

Western Wards

FOCUS



The party
that speaks
for YOU

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS are the only opposition party on Fareham Council - it's our councillors who speak up for you when the ruling group gets it wrong.

In many ways, the Tory ruling group is getting it badly wrong for the people of Locks Heath and Park Gate.

Here and overleaf we set out some of the issues affecting your local community, and our responses to them.

But it's YOUR responses that matter. Let us know what YOU think.

And if you want to do something about it, think about joining your local Liberal Democrat team.



The growing crisis in our classrooms

APART from St John the Baptist School in Titchfield Common, all our local primary schools are more or less full.

Brookfield Community School and Language College is totally full. (Hampshire County Council figures 2007).

We think Brookfield has got much too large with 1,754 students.

Yet though the shortage of school places is reaching crisis point, housing development still goes on.



We urge Hampshire County Council to carry forward its site appraisal for a new Primary School at Whiteley and to explore options for a further secondary school in the Park Gate/ Whiteley area.

WE ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOU

Where did green and pleasant land go?

WE ARE opposed to the growing imbalance between flats and houses in the borough.

So many houses with large gardens have been sold and the land redeveloped as flats.

This has particularly hit Park Gate.

In 2006/7 251 houses were built in the Borough of Fareham and 330 flats, the vast majority of

which were only one or two bedroom.

Developers have to make a contribution to open space. But what use is their financial contribution if we cannot find anywhere to locate open space in a highly urbanised Borough?



More news on www.farehamlibdems.org.uk

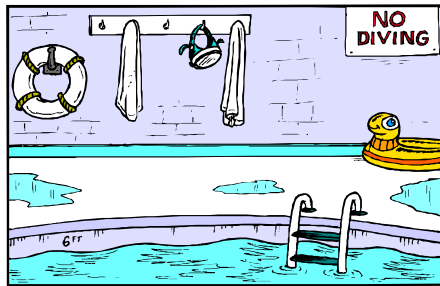
Is new swimming pool just a pipe dream?

THE budget presentation this year by Fareham Council's ruling Tories made much of the assertion that providing a new swimming pool for the Western Wards by 2009 was a priority.

But by June, the council's corporate improvement plan admitted that the project had been delayed because of difficulties in persuading the owners of the Lockwood shopping centre to release covenants to allow a pool to be built there.

The feasibility of other sites was being considered, and the most obvious would be land at the former Coldeast Hospital.

But it's clearly unrealistic to imagine that all the work - commissioning a design, submitting plans and getting them ap-



proved, preparing a site and constructing a building - can be completed in a few months.

Pressure for a new pool will become even more intense given the Government's intention to provide free swimming for over-60s and under-16s. But it's not clear whether government funding for this will meet the cost.

How much longer do residents in the west of Fareham have to wait for a decent local pool?

Keeping a grip on your fuel bills

If you have problems with your gas and electricity suppliers, phone EnergyWatch 0845 906 0708.

One of our Liberal Democrat councillors said, 'The Company I use put my direct debit up by 75% (even though my account was in credit). I went through EnergyWatch and the amount was reduced to the right charge for the energy I use.'

Hospital at last - but where are the beds?

THE NEW Fareham Community hospital at Coldeast will be very welcome. But it's worrying that there will be no in-patient care, except for a possible maternity unit. Residents could still face a long trek to Portsmouth or Gosport to visit family members in hospital.

We need to do better for our youngsters

THE spring/summer round of Fareham council's Community Action Team meetings focused on young people, with teenagers from the Fareham Youth Council talking about their programme.

But answers to their questions from council leaders and officials revealed how badly served youngsters are in our area - Hampshire has one of the worst-funded youth services in the country.

The Genesis Centre in Locks Heath should be a vibrant meeting place for young people in the western wards, but it has never been used to its full potential. Liberal Democrats say investment in our young people must be a priority at all levels of government.

If you would like to help in our campaigning, please complete and return this form.

I would like to hear more about the Liberal Democrats

I would like to become a member, please send me an application form

I can deliver leaflets in my area.....

I can make a donation to the Lib Dems:

£50 £20 £10 Other £_____

Name/s.....

Address.....

Phone

E-mail.....

Return to:

Cllr Jack Englefield, 1 Lower Church Road, Titchfield Common PO14 4PW, 01489 583284

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