



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

RESIDENTS' MEETING

Tuesday 28 March 2017

at 7.30pm

The Harlington, Fleet

1) INTRODUCTION

The General Manager of the Harlington, Alex Robins, explained the fire exit procedure and the location of the facilities.

He took the opportunity on behalf of all the staff to say thank you to all the Councillors of Fleet Town Council who work tirelessly and without any financial reward, to make Fleet a better place to live.

2) WELCOME

The Chairman of the Council. Cllr Schofield, welcomed the 176 people present to the seventh annual Residents' Meeting

Although the holding of the meeting was a statutory requirement, it was not a Council meeting but a meeting for the residents of Fleet

3) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the sixth Annual Residents' Meeting held on Tuesday 5 April 2016 were adopted as a correct record.

4) FLEET TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTATION

a) Over view of the last year

Cllr Einchcomb, the Chairman of the Recreation Leisure and Amenities Committee, opened the presentation of the work of the past year by thanking the many people in Fleet who through various groups, make things happen

Cllr Einchcomb began with reminding the meeting who did what :

Hampshire County Council :

- Social Services
- Education
- Highways
- Libraries

- Environment
- Street lighting
- Cycle Ways

Hart District Council :

- Housing
- Planning
- Building Control
- Licensing
- Parking
- Refuse Collection
- Leisure centre
- Street cleansing
- Dog Warden

Fleet Town Council

- Parks
- Cemetery
- Harlington
- Ancells Community Centre
- Floral displays
- Xmas lights
- War memorial
- Annual Residents' Meeting
- Consultee on planning issues
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There were currently 15 town councillors and Cllr Einchcomb took the opportunity to touch on the sad loss of Cllr Steve Cantle just before Christmas 2016

Cllr Einchcomb referred to the small team of staff who manage the Harlington, Ancells Community Centre and Town Council functions.

Over the past year the following achievements had been made:

- Refurbishment of the tennis courts through the support of the Lawn Tennis Association who had identified Fleet as being an area ripe for the development of tennis. This provided local residents with the opportunity for unlimited tennis court access for £38pa. The Town Clerk, Janet Stanton, was thanked for her efforts in securing the grant from the LTA.
- Improvements to the environment of the cemetery and its successful entry into South and South East in Bloom
- The successful pantomime season from the local Starburst Theatre Company
- Christmas Day lunch for 42 people through the great efforts of Churches Together
- The continuation of the Fleet Link service with efforts being made with neighbouring parishes to introduce an additional scheduled service

- Continuation of services for young people including skatepark, playgrounds, youth football and support to guides and scouts
- The continuing hard work of the 'Friends' groups with special thanks to Eileen Bye of the Friends of Oakley Park
- Success in South and South East in Bloom for Oakley Park and Ancells and with thanks to the grounds maintenance contractor for his support in this
- The completion of the work by Fleet Future with huge thanks to Michael Butcher for his leadership of the group
- The success of the Fleet Business Forum to create a Business Improvement District for Fleet which would bring £750,000 of investment by local business over the next 5 years.
- The Annual Action Day which this year will be on 20 May 2017-all invited to help!
- Support of other groups and organisations through grants, use of facilities etc
- The consultation on the Harlington Development project
- Continuing the investigation of the possibility of a new multi use pavilion at Calthorpe Park launched by the late Cllr Steve Cattle
- Installation of a play area in Calthorpe Park
- The work of the Planning Committee which had met 24 times during the year making comments on planning applications and proposals for major new developments
- Challenging the Boundary Commission on its proposals for Fleet boundaries and proposed number of councillors
- Delivering services in the Financial Year 2016/17 within budget
- The setting of a legal budget for 2017/2018
- An invitation to anyone interested in becoming a Fleet Town Councillor

b) Result of the public consultation exercise on the three options for the future of the Harlington

Cllr Schofield explained that he would be reporting on the outcome of the public consultation exercise and gave a large screen presentation-(a copy now placed on the FTC website)

Fenton Market Research Ltd had analysed the on-line questionnaire which asked for views on three options for the Harlington

- Repair
- Refurbish
- Replace

FTC had promoted the public consultation exercise through its newsletter, a brochure and survey form delivered to every household, social media, and the FTC website

The consultation took place between 25 February-18 March 2017

1481 responses had been received which was a higher number than the previous 2 surveys that FTC had carried out

