries is: Friday 30 January 2009. More information about the awards and criteria for each category is available on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk/citizenawards

AN AUDIO VERSION OF THIS MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE EDITOR
Community Action Teams

In September 2007 we introduced a two year pilot project for the community, holding meetings across five areas of the Borough; Western Wards, Fareham Town, Portchester, Titchfield and Crofton.

These ‘Community Action Team’ meetings, aka ‘CATs’ have not only provided us with the chance to inform you of local developments, but given you the opportunity to voice your opinions and tell us what you want in the community. The local meetings have also been successful in providing other public sector partners, such as Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Hampshire Police Authority and Hampshire Primary Care Trust the opportunity to pass on key messages and engage with the local communities, listening to their concerns and issues.

Community Engagement Officers, Zita Hobbs and Graham Ellwood (pictured below), have worked closely with local residents and groups over the last year to secure successful funding for some fantastic projects across the Borough.

For more information on CATs funding, see the opposite page or contact a Community Engagement Officer, tel: 01329 236100

Funding

There are two funding streams associated with the CATs project, the Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund and the Clean and Tidy Neighbourhood Fund.

- **Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund** is for one off projects and must benefit the local neighbourhood. Residents and local community groups are eligible for funding and bids are between £250 and £20,000.

- **Clean and Tidy Neighbourhood Fund** can be used to fund individuals or community groups to clean areas of undergrowth and/or abandoned land in their local community that are unsightly. Bids shouldn’t exceed £500.

How to apply for funding

**Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund**

- Individual residents, community groups, registered charities or ‘not for profit’ organisations operating in the Borough can apply for funding.

- Funding between £250 and £20,000 can be applied for.

- Elected members make the decision and most applicants will hear within twelve weeks, some will hear sooner.

If you think you have a project that would benefit from this funding, please contact the CATs team to discuss it or complete an Expression of Interest form, available at www.fareham.gov.uk/cats

**Clean and Tidy Neighbourhood Fund**

- Community groups including groups of volunteers, Scouts, residents, schools, Residents Associations and Ward Councillors on behalf of residents, can apply for this funding.

- Funding should not exceed £500

- Elected members make the decisions and most applicants will hear within six weeks.
Community Action Teams

Successful funding so far from the Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund includes:

- **Fareham Boxing Club** £987 for replacement of equipment (pictured)
- **Generation II Youth Centre** £5,863 to decorate 3 skate parks: Locksheath Centre, Park Lane and Wicor Rec (pictured)
- **Titchfield Bonfire Boys** £5,000 towards the Titchfield Carnival
- **Sarisbury Residents Association** £500 to refurbish existing Sarisbury Green sign (pictured)
- **Local Residents/Councillor** £5,143 for a replacement bench in Middle Road, Park Gate (pictured)
- **Sarisbury Residents Association** £2,200 for the installation of four flower troughs (similar flower troughs pictured)
- **Warsash Residents Association** £1,000 for improvements to a rural footpath - Solent Way (pictured page 5 before and after)
- **Local residents/Councillor** £12,000 for the Portchester Precinct Project (pictured before)
- **Portchester Civic Society** £700 for new seating in West Street, Portchester (pictured before)
- **Northern Junior School** £2,500 for the construction of a wildlife pond and viewing platform
- **Rotary Club of Fareham** £346 towards the hot water system and new tap replacement at The Wheelhouse, Hill Head to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The above figures are for projects completed up until September 2008 and are correct at the time of going to print.

The Clean and Tidy Neighbourhood Fund has also funded many local areas, in all of the CATs wards, with residents and groups organising ‘litter pick days’, cutting back of overgrowth and cleaning up of bridleways. (pictured above)

‘Cut out and keep’ CATs dates for your diary

**January 2009 CATs meetings**

- **Fareham Town** Wednesday 7 January Oak Meadow Children’s Centre, Tewksbury Avenue
- **Western Wards** Monday 19 January St Margaret Mary Church Hall, Middle Road
- **Titchfield** Monday 26 January Titchfield Parish Rooms, High Street
- **Portchester** Tuesday 27 January Portchester Parish Hall, Castle Street
- **Crofton** Wednesday 28 January Holy Rood Church Hall, Gosport Road

**March 2009 CATs meetings**

- **Crofton** Monday 2 March Church of Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane
- **Fareham Town** Wednesday 4 March Fareham Community Church, West Street
- **Portchester** Monday 16 March Wicor Primary School, Hatherley Crescent
- **Titchfield** Monday 23 March Titchfield Parish Rooms, High Street
- **Western Wards** Wednesday 25 March Sarisbury Social Club, Bridge Road

Dates and venues may be subject to change. Please check the website for up to date information.

For more information about CATs visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/cats or email: cats@fareham.gov.uk
Your Community

Review of Community Buildings

Did you know that the Council owns 34 community buildings across the Borough and that the oldest, which is the old wing of the Crofton Community Centre, was built in the 18th century. Many of these multi-purpose facilities used for such things as playgroups, community meetings and indoor sports are in need of repair and refurbishment.

