Since being elected Mayor and Consort, Mike and I have had a most enjoyable and busy few months. Our duties have ranged from a degree ceremony for 4 year olds, before moving on to "big school" - a most delightful duty - to tea parties for senior citizens, presenting certificates to school children and attending school concerts and assemblies.

In June we visited Fareham’s twin town of Pulheim in Germany, celebrating the 25th anniversary of our twinning.

Having HMS Collingwood in the Borough has meant several visits - open days, divisions and receptions. We were honoured to meet the Princess Royal on one of these occasions and, on another, to see the field gun run competition.

Fareham In Bloom saw us visiting some of the gardens throughout the Borough. We thoroughly enjoyed our visits and the presentation of certificates and awards held at Ferneham Hall. It was a most memorable day and Fareham should be proud of its achievements in this field.

We are currently enjoying a round of Civic Days. Each Borough from all over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight hosts a Mayor’s or Chairman’s Civic Day, giving them the opportunity to present the best of their Borough to their guests. The Civic Days we have had the honour of attending have been most interesting and enjoyable.

Christmas is the time of year when we get together with family and friends, exchange cards and presents and enjoy the traditional Christmas fare. Our thoughts go out to those with no family or close friends and members of the services and their families.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Councillor Ruth Godrich
Mayor of Fareham (pictured above with her husband and Consort, Councillor Mike Godrich)
What do you do towards your 5x30?
The South East Public Health Board recommends moderate exercise for 30 minutes, five times a week.
Citizens of Honour

Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

Fareham’s Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen Awards 2010

Recommend an adult (over 18)
Is there someone you know who helps others before themselves and never looks for praise?
Do you have a friend or neighbour who lives in the Borough and deserves recognition for their contribution to the local community?

Recognise a child (4-11 years) who has:
- Shown outstanding bravery
- Carried out regular selfless acts
- Adapted to a disability
- Coped with personal difficulties

Nominate a young person (12 - 18 years) who:
- Carries out regular community/voluntary work
- Provides on-going care

You can say a very public thank you for their hard work and dedication to the local community by nominating them for the Citizen Awards 2010.

Fareham Borough Council has set up this award for residents and local groups to recognise the voluntary, unpaid efforts of others.

Nominee’s name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________________
Tel: ____________________________ Date of birth if 4 - 18 ____________________

Please give your reasons for nomination as briefly as possible.
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Your name: ____________________________
Your address: ____________________________
email: ____________________________

N.B. If the nominee is being put forward by more than one person, please use one form and list your details on a separate sheet. We will only contact successful applicants.

Please send by 29 January 2010 to: Fareham Borough Council, FREEPOST, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7BR. Nominations can also be submitted online at: fareham.gov.uk/citizenawards
Over the Christmas holiday, there will be some changes to refuse and recycling collections. Please see the list below to find out when your bin is due to be emptied (the information can also be found on the card we delivered to you earlier in the year or by visiting fareham.gov.uk/recycling). Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 21 December until Friday 8 January 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual collection day</th>
<th>Revised collection day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Dec</td>
<td>Tue 29 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28 Dec</td>
<td>Tue 29 Dec - refuse; Wed 30 Dec - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 29 Dec</td>
<td>Wed 30 Dec - refuse; Thu 31 Dec - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Dec</td>
<td>Wed 30 Dec - refuse; Thu 31 Dec - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 31 Dec</td>
<td>Thu 31 Dec - refuse; Mon 4 Jan - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 1 Jan</td>
<td>Mon 4 Jan - refuse; Tue 5 Jan - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4 Jan</td>
<td>Mon 4 Jan - refuse; Tue 5 Jan - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 5 Jan</td>
<td>Tue 5 Jan - refuse; Wed 6 Jan - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Jan</td>
<td>Wed 6 Jan - refuse; Wed 6 Jan - recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Jan</td>
<td>Normal collections of refuse and recycling resume</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normal collections of garden waste resume on Monday 11th January 2010

Love Food Hate Waste at Christmas
Christmas is always an expensive time, when food bills can soar and lots of us have friends and family visiting. There are lots of useful tips and recipes at lovefoodhatewaste.com to save money by using up leftover Christmas food to make tasty new meals.

Christmas tree recycling
We will collect your real Christmas tree with the first garden waste collection of 2010. Just put it out by your garden waste sack; no need to chop it up. One tree per household, maximum trunk diameter 11cm.

Glass Recycling
Please remember to recycle all your glass from the Christmas celebrations, including all those jars from the Cranberry Sauce and other goodies. The new banks around the Borough make it easier to recycle glass; you can put all the coloured in one bank, and the clear in another.
Living in Fareham

New Opportunity for Homes in Titchfield Common

It is hard to go a day without hearing about the current economic crisis and the effect the recession is having on the housing market. Fareham is no exception.

