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 tranquility 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
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.

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.

For more information about CATs visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/cats or email: cats@fareham.gov.uk
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**
  £1,143 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
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.

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.
- 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.

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.
- Crofton based on a refurbished Crofton Community Centre.

Phase 2
- Titchfield based on a refurbished and modernised Titchfield Community Centre.

Phase 3
- Fareham Town with the ambition of providing a new community building.

Phase 4
- 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 Coldeast.

Phase 5
- Seafield Park opened by Sir Trevor Brooking CBE in May 2008

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)
- Broadlaw 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

Seafield Park opened by Sir Trevor Brooking CBE in May 2008

Titchfield Square - before

Titchfield Square - after

Town Quay - before

Town Quay - after
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 3BB. 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 excitement 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.

Normal collections, including garden waste, resume on Monday 12 January 2009. Your real Christmas tree will be collected with the first garden waste collection of 2009. No need to chop it up, just leave it by your garden waste sack. One tree per household, maximum trunk diameter 11cm.
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 customer details 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 Coppella, 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.
## Council Tax - List of services

### Supporting those on lower incomes
- £3.84 Supporting the County Council to improve traffic management
  - Hampshire County Council is responsible for maintaining highways but we provide additional support through local traffic management schemes, initiating traffic calming where appropriate and maintaining street namesplates

### Home Improvements
- £4.02 Helping some of you to travel around the Borough
  - Providing advice and grants to help reduce energy costs; and providing grants to help residents repair their homes

### A range of local job opportunities
- £1.15 Giving local people a voice/vote
  - Local elections, neighbourhood meetings and initiatives such as the Youth Council, all ensure that local people can influence decisions

### Easy access to good quality green spaces
- £8.17 Affordable Housing
  - Working with housing associations to build new rented accommodation. We are also involved in a number of initiatives to help prevent homelessness

### Keeping streets clean and tidy
- £7.95 Pest control and stray dogs
  - Collecting stray dogs and offering a service to deal with rats, mice, wasps and other insects at a competitive price

### Mowing the grass
- £1.95 Welcoming visitors to the area
  - Operating a tourist information centre and producing a visitor’s guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting new property development of good quality</td>
<td>£3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring planning advice to, and dealing with planning applications from, customers seeking to develop properties in the Borough; controlling unlawful development and ensuring that any building works comply with safety standards</td>
<td>£7.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the County Council to improve traffic management</td>
<td>£2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire County Council is responsible for maintaining highways but we provide additional support through local traffic management schemes, initiating traffic calming where appropriate and maintaining street namesplates</td>
<td>£2.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Providing financial support to community schools and community groups in the Borough - and funding voluntary bodies such as Fareham Community Action and Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting your health</td>
<td>Monitoring air and water quality; carrying out food safety checks; dealing with noise problems; identifying contaminated land; undertaking health and safety checks; working with others to control infectious diseases and enforcing new laws on ‘smoke free’ premises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>Licensing a range of activities including the sale of alcohol, late night refreshment, regulated entertainment, taxis, lotteries, charitable collections, acupuncture, animal welfare, scrap metal dealers, motor salvage operators and gambling premises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making mobile homes</td>
<td>Providing home safety and security checks (“home-check”); offering advice and grants to help reduce energy costs; and providing grants to help residents repair their homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping with bereavement arrangements</td>
<td>Providing help to those who have lost loved ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for emergencies</td>
<td>Putting adequate arrangements in place to support the Emergency Services and the public if, and when, a major incident occurs in the Borough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing the coast</td>
<td>Keeping the beaches clean, promoting safe use of the sea, planning for and adapting to coastal change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Areas</td>
<td>Providing slides, swings and climbing frames for our younger residents, and skate ramps and meeting places for teenagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>£136.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Energy Efficiency

A 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 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.

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 (EPCs) 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
- You or anyone else in the house has a change of circumstances

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 824661

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

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 totalling just under £1,000, it was decided that an administrative penalty totalling 30% of the total overpayment amount should be offered in place of court action being considered.

