

Delivered free  
to 40,000  
homes in  
Fareham

Autumn 2004



# WESTMINSTER REPORT

from your MP – Mark Hoban



# MP CAMPAIGNS FOR GREATER LOCAL CONTROL OVER PLANNING



Presenting  
the petition  
in the House  
of Commons

See one of my main jobs as your MP to be a strong voice in Westminster for the concerns of local people. In this edition of the Westminster Report, you will read about me speaking up in Westminster about the fate of the ONS office in Titchfield, the problems of personal debt, the need to change the planning laws to reflect the concerns of local people and the plight of Equitable Life pensioners in Fareham. I have been to see the Planning Minister with local councillors to talk about the future of Coldeast. I have also taken trade union leaders to see a Treasury Minister to talk about the future of ONS.

I am able to talk about these issues because I listen to your views. That is why I spend a lot of my time visiting local organisations, schools and businesses not to lecture or to preach but to hear what you, and they, have to say.

I put forward your concerns locally too. I have met the Primary Care Trust to argue the case for more facilities for the community hospital and the Chief Executive of the Portsmouth Hospitals Trust to talk about your concerns over the health service.

To speak up on your behalf I need to hear your views, don't be shy about contacting me to tell me what you think should happen in our community or nationally. You can e-mail me at [mail@markhoban.com](mailto:mail@markhoban.com), give feedback through [www.markhoban.com](http://www.markhoban.com) or write to me at the House of Commons. You cannot assume that somebody else is speaking up on your behalf. Chances are that they are not. So if you have something to say, get in touch. When I speak in Westminster, tackle Government ministers or push for action locally, it is your views that are being heard.

Mark Hoban MP

**F**ollowing a concerted effort by people across the Western Wards, Titchfield, Fareham and Portchester, Mark Hoban presented a 1,300 signature petition to the House of Commons asking for greater local control over planning.

Mark has been campaigning for greater local involvement in planning since he was elected, because he is angry that local people do not have a bigger say in the decisions that affect our community. He has regularly spoken about planning in the House of Commons. Mark said "The louder our voices are heard on planning, the more likely it is that these laws will be changed. Too often local people can't change planning decisions

because of Government rules about the number of houses that can be built on a plot and, indeed, where they are built. I know from my own postbag and talking to local people that this makes them very angry. I want to see the law changed to ensure we all have a real voice on planning."

Together with Cllr. Sean Woodward, the Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Mark Hoban led a group to meet Planning Minister Keith Hill to ensure that local people's voices would be heard over developments at Coldeast and HMS Daedalus. The Minister promised that local people would have a real say in the plans for these sites.



**WHAT'S  
YOUR  
LOCAL  
MP,  
MARK  
HOBAN  
UP TO?  
SEE INSIDE**

INSIDE

Page 2

- ONS U-Turn
- Equitable Life inquiry
- Teaching through football

Page 3

- Going green
- Easier access
- Speak up!

Page 4

- In your own words
- Tell Mark what you think
- Contact your MP

# 200 JOBS TO GO AT ONS AS GOVERNMENT DOES U-TURN

Just when ONS staff thought their jobs were safe, Chancellor Gordon Brown did a massive U-turn. Following a successful campaign against the wholesale closure of the ONS office at Titchfield, the Chancellor announced that some jobs would go after all. Whilst the vast majority of jobs at Titchfield are safe, over 200 posts will move to Newport, Wales.

Mark Hoban has been working with trade union leaders at Titchfield to

oppose these further job losses and took them to meet Stephen Timms, the Treasury Minister responsible for ONS.

Mark said "These job losses are the result of a political decision. In April, I was told the closure of Titchfield was off the agenda because it would be a poor use of taxpayers' money. Now, we are told that over 200 jobs will go. This U-turn will cost local people their jobs. This is a waste of taxpayers' money."



Mark outside the Treasury office with Chris Watts, Sue Phelan and Gary Osman from ONS

# Equitable Life inquiry reopens

Following pressure from Mark Hoban, the Parliamentary Ombudsman has agreed to re-open her inquiry into whether or not it was the fault of the Government that people who invested in Equitable Life lost money.