In partnership with Portsmouth Housing Association we’ve developed a scheme designed to help young families, who in more favourable market conditions would have been able to buy a home through a full mortgage or under shared ownership arrangements.

The project will enable 53 families currently living and/or working within the Borough to move into a brand new home currently being built off Hunts Pond Road in Titchfield Common. This is part of a scheme of 130 new homes for rent and sale for which Government funding of £7,225,000 has been secured by the housing association with our support.

Initially the household will pay what’s known as an intermediate rent. This is a level of rent that’s higher than that paid by those nominated through our waiting list and in social rented accommodation but significantly less than a full market rent. The intention is that over time, the family living in the property will have the option to buy their home through a full mortgage or under shared ownership arrangements.

In addition to the 53 intermediate rental properties, Portsmouth Housing Association is offering 22 brand new homes for sale through the shared ownership scheme. Local residents will be able to purchase shares in a home until 100% of the property has been purchased outright, or choose to stay as a shared owner and pay rent to the housing association on the shares they do not own.

Due for completion in February 2011, the project marks an unprecedented move in affordable housing provision in Fareham that has enabled a development to come forward. The project provides a real opportunity for residents who live and/or work in Fareham to find an affordable home to rent or purchase in a much sought after location during these uncertain financial times.

If you’d like further information on the properties available for intermediate rent or sale through the shared ownership scheme, contact Portsmouth Housing Association, tel: 023 8068 4300 or alternatively, email: sales@firstwessex.org

Reviewing housing for older people

Sheltered Housing schemes in Fareham are all approximately 30 years old, they don’t meet 21st century standards and it’s increasingly difficult to find new tenants when properties become vacant.

As a result we’re running a consultation scheme and particularly want to hear from existing tenants as well as any agency that has an interest in the housing, care and support for older people.

The types of issues being considered include:

• Whether two bedroom homes should be the minimum standard for new housing schemes for older people?

• Whether new schemes should be built on a ‘mixed tenure’ basis, so in one block there would be a mixture of properties for rent via the council or housing association, some properties for part buy/part rent and some for outright sale?

• At the moment anyone over 60 can be considered for sheltered housing but should there be some form of health and support criteria for future residents?

• Should housing management be separated from the care costs and should service charges be more itemised?

The report and a full version of the consultation questions are available at: fareham.gov.uk/consultation. Alternatively hard copies of the documents are available from the Council’s Housing Research & Development Officer, tel: 01329 236100.
Saving money and energy with HeatSeekers

Insulating your home is one of the most cost effective ways of saving energy. You could save up to £150* per year on heating bills through insulating the loft, and cavity wall insulation can reduce bills by £115* a year.

A considerable number of private households have taken advantage of the various insulation discount schemes available and over the three years to 31 March 2009, more than 2,570 homes in Fareham had energy efficiency measures installed.

Our main aim is to promote and encourage local homeowners to take advantage of the various initiatives available. Over the coming winter period we’re embarking on a new initiative with a local insulation contractor utilising the HeatSeekers programme. This is a revolutionary private homes scheme that uses thermal imaging technology to identify properties which would benefit from insulation.

HeatSeekers vehicles will work at night capturing thermal images of the homes in Fareham. In order to obtain an accurate image, it’s necessary for it to be dark and for the heating to be on. The HeatSeekers vehicle will travel along your street and will be clearly identifiable with flashing lights and a surveying sign across the back.

The vehicle will review each house along your street providing a thermal image of the property. The images automatically detect and determine the insulation condition of each property, showing areas of heat loss that would benefit from insulation. The camera can only see the exterior of the building and cannot see through walls or windows, therefore privacy will not be invaded.

If your property has been identified as potentially benefiting from insulation, you’ll be visited by an experienced and approved energy adviser. All advisers will be wearing HeatSeekers branded uniforms and carrying photo ID which you should always ask to see. If you’re in doubt about the adviser at your door, contact 0845 390 0390 to check their identity. The energy adviser will have the personalised thermal report of your home and will gauge your interest in having the levels of insulation improved by discussing the best options available to you. Every household is entitled to receive a grant towards the cost of both loft and cavity wall insulation and the energy adviser will be able to establish your eligibility for either the free or discounted installation option.

Whilst potentially saving you money, the results of the Borough wide survey will also be invaluable to us, as for the first time we’ll have comprehensive information on the current thermal insulation levels of local housing and we’ll be able to focus our own resources to help reduce Fareham’s carbon footprint.

To find out more about HeatSeekers please call the Energy Saving Partnership, tel: 0845 390 9390 or visit: homeheatseekers.co.uk

*Source: Energy Saving Trust
Living in Fareham

Is your rented property up to scratch?