To ensure we offer high quality community facilities (community centres, youth centres and pavilions) which are well designed, modern and meet the needs of the community, we're carrying out a review of all 34 of them over the next 4 years.

It's intended to develop the vision for the community buildings along the following lines:

• In each area a detailed needs assessment will be carried out to identify the type of provision to meet the needs of the local community.
• A master plan will be prepared for each area to match community provision.
• Local community associations and user groups will be consulted to ensure their requirements are identified.
• We’ll be working with community associations and user groups to identify possible sources of funding towards new and improved facilities.
• We’ll liaise with those groups that successfully manage community buildings that aren’t owned by the Council, to identify good practice to feed into the master plan for each area.
• We’ll plan for future maintenance liabilities and develop plans for the maintenance of existing community buildings until a long term decision on their future is reached.

It’s envisaged that the master plans will cover a ten year period to provide improved community facilities across the whole Borough.

We’ve proposed to put £500,000 as “pump priming” for the process and it’s hoped that through careful planning, much of the proposed vision can be achieved through the reuse of existing resources and external funding opportunities. In addition, where appropriate, money received from developers’ contributions through the planning process will be used to help fund the vision.

Based on the condition of existing buildings, the master plans will be phased as follows:

- Phase 1 Portchester with a project focused on building a new community centre in the area.
- Phase 2 Crofton based on a refurbished Crofton Community Centre.
- Phase 3 Titchfield focused on a refurbished and modernised Titchfield Community Centre.
- Phase 4 Fareham Town with the ambition of providing a new community building.
- Phase 5 Western Wards – a project aiming to improve facilities at Victory Hall, Priory Park Community Hall, Whiteley Community Centre and Burridge Village Hall in conjunction with the proposed community building at Colden.

This approach builds on success that we’ve achieved on community building projects over the last 18 months, eg:

• New changing rooms and football pitches at Seafield Park recreation ground, Hill Head (pictured above) supported by £320,000 from the Football Foundation.
• Changing rooms at Locks Heath recreation ground refurbished with £50,000 from developer’s contributions.
• Community facilities at Burridge recreation ground have undergone a £350,000 refurbishment using money from the sale of land at Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley for the provision of a doctor’s surgery.
• Funding of £285,000 approved to refurbish the “old wing” of the Crofton Community Centre to secure the long term future of this part of the centre.
• Developer’s contributions to fund a programme of improvements to the sports pavilions at Warsash, Allotment Road and Sarisbury Green.

10 years on

This is the tenth year of our Environmental Improvement Programme. The first scheme, at the middle Road local shopping centre in Park Gate, was completed in 1998.

Since then schemes have been completed across the Borough from east to west. The programme has focussed on improving Conservation Areas and local shopping centres, culminating in the recently completed award-winning improvements to the western end of West Street, Fareham.

The next scheme in the programme will be the improvement of the eastern end of West Street, subject to budget allocation and consultations.

Almost all the schemes in the programme are partnership schemes; several of which have been undertaken in partnership with Hampshire County Council’s ‘Regeneration of Older Areas and Country ‘Towns’ initiatives. The West Street improvements were in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Two recent Conservation Area schemes at Titchfield Square and Town Quay are pictured. Both are partnership schemes with Hampshire County Council which aim to enhance the character of the Conservation Areas through the use of traditional high quality natural stone paving, kerbing and appropriate street lighting.

Completed Schemes

• Middle Road Shops, Park Gate
• Portchester Shopping Precinct
• Wallington Bridge (Conservation Area)
• Broadway Walk Shopping Precinct
• Sarisbury Green (Conservation Area)
• Castle Street, Portchester (Conservation Area)
• Highlands Road Shopping Precinct
• Crofton Lane Shops
• Town Centre Improvements
• Titchfield Square (Conservation Area)
• Town Quay (Conservation Area)
• West Street Improvements

More information about these schemes is available on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk

More information about the development of the vision for community facilities can be viewed via www.fareham.gov.uk
tel: 01329 236100 or email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk

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

Are we all recycling correctly?

If you’re an early riser, you may have seen our Waste & Recycling Officers out and about looking in the recycling bins put out for collection in your area. They’re checking for contamination - materials that can’t be recycled, eg: plastic carrier bags; often put in the blue top recycling bins by mistake.

We monitor the bins to give feedback, advice and guidance to residents on what can be recycled and save people, for example, washing out yoghurt pots that can’t be recycled and if put in the blue top bin, will count as contamination. The recycling materials we collect are used as raw materials for industrial processes and we need to ensure the quality is as good as possible.

Hangers are left on the bins where contamination is found. A yellow hanger (pictured right) indicates some contamination but not so bad that the whole load will be ruined and the bin is still emptied. A red hanger is left when the bin is so badly contaminated that the whole load is likely to be ruined and therefore the bin is not emptied.