‘Mr Smith’ failed to tell us that he had an increase in his Incapacity Benefit until 2 months after the change. This resulted in an overpayment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit totalling just over £400. Due to the reduction in his entitlement to Housing Benefit, the contribution he needed to make towards his rent increased by £12 per week, plus he was required to repay the overpaid benefit at a rate of £9 per week until the debt was cleared. Additionally, his monthly Council Tax instalments increased considerably as he had to pay back the excess Council Tax Benefit awarded as well as his liability for the year. This debt could have been avoided had Mr Smith told us at the time he was notified by the Department for Work & Pensions, that he was entitled to an increase in his Incapacity Benefit.
Gleaming with gold

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.

For more information on horticulture across the Borough, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/parks

Biodiversity

Fareham Wildlife Improvement Grant

As part of the review of the Fareham Local Biodiversity Action Plan, we’re offering an exciting new Fareham Wildlife Improvement Grant (up to £1,500 per project) to help local groups and landowners enhance Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and increase our understanding of wildlife and the impacts on biodiversity.

Please contact the Ecologist, tel: 01329 236100 or email: nature@fareham.gov.uk to receive details of the Wildlife Improvement Grant and for an application form.
Local Development Framework

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.

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’.

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.

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

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

For more information, tel: 01329 231899 or visit: www.farehamcompact.org.uk
W e’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, Harlants 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, Lysess 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 Commissions 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.
Dear Santa,
Mummy says I have been extra good this year. I have tidied all my toys away like Daddy tells me to and I have eaten all my dinner (even those green things that I don’t like) every day. Mummy says that you are really busy and might not make it to see us again this year but I thought I 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 talking about because only Daddy is allowed to watch it on our TV. I don’t want one of those 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 really would be nice for me is 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 swim or to go to Nan’s house if I know that Daddy has had 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 him how to change the rules. Sometimes I can’t remember all the rules and mess up. It gets Mummy into trouble and gets sent to my room. I can hear banging around and Daddy saying she is a useless mother. He says that people things right. I don’t want to leave my Mummy. Please don’t tell Daddy.

REMEMBER: if you’re in danger call 999

Rowena

Helplines
Help for women experiencing domestic abuse
Southampton Women’s Aid Helpline Tel: 023 8071 0068 Monday and Friday 10am - 1pm, Wednesday 6pm-9pm
National Women’s Aid 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline Tel: 0808 2000 247

Help for men experiencing domestic abuse
Mankind Tel: 0823 334244 (not 24hr)

Help for children experiencing domestic abuse
The Tulip Project Tel: 0151 637 6363
Age Concern Tel: 0800 009966

Help for young people experiencing domestic abuse
Karma Nirvana Tel: 0800 5999 9247

Music and Dance
Saturday 13 December 11am to 1pm Street dance performance by SouthZone Academy. 2pm to 4pm - Batala Samba Band makes a welcome return after their popular performance in September.

Sunday 21 December 12noon to 2pm - 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.

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.

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.

REMEMBER: if you’re in danger call 999
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 bi-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).

Over the past forty years the ties of friendship linking our two towns have grown. More than 2,500 young people have discovered Fareham or Vannes as participants in school or sporting exchanges. There have equally been many exchanges between adult groups - sporting, cultural and business exchanges between the two towns and in 1998 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 two towns.

**Guten Tag!**

Pulheim was granted the ceremonial freedom of the Borough of Fareham in 1998. 18 years later we twinned with Pulheim in Germany and have continued to have close links with them. Pulheim was granted the ceremonial freedom of the Borough of Fareham in 1998.

Did you know that...?

- Pulheim was granted the ceremonial freedom of the Borough of Fareham in 1998.
- 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.
- 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.