Each year our Environmental Health team helps with concerns about poor living conditions and can usually ensure that the conditions are improved, by dealing with issues such as:

- Damp and mould growth
- Domestic and personal hygiene hazards
- Electrical hazards
- Excess cold or heat
- Falls on stairs, between levels or associated with baths
- Fire hazards
- Lighting
- Location of amenities
- Noise
- Overcrowding
- Pollutants such as asbestos, carbon monoxide, lead etc
- Security
- Structural collapse and falling elements

If the problems in the property are severe the Environmental Health team will contact the landlord and try to get the defects put right. If the landlord does not carry out the work voluntarily, we may serve a legal notice formally requiring the works to be undertaken. Ultimately, we may carry out the works ourselves and then charge the landlord for the cost of doing so. Landlords may also be prosecuted for failing to carry out repairs after a notice has been served.

If you’re living in poor quality accommodation or would like any further information about this subject please contact the Environmental Health team at Fareham.

Gas safe register

Since 1 April 2009 only Gas Safe Engineers can carry out work on gas appliances and installations in your home. If someone other than a Gas Safe Engineer does the gas work in your home, you could be risking the safety of all the occupants. All registered engineers are listed at GasSafeRegister.co.uk or tel: 0800 408 5500 to find a local engineer.

Under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 landlords must arrange maintenance by a Gas Safe Registered engineer for all pipe work, appliances and flues, which they own and have provided for their tenants to use.

Gas safety certificates

To find out what the law says about gas safety in rented properties visit: hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/faqlandlord.htm if you’re a landlord and hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/faqtenant.htm if you’re a tenant.

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that you can’t see, taste or smell. It’s released from the incomplete combustion of carbon containing fuel (eg. gas/coal). This can happen when domestic appliances such as boilers, fires and cookers are wrongly installed or maintained, or when a chimney, flue or air vent is blocked.

Look out for soot or yellow/brown staining on or around appliances; pilot lights frequently blowing out; pilot light or flame burning orange or yellow instead of blue.

You can help to protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by:

- Fitting an audible carbon monoxide alarm that meets European Standard EN 50291
- Keep rooms well ventilated
- Having all appliances, flues and chimneys correctly installed and serviced by trained, reputable, registered and competent engineers

See dh.gov.uk/publications for a leaflet entitled “Carbon monoxide - Are you at risk?” giving further information.

Electrical safety

Each year there are over 30 deaths and nearly 4,000 injuries from electricity in UK homes. The Electrical Safety Council (ESC) has published a new guide entitled the “Landlords’ Guide to Electrical Safety” as part of its campaign to improve electrical safety in privately rented properties. The guide is available to download FREE of charge at esc.org.uk

If you suspect a gas leak you should immediately:

- Contact National Grid Gas Emergency tel: 0800 111 999
- Open all doors and windows
- Shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve
Energy Performance Certificates

Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) came into full effect from 1 October 2008. An EPC provides information about the energy efficiency of the home. Houses which are built, sold or let as a whole or as a self contained unit need to have an EPC. Landlords must make the EPC available to prospective tenants at the earliest opportunity.

Further details can be found at: epcregister.com

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Do you share a rented house with other people? Do you pay rent for a bedsit? If the answer is “Yes” to either of these questions, you probably live in a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). HMOs must have adequate fire precautions and sufficient amenities such as bathrooms and kitchens.

HMOs must be in good repair and have adequate amenities for the tenants. There must also be a satisfactory means of escape in case of fire. We work with Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service and landlords to ensure that the risk of a fire occurring in a HMO is reduced to a minimum and that the means of escape are adequate. Fire safety guidance is available from the LACORS website: lacors.gov.uk

All known HMOs are inspected annually by us and surveys are undertaken on a regular basis to locate new HMOs. If you’re a tenant in a HMO or an existing or potential landlord of a HMO in the Borough of Fareham please contact Regulatory Services, tel: 01329 236100 or email: regulatory@fareham.gov.uk and we can reassure you that amenity and fire safety standards are adequate. Further information can also be found at: fareham.gov.uk and at communities.gov.uk/firesafety

Drainage

If you rent your home from a private or social landlord, you should contact them in the first instance in respect of any problems with the drains or private sewers. Depending on the contract you have, it’s possible that your landlord may be responsible for any repairs to the sewer.

Thinking about renting out your home?