17.5% of the Borough has been monitored so far by Waste and Recycling Officers and the great news is that 91% of you are recycling correctly, with only 9% of all bins checked containing some sort of contamination.

In general the contamination was the wrong sort of plastic. In Hampshire, we only have sustainable markets for plastic bottles so even plastic pots and trays with the recycling symbol, the word ‘recyclable’ or the message ‘Most Councils will collect this for recycling’ can’t be put in the blue top recycling bin.

The plastics golden rule

Is it bottle-shaped?

Yes - rinse and recycle it in your blue top bin. It doesn’t matter what markings it has, what colour it is or how thick or thin, how small or big, as long as it will fit in the bin. Please remove the lid.

No - put it in the rubbish bin, even if it says ‘Recyclable’.

Recycling - Getting it Right in Hampshire

You may have heard about materials collected by other councils elsewhere in the UK ending up dumped in India! All Hampshire’s recycling is sorted in this country and sent for reprocessing. Almost all refuse materials from your green top bin are incinerated locally, to generate electricity which is fed into the national grid.

Most people are recycling the right things and are keen to carry on doing so. However, don’t forget, please ensure you put all recyclable items clean and loose in your blue top bin and not in plastic bags, they don’t get opened, they’re rejected and incinerated.

Waste & Recycling Officers are continuing to monitor bins for contamination and are working in areas of the Borough with low levels of recycling, to encourage people to increase the amount they recycle. If we don’t collect all the tins, cans, plastic bottles, paper and card that’s thrown away, we’re losing increasingly valuable materials.

Mission for mobiles

If Santa brings you a new mobile for Christmas, remember someone wants the old one. Over 1,000 missions and counting……... The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance is a charity which relies on the generosity of individuals and organisations to help it continue its life-saving work.

You can raise money for them by recycling unwanted mobile phones. It’s very easy, just place your old phone in an envelope and send by Freepost to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, Freepost London 16281, London WC1N 3BR. No stamps needed! Each phone received is worth an average of £6 and some are worth much more!

Festive Love Food Hate Waste

Whether the thought of Christmas cooking fills you with excited anticipation or dread at the numbers of people coming to lunch, there’s always more food left over at this time of year. Check out www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for loads of recipes to use up leftovers and save money, as well as food.

You may have seen Fareham’s Waste & Recycling Officers in October, out and about at Love Food Hate Waste events. All the recipes from the event can be found on our website, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk

Christmas refuse & recycling collection times

In a change to previous years, over the Christmas period your bin will be emptied on the revised collection day stated below and in your collection calendar. Please note: we will not return the next day; if your bin is not out on the revised day, it will not be emptied. Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 22 December.

Usual collection day

Thursday 25 December

Friday 26 December (refuse bin due)

Monday 29 December

Tuesday 30 December

Wednesday 31 December

Friday 2 January

Saturday 3 January

Monday 5 January

Tuesday 6 January

Wednesday 7 January

Thursday 8 January

Friday 9 January

Saturday 10 January

Festive Love Food Hate Waste

Over 1,000 recipes have already been collected and we are looking forward to a new series of events over winter and into the New Year.

To find out more, head to www.lovefoodhatewaste.com and let us know if you would like to get involved and support our mission in your area!
**A day in the life...**

of Ferneham Hall’s Publicity Assistant

By Sarah Bridges

As Ferneham Hall’s Publicity Assistant it’s my responsibility to promote shows, concerts and events through the media, Ferneham Hall’s website and ‘What’s On’ brochure. As part of our recent Value for Money review I am now the first point of contact for new hiring enquiries for the venue as part of Ferneham Hall’s ‘Sales Team’, I also deal with the public on a first hand basis by box office bookings and general enquiries.

**9am** I arrive at work, log onto my PC and process any internet bookings taken overnight.

**9.30am** The box office opens, I take a number of bookings for different shows including Dick Whittington, Jethro and One Night of Queen. We have recently sold out of tickets for the psychic Tony Stockwell therefore I place customers on the waiting list in case there are any cancellations.

**10am** This is the first chance I get to update the website, removing the out of date show information for Don Cossacks which appeared at Ferneham Hall last night and adding details of forthcoming shows that have just gone on sale. The image for the Don Cossacks on the front page also needs replacing so I add new images for Coppelia, Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular and Singalonga Sound of Music with hyperlinks to the show details making the page look fresh and exciting.

**11am** I start putting together details for a press release for The Lady Boys of Bangkok, we have not had the show at Ferneham Hall before so I have called the agent for information on the show. After receiving the information I lay out the text in my standard format and add the dates, times and prices of the show and also how to book tickets at Ferneham Hall. After completing the release I send the copy to Paul Butler, my Sales and Marketing Manager, to authorise.

**12pm** It’s my turn to go on early lunch today - we need to cover the box office calls and enquiries so lunch times are staggered.