Mark said "I am delighted that the Ombudsman has re-opened her inquiry. I know that a lot of people are dependant upon Equitable Life for their pensions and feel betrayed by the way the Government has tried to avoid taking the blame for this. This inquiry should sort out this problem once and for all.

"I want people to enjoy their retirement and not to have to worry about their income. We need to encourage savings, but people won't save if they think their savings are at risk. The Government needs to act to restore the credibility of the pensions industry following the collapse of Equitable Life and company pension schemes."

# DEBTS MOUNT, AS INTEREST RATES RISE...

**Local MP raises concerns as the amount Britain owes breaks the trillion pound barrier.**

**As personal debt hit the trillion pound barrier, Mark Hoban spoke in the House of Commons about the potential risks of this.**

Fareham has the fifth highest proportion of homeowners in the country according to the 2001 Census and has a much greater exposure than other parts of Britain to the problems that arise when interest rates increase. Mark said that Britain needs a stable economy to maintain high levels of employment and low interest rates to help sustain the economy.

In his speech, he highlighted the need for further incentives to save, to offset

increased borrowings. The housing market in South East Hampshire has been fuelled by people buying second homes to rent out and provide their pension. Mark called for savings policies which encourage more people to save for retirement, but at the same time recognising that people do not want all their money locked up until they retire.

Mark said "I want to see savings encouraged. ISAs are not as attractive as the PEPs and TESSAs that used to be available. We need new ways of savings that reflect the need of people to dip into their savings before they retire backed by proper incentives to save from Government. I think this is a priority for local people."

# Teaching English through football

When Mark Hoban went to St Mary's Stadium in Southampton it wasn't football that was on his mind. The Premier League invited Mark to see the work that football clubs are doing to help raise the game when it comes to teaching English, maths and a whole range of other subjects.

Having been briefed by the Premier League about the great work on education that

clubs are doing, Mark asked if he could see this in action at Portsmouth and Southampton.

After the visit to St. Mary's Stadium, Mark said "It was good to see the positive work that football can do. Too often, football is in the news for the wrong reasons. I heard about how children can learn using footballing themes, for example, teaching averages using the height of players ranging from Kevin Phillips to

Peter Crouch. Using real life examples, Chris Meech who runs the Study Centre, can bring subjects such as maths alive.

"I commend the work that Southampton are doing. I am looking forward to finding out what local rivals Portsmouth do when I visit them later in the year."



Mark Hoban with Chris Meech and Mark Abrahams at St. Mary's Stadium

To contact your local MP: call 01329 233573 or email [mail@markhoban.com](mailto:mail@markhoban.com)

# MARK GOES GREEN



Mark Hoban is supporting the Fareham Borough Council's campaign to increase to 40% the amount of waste that is recycled.

Earlier this year, Mark launched an aluminium recycling scheme, which turns unwanted clean aluminium foil into hard cash for local organisations. He has now taken delivery of a composting bin for green waste.

Mark said "We all need to do what we can to help recycle our rubbish. The target that has been imposed by central government on Fareham is tough given its already excellent recycling record. I am looking forward to being able to use the compost from our bin to help our garden grow faster and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites. I urge all of you to go out and buy a composting bin."



Mark is doing his bit to promote sustainable living

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO

## EASIER ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### Refurbishment makes banking easier



**Elderly and disabled customers have easier access to banking services in Fareham thanks to the refurbished Barclays branch in West Street.**

The changes were officially launched in July by Carl Gumbrell, a representative of Fareham Access Group, Mark Hoban and the Chief Executive of UK banking for Barclays, Roger Davis.

Photo shows L to R – Roger Davis Chief Executive UK Banking, Karen Mayer, branch manager, Mark Hoban MP. Front – Carl Gumbrell – representative Fareham Access Group

Barclays has made a major investment in the branch by providing level access which leads customers through power-assisted doors into the branch. The layout of the banking hall has been changed to allow people in wheelchairs or those with pushchairs to move around the hall more freely.