If you’re thinking of renting out your home you need to consider the following points to avoid some of the common pitfalls of private renting:

- You may need the consent of your mortgage lender to rent out your property
- Get references from potential tenants
- Prepare a formal tenancy agreement
- Make sure that any deposits taken from a tenant are properly protected
- Obtain an Energy Performance Certificate
- Find out whether you need a licence for a HMO
- Get all your gas and electrical appliances checked
- Carry out a fire risk assessment and minimise the risk from fire
- Ensure that your property presents no risk to your tenant’s health and safety

Contact Regulatory Services, tel: 01329 236100 or email: regulatory@fareham.gov.uk for further information or a leaflet on this subject is available at: lacors.gov.uk

Other issues that might affect landlords and tenants in rented accommodation include:

- Tenancy deposit scheme
  From April 2007, all deposits taken by landlords and letting agents for assured shorthold tenancies must be protected by a Tenancy Deposit Protection scheme. Visit direct.gov.uk/en/TenancyDeposit/index.htm to find out more.

- Landlords Energy Saving Allowance (LESA)
  If you’re a landlord and make energy saving improvements to your property, such as loft and cavity wall insulation, you could reduce the tax you pay by claiming the Landlord’s Energy Saving Allowance. To find out more and to see if you’re eligible, visit: direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/LettingYourHome/DG_175186
Success

For 14 years Fareham in Bloom has gone from strength to strength and success to success, involving literally thousands of people who participate and give willingly to support what has become well known and respected within the community.

On 2 September at the South and South East regional In Bloom Awards (held at the Grand Hotel in Brighton), Fareham, for the sixth consecutive year was announced Overall Winner with a Gold Award for the Large Town/Small City category.

• A second Gold Award and Overall Winner in the Best Small Park Category was also given to the Sensory Garden, which earlier this year received its Green Flag national parks award.

• A third Gold Award and again Overall Winner was achieved in the Best Countryside Park category for Holly Hill Woodland Park, another Green Flag site.

• Northern Junior Community School in Portchester also received Gold and Overall Hampshire Winner for inspirational educational gardens back in July.

• A further accolade was bestowed upon our founding Fareham in Bloom team member Heather Othen, with the Outstanding Contribution Award for her services to In Bloom and the community.

This was the best overall result yet with a clean sweep of gold awards. Something rarely seen with only 11 golds awarded across the region and is a real credit to the Borough and all those who support the various campaigns and initiatives to protect and develop our parks and open spaces.

Here come the girls ... (and boy!)

The ‘People in Purple’ as they have become affectionately known are those wonderful volunteers, five ladies and one man, who make up the Fareham in Bloom Coordinating Team. Working with the Council’s Horticultural Development Officer throughout the year, they deliver a whole host of activities and initiatives that aim to bring people and parks together, promoting pride and excellence in the parks, horticulture and the environment.

Fareham in Bloom is a year round activity and not just a ‘summer thing’. The six members, Heather Othen, Pam Chisham, Jean Kingdom, Bridget and Geoff Thicket and Heather Scott dedicate the equivalent in time, over the year of two full time posts and much of their success is in developing strong, supportive and long established relationships.
It's not just about flowers!
Of course with the title of Fareham in Bloom it would be easy to think that the work is all about flowers but it's more than that. In essence, the team works to encourage active participation in parks and creating links within the community to develop and protect our green spaces for all to enjoy. The team meets weekly to work on a variety of projects, including:

- Fareham in Bloom gardening competition – this attracts approximately 350 entries annually with the majority of the administration and judging organised by the team along with the annual presentation evening
- Project managing the entry into South and Southeast In Bloom – this involves the preparation of the judge's route and key sites where the team develops an action plan to ensure the entry criteria are met.
- Planning and implementing a programme of events and activities – an extensive programme of events encouraging people into and to take part in parks events, is run through the year with themes such as the Easter egg hunt where some 600 people attended in 2009 and is testimony to the reputation that has been established. This year's Gardens' Open Day saw seven former in bloom winning gardens open for charity and raised an amazing £2,250 for the Mayor of Fareham's Charities and the Studley Horticultural Trust.
- Developing education and awareness of gardening in schools, amongst the community and horticultural groups – the team goes into schools to carry out activities that benefit children and visits groups to promote the work and gain support for Fareham in Bloom. This also involves helping communities to improve the look of their own local areas.
- Clean ups and litter picking – working on the ground, carrying out litter picks, weeding, cleaning up private land and helping to maintain parks such as the Sensory Garden
- Production of publicity material, portfolio, year book and displays – organising promotional displays, writing power point presentations and production of the comprehensive annual portfolio and year books.
- Liaising with sponsors and suppliers – securing funding and benefit in support of the activities, presentation evening and events

In the 14 years that Fareham in Bloom has been established, the Borough has received no less than 31 regional awards. Without the passion and dedication of the 'people in purple' (you’ll see them around the Borough in their bright purple 'In Bloom' clothing) this just would not have been possible.