**1pm** I return from lunch and work on some listings (a list of all the shows and events coming up in the next few months), I have been asked to put together the Ferneham Hall listing for the winter edition Fareham Today (see page 28), this is taken from our main brochure which I amend to include any changes or new events that were not covered in the brochure. I send the listing along with images to the Editor of Fareham Today.

**2pm** I receive an email from my Sales and Marketing Manager authorising my press release to send out to the media. I copy the details along with images onto an email and forward it on to my press contacts.

**3.30pm** I walk over to the Civic Offices, visiting floors 1 & 2 to drop off and collect post.

**4pm** I take a wedding enquiry over the phone. The customer asks me to look at Saturdays in July ‘09 for an evening reception. We discuss available dates, catering options and room layouts and timings and she’s happy with all the arrangements and provisionally books the date. After the call I put the date in the diary and issue the forms for Lorraine Harris, my Customer Services Manager, to check, sign and post to the customer.

**5pm** The box office closes and I cash up the days takings, we have been very busy with pantomime bookings today so there is a lot to count.

**5.30pm** After completing the cashing up and shutting down all the computers I go home.

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**Council Tax**

“Where does your money go?”

If you live in the Borough of Fareham and your home is categorised as a ‘Band D Property’, then you currently pay £1,329.30 a year in Council Tax. Fareham Borough Council collects this payment from you but the majority of the money is then passed on to the County Council, the Police and the Fire Authority. In fact, Fareham Borough Council only retains a sum of £136.53 to help fund your services. The payments are split as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire County Council</td>
<td>999.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire Police Authority</td>
<td>135.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire Fire Authority</td>
<td>58.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fareham Borough Council</td>
<td>136.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,329.30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the next page you’ll find a list of those services provided by Fareham Borough Council and how much they cost you as a proportion of your Council Tax.

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**How have we calculated these figures?**

The figures that we’ve provided might look slightly different to those shown in our annual accounts so it is important that we tell you how we have arrived at these sums.

As well as spending your money on ‘public services’ we have to pay for a range of corporate support costs such as ICT, accountants, legal advice etc. These costs have therefore been spread across all services.

Some services, such as car parking, actually make a surplus so we have shown this as a zero cost to you as a Council Tax payer. Any surplus monies are then added to other income that we receive, such as government grants and rents from industrial estates. The total income is then spread across all services to reduce the costs of your Council Tax (see over).

If you live in a home categorised in another band, you’ll find details of how much you pay for services on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting those on lower incomes</td>
<td>£3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>£7.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>£2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Improvements</td>
<td>£4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A local museum</td>
<td>£9.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the health of the Borough</td>
<td>£0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a vibrant town centre</td>
<td>£3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community facilities</td>
<td>£3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping streets clean and tidy</td>
<td>£7.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pest control and stray dogs</td>
<td>£1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing growth</td>
<td>£16.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing the coast</td>
<td>£4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Areas</td>
<td>£0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowing the grass</td>
<td>£1.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming visitors to the area</td>
<td>£0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well maintained sports pitches</td>
<td>£3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places to park your car</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public conveniences</td>
<td>£1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>£136.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Energy Efficiency

Recent report for both private and public sector housing indicates that local households continue to invest in energy efficiency measures, with an overall reduction of 17.2% in domestic energy consumption since 1996.

As the Borough has one of the highest levels of owner occupation in the country, our role in helping to achieve the delivery of improvements is largely through promoting to the private sector, the various national thermal insulation and replacement boiler schemes available.

Working with the Environment Centre

We’ve recently introduced a new simplified way of promoting the various loft and cavity wall insulation schemes available to home owners, by working directly with the Environment Centre, a non-political and non-campaigning environmental charity that provides advice to the community on energy awareness. The centre offers a free phone number (tel: 0800 804 8601) which enables customers to discover the best schemes available to suit their circumstances. Once this has been established, the centre will then refer the customer to one of the reputable insulation companies that works locally under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target Scheme. All the companies used are registered with the National Insulation Association (NIA) and for cavity wall insulation, registered with the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA) which provides a 25 year independent guarantee.

Applicants who are either in receipt of a qualifying income or disability related benefits or who are aged over 70 years are eligible for free insulation. All other Fareham homeowners are eligible to receive thermal insulation at significant discounts. For further details on the schemes please contact the Environment Centre, tel: 0800 804 8601.

Fuel poverty

We’ve identified a relatively small group of households classified as being in fuel poverty (they spend more than 10% of the family income on their fuel bills) but they’re not in receipt of the qualifying income or disability related benefits; nor are they aged over 70 years. These households are not eligible for free insulation under the national schemes available and therefore we’ve introduced a special programme, the Fareham Home Energy Insulation Scheme, to ensure they’re able to receive both cavity wall and loft insulation at no cost. For more information on this scheme, tel: 01329 236100 or email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk. Applicants will be required to complete a form and provide supporting evidence of their circumstances in the form of copies of their fuel bills and income statements covering the past year. Once eligibility has been established we’ll refer the application to the Environment Centre.