Other new features include a hearing induction loop at every till for people using hearing aids and a portable loop for use in the meeting room. Also the meeting room has been increased in size and the door widened to allow access for customers in wheelchairs.

Mark Hoban said "I welcome the improvement in access to Barclays Bank. They, like every other business, have to improve access for the disabled to their premises. It is important that as many people as possible have easy access to banks, shops and other facilities that most of us take for granted."

Carl Gumbrell who lives in Fareham said: "I am impressed with the new facilities, there is plenty of space to move around in the branch and the low level till is great."

## Solent Speakers launched

A new group, Solent Speakers, has been set up in Fareham to help people gain confidence and experience in public speaking. At a recent meeting, Mark Hoban was their guest speaker and he talked about the perils and pitfalls of speaking in the House of Commons.

Mark said "I speak for a living, yet I received no training in how to do it. Clubs like this provide excellent support to people who want to speak in public, fluently and confidently. I would recommend it to anyone whether a budding politician or the father of the bride."

If you are interested in Solent Speakers, which meets at the Titchfield Community Centre, please contact Mike Partridge on 07710 438726 or Terry Drummond on 02392 385853.

Their website is [www.solent-speakers.org.uk](http://www.solent-speakers.org.uk)



Mark pictured with members of the Solent Speakers club in Fareham.

# Mark Hoban MP working for you all year round

## Need to contact your MP?

### Mark Hoban MP

Member of Parliament for Fareham



14 East Street  
Fareham  
PO16 0BN  
Tel: 01329 233573  
Fax: 01329 234197  
Email: [mail@markhoban.com](mailto:mail@markhoban.com)  
Website: [www.markhoban.com](http://www.markhoban.com)

House of Commons  
Westminster  
London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 0207 219 8191  
Fax: 0207 219 1709  
Email: [mail@markhoban.com](mailto:mail@markhoban.com)  
Website: [www.markhoban.com](http://www.markhoban.com)

Take a look at Mark's website to catch up on his latest news at:

[www.markhoban.com](http://www.markhoban.com)

## In your own words

Below are extracts from some of the letters Mark has received from constituents he has helped. If you would like Mark to help you then please contact him at one of the addresses on the left.

"My gratitude to your hard work for Fareham people"  
**Mrs K – Catisfield**

"Thank you and your office for your assistance in this matter, without which I very much doubt a resolution would have been forthcoming"  
**Mr R – Warsash**

"Thank you for your intervention and your very quick response. I look forward to a return to power of a Conservative Government when the NHS situation will be greatly improved"  
**Mrs P – Sarisbury Green**

"I feel if you had not intervened on my behalf then I would have had to wait a lot longer to get things sorted out one way or another"  
**Miss G – Fareham**

"Thank you indeed for your considerable help in me getting my state pension resolved."  
**Mrs K – Fareham**

"I would like to thank you for speaking to social services for myself and my family. There are still issues to be resolved but I wanted to thank you for your support"  
**Miss R – Titchfield**

"Thank you very much for your efforts on behalf of the local residents"  
**Mr T – Fareham**

"I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work on our behalf. It is nice to know that things can get done"  
**Mr S – Titchfield**

"May I also say how much I value the email from Mark Hoban to know what is going on in Fareham and the actions he is taking on our behalf"  
**Mr B – Fareham**

"My wife and I would wish to thank you for your interest and your diligence in enquiring into this matter on our behalf"  
**Mr M – Locks Heath**

"I would like to thank you for your help and support re my mother's illness"  
**Mr P – Catisfield**

"It was kind of you to keep me informed, thank you for your continued interest in this matter"  
**Mrs F – Fareham**

"Thank you for your support with my son. It has really restored my confidence in politicians"  
**Miss R – Fareham**

"This matter has been resolved to my complete satisfaction and I would like to thank you for your help"  
**Mr B – Portchester**

## Tell your MP what YOU think

Your views are important to me. If you have any worries or concerns that you think I may be able to help with, I would be delighted to hear from you.