Somewhere over the rainbow
2010 will see the theme of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' following through as the colour scheme for the floral displays and baskets throughout the Borough bringing a 'kaleidoscope' of colour.

To mark the start of next year's theme, this autumn saw over 20,000 mixed daffodil and crocus bulbs given to communities to bring colour to their local green spaces. This is part of the bulb and tree adoption scheme, which was started 18 years ago to bring carpets of spring flowers to our highways, parks and open spaces.

For further information on parks development and Fareham in Bloom contact Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer, tel: 01329 824543

Sorry - In the autumn '09 edition of Fareham Today, the photograph re: The Fareham Conservation Volunteers was actually a picture of the Whiteley Conservation Group.
A day in the life...

of a Community Development Officer
(Health & Well-being)

By Emma Barrett

In my role, I have responsibility for the development, implementation and monitoring of health improvement and well-being initiatives throughout the Borough, aimed at all the residents of Fareham.

8.45am I start my day by logging on to my computer and checking my emails and messages.

10.00am I visit Fareham Leisure Centre and meet with Cathie Bolwell who co-ordinates the Fareham Exercise Referral Scheme with me. This scheme has been in operation for over 18 months and we have recently been successful in receiving some additional funding from NHS Hampshire. We meet to discuss the arrangements for a launch evening being held at Fareham Leisure Centre to promote the scheme to residents and health professionals.

11.30am I return to the Council Offices where I arrange for posters, promoting two new projects that are being developed in Fareham, the Cams Community Club* for retired residents of the Borough and an eight week Nordic Walking course (pictured above) being funded by Age Concern. These posters are given to main reception, where they arrange for them to be displayed in all of the 42 community notice boards across the Borough.

12.15pm I then take a call from a resident wanting to know more about the new seated exercise sessions ‘Chairobics’ that are taking place at Stubbington Baptist Church. I send them out an information pack.

12.30pm I take a break for lunch. When I return, I begin preparing the walk programmes for October and November. I look at the dates and times the volunteers have given me, saying when they can lead walks and I put together the programmes. Once the programmes are complete, I arrange for copies to be sent out to all residents on our walking to health database, who receive monthly walk programmes.

2.00pm I attend the South East Public Health meeting with my manager Janie Millercip, Community Development Manager. The meeting is also attended by representatives from NHS Hampshire, Gosport and Havant Borough Councils. The board aims to deliver improved services for people living in South East Hampshire. This includes increasing physical activity - working towards achieving 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week, reducing levels of obesity and promoting well-being.

4.00pm After the meeting I check my emails again and respond to them. I also check my diary to see what’s lined up for the next day. Tomorrow, I am working outdoors with Fareham’s new Play Ranger, Paul Carter (pictured above). The Play Ranger service provides FREE open access play for children and their parents in various parts of the Borough. I will also be holding a session to promote healthy eating and physical activity to the children and their families. I prepare the materials and resources that I need to help deliver these sessions.

5.15pm I log off my computer and leave for the day.

*Cams Community Club, for the retired residents of Fareham, offers a range of enjoyable activities that you and your friends can join in with on a daily or weekly basis. The sessions are held in the grounds of Cams Hill School and include activities such as computers and the internet, Nordic Walking, chairobics and art. For more information about the club and to book a session, please contact Cams Hill School, tel: 01329 231641.
How are we doing?

It’s that time again when we report back to you on how we’re doing as a council, under our seven main priorities for the Borough, which are:

- Protecting and enhancing the environment
- Maintaining and extending prosperity
- A safe and healthy place to live and work
- A balanced housing market
- Leisure for health and for fun
- Strong and inclusive communities
- A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice council

What has Fareham Borough Council achieved between 01 April 2008 and 31 March 2009?

Protecting and enhancing the environment

Plan a sustainable environment
The provision of a new community north of the M27 was confirmed, comprising of up to 8,000 new homes. We set up a Community Liaison Group to assist in developing this Strategic Development Area.

Specific proposals for key development sites in Fareham Town Centre, Coldeast and Daedalus. A revised Local Development Scheme, outlining the implementation of the Local Development Framework was approved by the Government.

Manage new development
Planning Development Control maintained a very high level of performance throughout the year, processing more than 90% of planning applications within the required timescale.

A new customer enquiry service from the Customer Service Centre is available and planning information on fareham.gov.uk has been improved.

Protect the built heritage and natural environment
Improvements were made to Titchfield Square; Lower Quay; and the western end of West Street, Fareham.

We have completed an assessment of all 13 conservation areas within the Borough.

Respond to climate change
The Council has developed a climate change strategy and action plan.

Working with the Environment Centre in Southampton, we’re on target to reduce energy use in the home by 30% by 2011.