Energy Performance Certificates

Over the last few years landlords have seen a lot of new legislation which has had an impact on the private rental sector. The Government has now introduced new Legislation regarding Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) which will affect all new tenancies from October 2008, enforced by Trading Standards across the UK.

The EPC places an A-G scale energy rating on a building, similar to the labels used on white goods. A - very efficient, G - very inefficient.

The energy rating can help to rent out a property, as it gives a prospective tenant an indication of the energy efficiency of a home and provides information that may help to reduce the running costs of the property.

EPCs can only be produced by a qualified Domestic Energy Assessor or Home Inspector who’s a member of an approved accreditation/certificate scheme.

For further information on EPCs visit: www.communities.gov.uk

Benefits

Let us know about your change of circumstances

Are you claiming Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit? If so, did you know that, while you’re claiming these benefits, it’s your responsibility to let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances as soon as they happen!

You need to tell us if changes such as the following happen to you, your partner, or any other adults in your household:
- You or anyone else in the house starts a new job, has a pay increase or changes working hours
- You or anyone else in the house has a change of income or savings
- You or anyone else in the house receives a new Tax Credit award
- You move home, even for a short time
- Anyone comes to live with you, or moves out

If you have children, you need to tell us if:
- Any of your children leaves school or other education
- You stop receiving child benefit for any of them

It’s important that you tell us straight away because we need to make sure we pay you the right amount of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. If you delay, you may be missing out on extra benefit or if you’re being overpaid, you’ll have to repay that money to us.

You can tell us about any changes in a number of ways:

By email benefits@fareham.gov.uk
By telephone 01329 236100
In writing or in person The Benefits Department, Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ

We also offer a home visiting service for customers who are unable to contact the office and have no one who can do so on their behalf. Please call the Visiting Team, tel: 01329 824663

A match with the Department for Work and Pensions records in May 2007 showed that ‘Miss Brown’ s partner’s Job Seekers Allowance had ceased in January 2007 but we had not been notified of this.

Enquiries were carried out by our Investigation Team and it was established that he had been working from January 2007 to April 2007. Tax credits had also been applied for and paid out and again this was not declared to us.

‘Miss Brown’ was interviewed under caution about her circumstances but her explanation for not advising us of these changes when they occurred was not considered satisfactory. As overpayments of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit had occurred totaling just under £1,000, it was decided that an administrative penalty totaling 30% of the total overpayment amount should be offered in place of court action being considered.

‘Miss Brown’ accepted this penalty which resulted in not only the overpayment of Benefits to be repaid but an extra administrative charge of £300.

\[17\]
At this year’s South and Southeast regional In Bloom Awards, Fareham once again took the title of Overall Winner and received a Gold Award for the Large Town/Small City category.

This is the 5th consecutive win for the Borough in the 13 years that the In Bloom campaign has been running and as if that isn’t enough, the Borough also picked up a much sought after Gold Award and Overall Winner in the Best Small Park category for the Sensory Garden (pictured right), following extensive works carried out this year with the new interpretation, replanting, mulching and repainting of the seating.

A further Gold Award and Champion of Champions went to Northern Junior Community School in Portchester which has supported our Borough entry for many years and established inspirational educational gardens that the whole school uses as part of everyday learning. Other schools can now visit to gain valuable help and advice.

Two additional awards were also received, with the Best New Commercial Landscape in the region going to the western end of West Street, Fareham which has undergone an extensive makeover to hard and soft landscaping through 2007/8.

Recognition was rightly given to the Fareham in Bloom Coordinators (pictured left) who picked up the Community Involvement Award for their dedication to Fareham, its parks, events and In Bloom over the past 13 years.

This was an astounding result and a real credit to the Borough and all those that support the various campaigns and initiatives to protect and develop our parks and open spaces with the help of our many volunteers, sponsors, grounds maintenance and cleansing teams.

What the regional judges are looking at:

- Being an environmental quality award, the judges have much to take into consideration when assessing our Borough’s entry. To receive a prestigious Gold, you have to have over 85% of the overall marks available!
- **Floral Displays** - The design, quality and maintenance of displays throughout the season in public places along with commercial and residential front gardens.
- **Permanent Landscaping** - The design, quality and maintenance of trees, shrubs, lawned areas in public and commercial sites as well as residential gardens along with community and voluntary groups.
- **Biodiversity** - Our actions to conserve the local environment, protecting and enhancing conservation and wildlife areas ensuring plant and animal species flourish. Reducing the carbon footprint, use of water along with waste reduction, composting and recycling.
- **Local Environmental Quality** - The cleanliness of our town, public, private and open space areas with the absence of litter, dog fouling and graffiti along with weed control and the management of street furniture, working with the local community.
- **Public Awareness** - The marketing, publicity and promotion of Fareham in Bloom, our parks, events and activities to engage the local community with the protection and enhancement of our Borough and business community.