**Contact your Councillors**

- **Fareham East Ward**: Jim Murray, 56 Laburnum Rd, Fareham, PO16 0SL. Tel: 01329 282707. jmurray@fareham.gov.uk
- **Fareham North Ward**: Karina Trot, 21 Forthill Ave, Fareham, PO16 8LD. Tel: 01329 203889. knr@.
- **Fareham North West Ward**: Penelope Bryant, 14 Highlands Rd, Fareham, PO16 7XL. Tel: 01329 284247. cbryant@gmail.com
- **Fareham South Ward**: Peter Davies, 17 Hill Rd, Fareham, PO16 0PQ. Tel: 01329 302819. pdavies@.
- **Fareham West Ward**: John Bryant, 14 Highlands Rd, Fareham, PO16 7XL. Tel: 01329 284247. cbryant@gmail.com
- **Locks Heath Ward**: John Dawson, 62 High Oaks Close, Locks Heath, PO14 4QS. Tel: 01489 576913. rdawson@.
- **Park Gate Ward**: Brian Bamford, Camague Close, Locks Heath, PO14 4GQ. Tel: 01489 866074. b-bamford@.
- **Sarsbury Ward**: Marian ETraditional, 20 Botley Rd, Bursledon, PO15 7BI. Tel: 01329 50774. me@.
- **Titchfield Common Ward**: David Woodrow, 8 Persimmon Drive, Whiteley, PO14 3QJ. Tel: 01489 581030. woodrowd@.
- **Titchfield Ward**: Jim Murray, 14 Highlands Rd, Fareham, PO16 0SL. Tel: 01329 282707. jmurray@fareham.gov.uk
- **Titchfield Common Ward**: Trevor Cartwright, 52 Tamar Way, Warsash, SO31 6DS. Tel: 01329 875919. tcartwright@.
- **Titchfield Ward**: Peter White, 173 Hill Rds, Fareham, PO16 8BD. Tel: 01329 845319. bkevela@gmail.com
- **Whiteley Ward**: Keith Evans, 27 Abbot Rd, Warsash, PO16 7XL. Tel: 01329 284247. kevans@.
- **Whiteley Ward**: Keith Evans, 27 Abbot Rd, Warsash, PO16 7XL. Tel: 01329 284247. kevans@.
- ** Warsash Ward**: Trevor Cartwright, 52 Tamar Way, Warsash, SO31 6DS. Tel: 01329 875919. tcartwright@.
- ** Warsash Ward**: Jack Englefield, 8 Lower Church Rd, Titchfield Common, PO14 4WH. Tel: 01489 582284. jenglefield@.
- ** Warsash Ward**: Keith Evans, 27 Abbot Rd, Warsash, PO16 7XL. Tel: 01329 284247. kevans@.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Ticket Prices</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Mayor of Fareham, Cllr Crouch presents: Schools’ Charity Prom</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11 &amp; £6.50 (U16s £1, Students 1/2 price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 8</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Antiques Fair</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Sally Morgan</td>
<td>£18.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One Night of Queen</td>
<td>£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Anthony Ferraro and the Moondance Swing Band</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 19-</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Stage One presents: Anything Goes</td>
<td>£9.50 (U16s/Over 60s £8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Voulez Vous</td>
<td>£16 (£15.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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### JANUARY

- Sun 1 16:00: The Morriston Phoenix Choir
  - £15 (£14 Leisure Card/Royal British Legion members)
- Thu 5 19:30: Moscow Ballet La Classique - Giselle
  - £20 & £19 (U16s £18.50 & £17.50)
- Thu 12 19:30: Jethro
  - £18
- Fri 13 19:30: Fareham Philharmonic Youth Choir
  - £5 (U16s FREE)
- Sat 14 19:30: Pro Fusion presents: Menace 2 Move
  - £12 (U16s/Over 60s £8)
- Tue 17 - Sat 28: Fareham Musical Society presents: West Side Story
  - Tue all seats £9.50, Wed to Sat £12, £10 (U16s/Over 60s £10.50, £8)
- Sun 22 10:00 - 16:30: Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society
  - TBC
- Fri 27 19:30: The Mayor of Fareham’s Charity Ball
  - More info & tickets from Cllr Mrs Bryant, tel: 01329 281427 or The Mayor - Cllr Crouch, tel: 01329 232995
- Sat 28 19:30: Hant Symphony Orchestra
  - £16.50, £14, £11 & £6.50 (U16s £1, Students 1/2 price)
- Sun 29 19:30: Shawaddwydd
  - £18.50 (£17.50 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@fareham.gov.uk or online visit: www.fernehamhall.co.uk