Our significant involvement with PUSH (the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) has enabled residents to apply for a Home Improvement Loan as part of PUSH 4 Safer Homes.

Manage public and open spaces
The Borough of Fareham was awarded Gold and overall regional winner at the South and South East In Bloom Awards.

The prestigious Green Flag was awarded to Holly Hill Woodland Park.

Random samples of locations indicated significant improvement in cleanliness across the Borough.

We’ve taken action to discourage littering; issuing fixed penalty notices and successfully prosecuting four offenders for non-payment.

A full inspection to identify trees that are a risk to the public has been carried out by the Council. We signed up to a contract for the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles, saving more than £50 per vehicle.

Efficient and effective waste collection service
The Council continues to have one of the best household waste and recycling rates in Hampshire, 42.6% of waste was recycled in 2008/09.

Maintaining and extending prosperity

Enable employment opportunities
The Council has made significant efforts to help and support residents and the local economy to cope with the effects of the economic downturn.

We have increased resources in Housing Benefits and work closely with Job Centre Plus.
How are we doing?

Vibrant town and district centres
Fareham Town Centre Management, supported by the Council, organised the ‘Let’s celebrate Fareham past and present’ event in September 2008, which brought the two ends of West Street together.

Transport and mobility needs
Transport for South Hampshire was successful in its bid for the Fareham and Gosport Bus Rapid Transit link. We’ll play a key role in its implementation and future phases of the scheme.

A safe and healthy place to live and work
Reduce crime and disorder
The Community Safety Partnership continues to reduce crime across the Borough. In 2007/08 overall crime reduced by just under 8%, this reduction continued by a further 1%.

Work has been undertaken to complete a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour, resulting in a revised action plan.

The partnership has also tackled alcohol related crime by banning the sale of alcohol to under 21s and focusing on preventative education.

Protect the health and safety of people
The Council aims to improve air quality caused by traffic emissions with air quality management areas in Fareham.

We have taken steps to improve our ability to respond to emergencies which affect public safety.

The out-of-hours service (which responds to noise and other complaints) continues to be popular with more than 650 calls in 2008/09, resulting in over 150 night-time visits.

We completed 100% of planned inspections of health, safety and licensing of food premises and work places.

Promote good health
During 2008/09 the Council and Fareham Leisure Centre provided an exercise referral scheme for residents of Fareham to promote physical activity.

Ensure new and existing buildings are safe
The Building Control Partnership (BCP) provides a building control service to Fareham and Gosport, and has maintained a healthy financial return this year.

The BCP has been awarded a four year contract to supply Hampshire County Council and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services with building regulation and training services for all their new and altered buildings.

Provide leisure and cultural opportunities
New football facilities at Seafield Park, Hill Head opened in May 2008.

We reduced the net cost of Ferneham Hall by more than £30,000 in 2008/09.

The demand for the use of cricket pitches in the Borough has exceeded the number available.

We have a new policy to ensure cricket clubs have access to pitches which fulfil their needs.

A programme of physical activities has been developed across the Borough for 2009/10.

A Play Ranger has been appointed to promote opportunities for children and young people, including special events for 12 to 19 year-olds where facilities are less developed.

A balanced housing market
Affordable housing
We’ve exceeded our target to provide 100 affordable homes across the Borough. Overall, 139 households have moved into new affordable homes of which 124 were provided thanks to the council and housing associations.

We’ve worked with Hampshire County Council and Gosport Borough Council to provide supported accommodation for vulnerable 16 and 17 year-olds who are homeless.

A ‘dry house’ was opened in September 2008, providing accommodation and support for people who have completed treatment for drug or alcohol addiction.

Working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, 16 vulnerable people over the age of 18 have been housed in mainstream housing.
Prevent homelessness
Fareham reduced the number of homeless families in temporary accommodation from 135 to 24, already meeting the Government’s target to reduce this by 50% by March 2010.

Strong and inclusive communities

Build stronger communities
As a key member of the LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) we’ve helped develop a community strategy setting out a vision to improve the quality of life for all residents over the next 10 years.

Our community action teams (CATs) have become a permanent feature of the community, improving the way in which the Council communicates and responds to feedback.

We’ve set up an engagement panel which consults residents from the Borough, who have signed up to it, on a wide range of views regarding the services the Council provides.

Build more inclusive communities
In the 2007 annual survey of residents’ satisfaction, 87% of residents who had contacted the Council in the last 12 months were satisfied with the way their enquiries were handled. 89% of residents find the Council very welcoming.

Analysing the contacts made with the Council during 2008/09, only 11% were avoidable, indicating we’re achieving our objective to provide information, guidance and advice that is accurate and timely. The total number of contacts with the Council reduced by 27% between 2007 and 2008.