Luscious in lemon

A staggering 260 medals were awarded to the Fareham residents and businesses that helped to fill Fareham with flowers, with 26 residents taking gold level awards in this year’s local Fareham in Bloom competition. In fact there were more entries into the competition this year than ever before, with over 400.

This summer was without doubt a real challenge with what seemed like endless wind and rain challenging even the most skilled of gardeners. However, our residents had some really fabulous bursts of colour, showing off their horticultural talents, which contributed to the local street scene, our community and all those who see their hard work on a daily basis.

For more information on horticulture across the Borough, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/parks tel: 01329 236100 or email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Fareham Core Strategy

The next stage of the Fareham Core Strategy is due for public consultation in January 2009. The Core Strategy will set out the overall levels of development permitted in broad locations, together with the infrastructure required to enable that development. The Core Strategy Preferred Options document will outline the preferred options and draft policies for each subject (i.e., housing, employment, retail etc) and will set out the preferred approach to the development of sites at Coldeast, Daedalus, Fareham Town Centre (pictured below) and the North of Fareham Strategic Development Area.

North of Fareham Strategic Development Area

Work is progressing to create a vision for the Strategic Development Area (SDA) to the North of Fareham. Technical studies are underway to look into some of the key issues of the site, such as access to the motorway, public transport, landscape, biodiversity and other environmental issues. A Community Liaison Group has been set up which aims to bring together all the relevant parties and interests vital to the successful planning and delivery of the SDA, to create a forum for the discussion of key issues. The group will consider what sort of place the SDA should be, the relationship of the new community with adjoining established communities, the social infrastructure and the community assets the development will require.

Residential Parking Standards

Work has also started on a Residential Car Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document, which will set revised parking standards for new residential developments across the Borough. This document will consider car ownership levels, be design led in its approach and will encourage more efficient use of land in new parking layouts. Consultation on these issues and the draft standards will include developers, estate agents and other interested parties.

Local Development Framework

For detailed arrangements of the public consultations, the latest information on the progress of the Local Development Framework and any of our other planning policy documents or publications, please visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/ldf

Fareham Compact

Improving Fareham’s partnership working

Local authorities and community groups across the country have been working better together thanks to a framework called ‘Compact’. Fareham’s Compact was established in 2003, backed by Fareham Borough Council and Fareham Community Action, and has been building community momentum ever since.

Award winning partnership

Fareham’s Compact, one of 23 from hundreds throughout England, has won a Compact Commission commendation for excellence. The Commission’s Policy Adviser, Nick Drew, presented the award, at Fareham’s 5th Annual Meeting, to Fareham Compact Partners’ Group’s co-chairpersons, Catherine Ely, FBC’s Community Development Manager and Paul O’Beirne, FCA’s Chief Executive (pictured)

How does Compact work?

It develops codes of practice to shape best practice, covering consultation; volunteering; funding; and small groups. The economic value of Fareham volunteering is £85 million a year, with more than 400 groups, working hard to ‘make a difference’ in our community. Fareham’s Compact is beginning to see better use of volunteering skills, more consultation before decisions are taken and reduced bureaucracy. People are developing new ways to solve problems and to empower the partnerships.

Feedback

Annual meetings are open to representatives of charities, community and voluntary groups and public authorities. The 2008 meeting attracted 48 participants. Over two thirds agreed they now know more about Compact, felt it was making a difference and were prepared to ‘pitch in’.

The Partners’ Group is keen to recruit more volunteer members.

For more information, tel: 01329 231899 or visit: www.farehamcompact.org.uk

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

We’re often asked about the “dos and don’ts” of parking, so here’s our comprehensive guide to parking in the Borough:

Parking permits

Various permits are available for those who are eligible:

**Resident**
The “Kings Road” residents’ parking scheme covers Kings Road, Queens Road, Hartlands Road and Western Way in Fareham town centre. Only residents with a valid resident’s permit may park in these clearly signed areas. If there’s a residents’ parking scheme or any other restriction in place outside your property, please inform your visitors and make sufficient arrangements for them.

**Dispensations**
Builders and workmen carrying out work will need to apply for a dispensation (with at least 5 days notice) to the Parking Services Department. The charge for this service is £10 per day or £30 per week and the Parking Services Department will allow vehicles to park lawfully in what otherwise would be a breach of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

**Season Tickets**
We also offer season tickets for parking in any of our long stay car parks within the town centre. These are: Bath Lane, Osborn Road West, Youth Centre, The Gillies, Lysseys and Holy Trinity Church. Season ticket prices are £150 per quarter and £490 annually. Application forms can be requested from the Parking Services Department or downloaded from our website: www.fareham.gov.uk.

