

## NEWS RELEASE – FAREHAM COMPACT PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS

**Compact**

working together better together

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(Picture embedded on page 2 and being sent, also, as a separate attachment) - Word count = 500

### **‘Partnership powers progress’**

Success and future plans topped the agenda at the Annual Event of Fareham’s award-winning partnership between voluntary and public sector organisations. Called ‘Compact’ - it aims to reduce bureaucracy, make funding arrangements fairer, improve consultation and make better use of voluntary sector skills.

A prestigious award was presented by Nick Drew, Policy Adviser, The Commission for the Compact. It commended Fareham Compact Partners Group for communicating achievements and plans and was presented to group co-chairpersons, Paul O’Beirne, Chief Executive, Fareham Community Action and Catherine Ely, Head of Community Development, Fareham Borough Council.

The award was one of only 23 from throughout hundreds of boroughs in England and Wales which run Compacts.

Nick, pictured with Paul and Catherine, said: “Fareham’s Compact Partners Group thoroughly deserved this award. They’ve worked hard, been really creative and have plans including a unique reference group to which issues can be referred.”

He added: There is continued commitment to the Compact nationally, from the Prime Minister downwards. For us, Local Compacts in places like Fareham are very important and help us make a difference nationally. Most partnership working between the public and voluntary sectors takes place locally, and good partnership working is at the heart of making services work better.”

‘Strengthening Links’ was the theme of the meeting, attended by representatives of over 40 local organisations from both sectors. Compact champions who spoke at the meeting, represented, Fareham Borough Council, The Commission for The Compact, Hampshire Constabulary, Parkinsons Disease Society and Fareham Community Action.

Paul O’Beirne said: “Fareham’s volunteer organisations are extremely active, number over 400 and contribute hugely to Fareham’s economic and social wellbeing. The value of their activity is £42million annually. Receiving the award was a double celebration, as it coincided with our Compact’s 5<sup>th</sup> birthday!

“Not only that, but we have also just received the good news from Fareham Borough Council that it has increased our funding to support Fareham’s voluntary groups by £5,000.”

The busy agenda, kicked off with singing by the 50 plus choir led by Fred Bridges, followed by a get-to-know-you ice-breaker, champions’ speeches, an interactive session to flag up issues and priorities, a light-hearted Weakest Link sketch with an Anne Robinson look-alike and closed with a ‘Strongest Link’ panel of experts chaired by Councillor Connie Hockley, The Borough Council’s Executive Member with lead responsibility for the Community.

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Trevor Cartwright, Fareham Borough Council's Compact Champion and Executive Member for Service Performance & Improvement, summed up, everyone's feel-good factor, saying: "I've been involved with this since launching the Council's involvement five years ago. We all recognised that we needed to work more closely together. We now have a can-do, will-do attitude to making our partnerships even more powerful – for the good of everyone in the community."

Fareham Compact Partners Group would like to hear from you if you represent a public or voluntary sector organisation and want to help the partnership make even more progress.

More information is available from Fareham Community Action (01329 231899) and the web site is [www.farehamcompact.org.uk](http://www.farehamcompact.org.uk)



**Caption:** Receiving Fareham's award, from, centre, Nick Drew, Policy Adviser, The Commission for The Compact, left Catherine Ely and, right, Paul O'Beirne, on behalf of The Fareham Compact Partners Group