Enable people to play an active part in society
Community Action Fareham officially received the keys to new offices in Trinity Street, where they continue to carry out the important work they do providing support to voluntary organisations in the area. The Council invested £528,000 to provide these offices and affordable homes within the same building.

We provided almost £30,000 of grants to not-for-profit organisations to support their work.

Demand for the Council’s concessionary travel scheme continues to increase with more than 20,000 bus pass holders now enjoying free off peak travel on local bus services.

Pay Housing Benefit
The Benefits Administration Service has maintained its excellent performance, whilst experiencing a significant increase in new applications for housing and council tax benefits as a result of the economic downturn.

A dynamic, prudent, progressive, best practice Council

Ensure adequate corporate governance arrangements
The Council continued to maintain excellent performance in the amount of council tax (98.6%) and business rates (99.4%) it collected.

We received positive feedback from the external auditors, as part of their annual audit and inspection letter.

Ensure transparent decision making
The role and responsibilities of the Council’s Scrutiny Board was reviewed to improve the effectiveness of scrutiny and policy development.

Ensure vibrant local democracy
New and more accessible methods for residents to confirm their details for the electoral register were successfully introduced.

Ensure adequate arrangements to secure continuous improvement
Short and concise job advertisements were introduced, saving money and directing applicants to our website; resulting in more than 90% of job applicants being submitted online.

The Council continued to reduce the number of days lost due to sickness absence. The average number of days lost per employee in 2008/09 was 6.7 days, the lowest in Hampshire.

The Council identified cash savings of more than £100,000 to offset reduced income in key services such as planning development control and land searches. This was mainly achieved by redeploying staff with spare capacity into other Council roles.
Your future, your Fareham

Your Priorities

As a local authority, we’re required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough that sets out our vision to improve the quality of life for all our current and future residents. Our local strategic partnership, known as ‘networkfareham’, has been asking people (including Fareham Today readers, via the summer ‘09 edition) what can be changed or improved on to make Fareham a better place to live, work and visit.

Over 650 replies were received and out of the 22 issues we thought we needed to focus on, your top five priorities are:

1. Responding to community priorities in reducing anti-social behaviour.
2. Reducing traffic congestion.
3. Improving the life chances of children and young people.
4. Empowering people to have a greater voice in the provision of services.
5. Enabling older people to remain at home for as long as possible.

Lots of comments were received about the need to reduce traffic congestion, improve public transport and increase the number of cycle lanes. Traffic calming measures, more pedestrian crossings and action against parking on verges and school run chaos also attracted some strong views.

We were also asked to say more about the proposed Strategic Development Area to the north of Fareham. This will result in up to an estimated 8,000 new homes being built to the north of the M27 motorway. We are clear that our vision for Fareham as a pleasant place in which to live and work will apply just as much to this new development, as to our existing communities.

networkfareham will be asked to look at all the comments received and come up with ideas and actions to address your priorities. We’ll be updating the strategy document to reflect the views received.

In the meantime, a big thank you goes to everyone who took part. The debate continues and we look forward to working with you to make it all happen.

Services for Young People

AGED 13–19?

Hampshire Connexions & Fareham Youth Team offer a range of services and activities for young people, such as:

- Funding for young people’s projects
- Guidance on education, careers, jobs, courses and apprenticeships
- Information on housing, health, relationships, money and more

Want to know more? Contact:

- Telephone: 0845 603 5621*
- Web: www.hants.gov.uk/youth
- Email: youth.info@hants.gov.uk

*Calls to 0845 numbers are free on some BT call plans but will cost between 4p (local rate) and 6p (national rate) per minute for BT customers not on a plan. Calls made using other service providers or mobiles may cost more.
Community Action Teams

The next round of Community Action Team meetings starts in the New Year. As usual, these meetings offer you the opportunity to air your views and ask questions about the local issues that matter to you. You'll be able to hear first hand about what's going on in your area and tell us what you'd like to happen.

Community Action Team meetings in early 2010
All meetings start at 7pm until 8.30pm and take place in six areas across the Borough:
- Fareham South-West - Wed 20 Jan at Redlands School, Redlands Lane
- Titchfield - Tue 26 Jan at Catisfield Memorial Hall, Catisfield Lane
- Crofton - Mon 1 Feb at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane
- Portchester - Thu 4 Feb at Portchester Community Centre, Westlands Grove
- Fareham North-East - Wed 10 Feb at Uplands County Primary School, Morshead Crescent
- Western Wards - Wed 17 Mar at St John's Church Main Hall, 7 Church Road