Civil Enforcement Officers

We currently employ 15 Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) whose main priority is to promote the safe use of highways, ensure pedestrians can walk safely, keep traffic flowing freely, ensure fair and even distribution and turnover of available parking spaces, ensure that specific parking bays are kept clear for their intended use and minimise parking on verges and footways. Our CEOs are highly trained under a City and Guilds qualification and are not allowed to walk past a vehicle in breach of a restriction. Once they’ve begun to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), they can’t stop it under any circumstances or take payment for it.

All PCNs can be appealed and this must be done by writing to the Civic Offices or by emailing parkingservices@fareham.gov.uk. Please ensure any appeal has a full postal address, the PCN number is clearly indicated and that any supporting documents are provided; for example this may be a photocopy of your Blue Badge or a delivery note.

Freeing up parking spaces

Please be aware of recent changes to car park charges in Fareham town centre car parks. The short stay car parks have been changed to a maximum 4 hour stay to free up spaces for shoppers which means that if you stay longer than four hours in Osborn Road multi storey car park or Market Quay car park you will face a parking fee of £25. If you wish to stay longer there is plenty of parking available in the long stay car parks at the unchanged rate of £3.50 a day and on Mondays and Saturdays there is a shuttle bus to take you to the shops. Also look out for the signs for the low cost Christmas park and ride scheme.

As Council employees our CEOs take the health and safety of the community very seriously and are constantly looking out for hazards, vandalism, fly tipping and maintenance problems.

If there are any issues you need help with please contact, tel: 01329 236100.

Blue Badge Holders

The Blue Badge Scheme operates throughout the UK providing a range of parking concessions for people with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport.

**Blue Badge Parking Dos and Don’ts:**
- **DO** Park free of charge in Fareham Borough Council pay and display car parks with your Blue Badge displayed correctly
- **DO** Display the badge with the expiry date (wheelchair symbol) facing upwards to receive free parking
- **DO** Park on double or single yellow lines for a maximum of 3 hours with the Blue Badge and clock displayed with the time of arrival
- **DO** Renew your badge before it runs out - this is your responsibility
- **DO** Park in on street disabled bays; you may park without a time limit unless signs state otherwise and it is your responsibility to check
- **DO NOT** Park where there are loading and unloading restrictions - these are indicated by yellow markings on the kerb
- **DO NOT** Park in residents’ permit areas, taxi ranks, goods loading bays or bus stops. Your Blue Badge does not exempt you from these restrictions
- **DO NOT** Park where it would cause an obstruction or danger to other road users and pedestrians
- **DO NOT** Give your badge to family or friends to allow them to park for free without you present
- **DO NOT** Park in a Disabled Bus Bay - this is strictly for buses/coaches only
- **DO NOT** Display your badge with your picture facing upwards
  - More than 16,000 motorists are fraudulently using disabled parking badges, according to the Audit Commission’s National Fraud Initiative.
  - To get a copy of The Blue Badge Scheme: Rights and Responsibilities in England Booklet contact, tel: 0870 1226 236 or visit: www.direct.gov.uk/disabledpeople

Verge Parking

Fareham Borough Council has implemented Traffic Regulation Orders for verge parking, these are not in place on every road (please visit www.fareham.gov.uk for details), this means that parking is not allowed on grass verges or pavements. Signs will indicate where verge parking is in place. If a road has double yellow lines then parking on the pavement and grass verges is also not allowed as double yellow lines run from the centre of the carriageway to the building or border line.

Parking restrictions

The Highway Code states you must not park or wait:
- where there are double yellow lines along the edge of the carriageway at any time; this restriction is in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- on a single yellow line within the times specified on the accompanying time plate (there will be one nearby and it is the motorist’s responsibility to check this)
- on a bus stop clearway within its hours of operation
- on a taxi rank
- in a goods loading bay
- where a loading ban is in place, this is indicated by markings on the kerb.

Please note that on Sundays and Bank Holidays the restriction in place applies unless otherwise stated.
Town Centre Events

Discover the Magic of Christmas in Fareham

Late Night Shopping and Sundays
Take the hassle out of Christmas – come late night shopping every Thursday when many shops are open until 8pm, or on Sundays when most stores are open from 10am to 4pm.

Markets
• Traditional Markets every Monday - up to 50 stalls.
• Christmas Markets every Thursday from now until 18 December.
• Fareham Country Market Saturday 13 December for a range of traditional homemade goods.
• Special Christmas Farmers’ Market 9am to 2pm on Saturday 20 December with live Nativity scene.

Music and Dance
• Saturday 13 December 11am to 1pm Street dance performance by SouthZone Academy.
• Tuesday 23 December 11:30am & 2:30pm at Ashcroft Arts Centre - Pandora's Box Theatre Company presents Stumble the Clumsy Reindeer. Age range: 3 to 8 year olds.

Don’t suffer in silence

Dear Santa,

Mummy says that you are really good we don’t have tidied all my toys away but I have finished all my dinner (even though I have to have eaten all my Mummy says that you are really good she doesn’t like) every day. Mummy says that we are really busy and might not make it to our house again this year but I thought it would write you a letter just in case.