Visit: fareham.gov.uk/cats for more information

The six CAT Chairmen for the Borough of Fareham with their respective Officers are:
- Cllr Marian Ellerton (Western Wards), Janine Hensman
- Cllr John Bryant (Fareham North-East), Mark Dunning
- Cllr Nick Walker (Portchester), Richard Wright
- Cllr Tiffany Harper (Titchfield), Narinder Bains
- Cllr Leslie Keeble (Fareham South-West), Annette Rickman
- Cllr Kay Mandy (Crofton), Gerry Hill-Jones

Business

Smarter Working at Fareham Enterprise Centre

Fareham Enterprise Centre (FEC) offers small workshops and offices, which are ideal for new and growing small businesses. The centre is leased to Enterprise First and comprises of 18 workshops and 12 air-conditioned offices ranging in size from 185 sq ft to 750 sq ft. On site there’s a café, a reception and over 90 FREE parking spaces and CCTV security. These low cost units are offered on an ‘easy in, easy out’ monthly licence, with fees including business rates, water and waste disposal. The centre is located just a couple of minutes from Fareham town centre and 5 minutes from the M27.

Current tenants include IT and precision engineering specialists, electricians, a stationery wholesaler and even a resident physiotherapist!

As part of Hampshire’s response to the recession, FEC has committed to host one of e-Hampshire’s “Smarter Working Centres”, (SWCs), which will provide a low cost, local work, training and meeting venue for commuters, remote workers, small businesses and various ‘self-help groups’.

Fully accredited Enterprise First Business Advisers will be available – sometimes without appointment and usually FREE of charge to users, who will be able to link in to a wealth of business information and advice.

For more information contact Robin Evans, Geraldine May or Marion Stoddard, tel: 01329 317222
or visit: farehamenterprisecentre.co.uk
or contact Tony Mundy, Economic Development Manager, tel: 01329 824686 or email: tmundy@fareham.gov.uk
Fareham has three long established and active Lions Clubs within the Borough; Swanwick, Fareham and the Crofton Lions. All of these clubs have an active membership which consists of people from all walks of life, each giving a couple of hours a month to discuss and help organise fund raising events for their area. These events are organised and run by the volunteers from the Lions clubs and every penny of the funds raised is used for charitable purposes either locally or globally.

These lions clubs are part of an international organisation of approximately 1.4 million men and women who volunteer their time to humanitarian causes in their local and international communities. Their motto is “We Serve” and they aim to serve all who are less fortunate than themselves.

In the last year the Swanwick Lions Club was involved in many community based events ranging from village fêtes and carnivals to a duck racing event.

Generally there are no admission fees to these clubs although monthly subscription charges for members may apply.

Did you know that...?

For further information, visit the following websites: swanwicklions.org.uk  farehamlions.org.uk  croftonlions.org.uk
DECEMBER/JANUARY

Christmas Party Nights start on Tuesday 8 December, with seven dates to choose from each starting at 7:30pm at a cost of £32. See below for contact details to book your tickets.

Christmas Murder Mystery Meals will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9, Thursday 10 and Wednesday 16 December at a cost of £34. See below for contact details to book your tickets.

FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 4</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Syd Lawrence Orchestra</td>
<td>£16 (£15 Leisure card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£17.50, £15, £12 &amp; £7 (£16s/ students under 19 - £1, students over 19 - 1/3 price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>An Audience with Sally Morgan</td>
<td>£18.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>SNAP Dance Night</td>
<td>£6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 13</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Edwin Starr Band starring Angelo Starr</td>
<td>£17.50 (16.50 Leisure Card) Sentimental Saver £5 pair of tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 14</td>
<td>10:30 - 16:30</td>
<td>Antique Fair</td>
<td>£1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>STP productions presents: Fame</td>
<td>£12 (£16s/Over 60s £10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat. matinée 14:30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Jethro</td>
<td>£18.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 25</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>ABBA Mania</td>
<td>£16 (£15 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Singalonga Hairspray</td>
<td>£14 (£16s £12, family of 4 £44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Barbara Dickson</td>
<td>£19.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Russell Kane's Fakespeare</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>SNAP Dance Night</td>
<td>£6 in advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Pam Ayres</td>
<td>£17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 13</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>American Superslam Wrestling</td>
<td>£12 (£16s £10, family 2+2 £35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Musical Society presents:</td>
<td>£12 &amp; £10 (£16s/Over 60s £10.50 &amp; £8.50 Tue only - all seats £9.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnificent Musicals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 21</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Talyllyn Model Railway Exhibition 2010</td>
<td>£4 (£16s/Over 60s £3, family 2+2 £10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 25</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Moscow Ballet La Classique presents:</td>
<td>£20 &amp; £19 (£16s £18.50 &amp; £17.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Sleeping Beauty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 28</td>
<td>11:00 - 16:30</td>
<td>The All Woman Show</td>
<td>£3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: fernehamhall.co.uk