All my friends from school want a toy which has special powers. They have seen it on the television. I don’t really know what they are taking about because only Daddy is allowed to watch them in our house. I don’t want one of these as Daddy may break it if I forget to put it away before he comes home. That would make me cry which would make Daddy hate me even more.

What I really would like is for me to have some special power please. I would like to be strong so that I can protect my Mummy when Daddy is hurting her. I would like to be able to see into the future so that I can make Mummy take us a bad day at work and will come home and make my Mummy cry.

I would like to be able to know what my Daddy is thinking so that I can tell if he is going to change the rules. Sometimes I can’t remember all the rules and mess up. It gets Mummy and Daddy saying she is a useless mother. He says that people things right. I don’t want to leave my Mummy.

For a range of traditional homemade goods create the Magic of Christmas.

Fareham Leisure Centre

Top accolade for Fareham Leisure Centre

Fareham’s ‘Everyone Active’ Leisure Centre has received one of the UK leisure industry’s top accolades, by being named as one of the top ten sporting venues in the country, for delivering outstanding leisure services.

The accolade has come from Quest, a nationally recognised accreditation body which promotes good practice and high standards across the board and looks at all aspects of working initiatives and customer care.

Fareham Leisure Centre achieved a fantastic score of 83%, with assessors saying they were particularly impressed by the high standards achieved for the pool.

Very few leisure centres in the UK are highly commended by Quest so this is a wonderful testimony to all the hard work of the staff at the centre.
Did you know that...

The Borough of Fareham is twinned with Vannes in France and Pulheim in Germany

In November 1966 Fareham exchanged Charters with Vannes in France, becoming one of the first twinned towns in England. 18 years later we twinned with Pulheim in Germany and have continued to have close links with them both ever since.

French Connection

Situated on the west coast of Brittany at the head of the Golfe de Morbihan, Vannes is a major tourist town, which dates from around the 2nd century. The modern day town balances a proud heritage with a progressive and diverse hi-tech economy. It has a large and thriving community, a medieval centre and a small harbour.

There are a variety of original parks and gardens earning Vannes numerous awards from various national flower institutions ... sound familiar? (Fareham's winning streak continues at South and South East In Bloom Awards, see pages 18 & 19).

There are a variety of original parks and gardens

Guten Tag!

Pulheim, located just a few miles to the north-west of Cologne, also has similarities to Fareham. It has one large town surrounded by smaller villages, most being pressured for development.

In 1983 a former local resident returned from Coventry’s twin town and reported that Pulheim was looking for a twin town of similar size and character. She suggested to the then Mayor of Fareham that Fareham would be an ideal “twin”. Exploratory visits were arranged and the Fareham-Pulheim Twinning Association was formed. Formal twinning arrangements were established in March 1984 with an exchange of charters. There have been continuing social, sporting, cultural and business exchanges between the two towns and in 1998 Pulheim was granted the ceremonial freedom of the Borough of Fareham in recognition of the strong links between the towns.
### JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Mayor of Fareham, Cllr Crouch presents: Schools’ Charity Prom</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Live and Unsigned</td>
<td>For info: <a href="http://www.liveandunsigned.uk.com">www.liveandunsigned.uk.com</a></td>
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### FEBRUARY

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 7</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11 &amp; £6.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 8</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Antiques Fair</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Sally Morgan</td>
<td>£18.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One Night of Queen</td>
<td>£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Anthony Ferraro and the Moondance Swing Band</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 19-21</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Stage One presents: Anything Goes</td>
<td>£9.50 (£16.50/Over 60s £8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Voulez Vous</td>
<td>£16 (£15.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 1</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>The Morriston Phoenix Choir</td>
<td>£15 (£14 Leisure Card/Royal British Legion members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 5</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Moscow Ballet La Classique - Giselle</td>
<td>£20 &amp; £19 (£16.50 &amp; £17.50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Jethro</td>
<td>£18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Philharmonic Youth Choir</td>
<td>£5 (£16.50 FREE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Pro Fusion presents: Menace 2 Move</td>
<td>£12 (£16.50/Over 60s £8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17 - Sat 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Musical Society presents: West Side Story</td>
<td>Tue all seats £9.50, Wed to Sat £12, £10 (£16.50/Over 60s £10.50, £8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 22</td>
<td>10:00-16:30</td>
<td>Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Mayor of Fareham’s Charity Ball</td>
<td>More info &amp; tickets from Cllr Mrs Bryant, tel: 01329 281427 or The Mayor - Cllr Crouch, tel: 01329 232995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havit Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11 &amp; £6.50 (£16.50 £1, Students 1/2 price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 29</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Shawaddwyaddy</td>
<td>£18.50 (£17.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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NB: Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on at Ferneham Hall and to book your seats, please contact the box office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk or online visit: www.fernehamhall.co.uk