Of the responses 53% had been made on-line and a 5% random check had been carried out on the hard copy entries made by FTC staff

Only 14 % of the respondents lived outside the boundaries of Fleet meaning that 1267 (86%) of the respondents lived within the FTC boundaries. 174 respondents lived outside the FTC boundaries

The respondents were predominantly frequent users of the Harlington

The result:

Option 1	(repair)	20%
Option 2	(refurbish)	27%
Option 3	(rebuild)	53%

30 respondents rejected all 3 options

The result showed a good balance of FTC payers and users for the option 3 outturn

Cllr Schofield went on to make the following observations:

- Polarisation of preferences
- Lack of bias between residents and others
- The robust nature of the survey and its results
- Option 3 was a strong leader with comments coming predominantly from users of the Harlington
- The many verbatim comments which would be analysed to secure good ideas and possible improvements
- The 'word clouds' for each option

Cllr Schofield reported that the survey results had been considered at an extraordinary meeting of Council on 27 March 2017 and he reported the following resolution carried by the Council:

1. To progress the design of Option 3 to secure Planning Approval, but with the following conditions:
 - a) Taking due account of all comments returned with the consultation
 - b) Working with HDC and HCC to resolve all outstanding issues including the resolution of the long term lease conditions and all related land matters.
 - c) Continue discussions with adjoining parishes
2. A long term loan will not and cannot be entered into until:
 - a) Planning Approval has been secured
 - b) Lease Agreement resolved
 - c) FTC has resolved to progress to construction

Cllr Shofield was able to report that both Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath Parish Councils had now indicated a willingness to discuss the Harlington project

Questions on the Harlington presentation

Cllr Oliver then led the question and answer session

- **Mr Thomas Tavistock Road- How many residents in Fleet?**

There are 17,107 voting residents in Fleet

- **Luke Wood local resident-did you contact schools to obtain the views of young people?**

Yes, but the schools did not respond

- **Mr Kit Mitchell Tavistock Road-can HDC help to provide youth facilities as an extension to the new building?**

The lease is between Fleet Phoenix and HDC. FTC will assist in finding a way to secure youth facilities

- **Dave Harrison Basingbourne Road-if 53% have voted for option 3 then 47% have voted against?**

Whichever way the result was viewed, a 53% majority had supported option 3

c) Cllr Walton –Community Emergency Plan

Cllr Walton gave a presentation on the purpose of a Community Emergency Plan:

- To assist the community to respond to emergencies
- To complement the work of local services
- To deal with issues such as flooding/plane crash/electricity/ gas/water problems

It was suggested that the community could include:

- Other councils
- Friends Groups
- Clinical practitioners
- Volunteers
- Local businesses
- Church/religious groups

Who would benefit:

For example

- Vulnerable residents

- The elderly
- People with mobility problems
- The homeless

Resources needed:

- Pavilions
- Vehicles
- Water
- Tools
- Sandbags
- Storage areas

Review of the plan:

- Assess what worked well and what didn't

It was suggested that it would be useful to develop such a plan and with as many people as possible involved even if only to help

Cllr Walton invited those interested to contact the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager at Fleet Town Council

Wendy Brown (Royal Voluntary Service)reported that her organisation had been involved in planning for emergencies for many years and it was suggested by Cllr Walton that the RVS be involved in any Community Emergency Plan

5 OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum was led by Cllr Oliver:

- **Martin Creasey Church Crookham- Do people realise the cost of the new building and what it will mean for Council tax bills?**

It was explained that the £40 pa increase in 2016/2017 will be ring-fenced to fund the Harlington project and will continue year on year to repay the loan which would be on fixed payment terms

- **Robin Cork Medonte Close Fleet- I have been informed that there is no lease with Hart District Council, only a gentlemen's agreement?**

It was explained that the Harlington was the subject of a Statutory Transfer Order when it was transferred from HDC to FTC. Heads of Lease were included in the Statutory Transfer Document. Although the original short term lease offered by HDC had expired the parties had continued to operate within the terms of the Transfer Order.

- **Mr O'Toole Victoria Road Fleet- Does the Library feature in the new scheme?**

No. The Library is in the freehold of Hampshire County Council and although a joint project was explored HCC believed the value of their site was £3.5m This made a joint venture too expensive. The Library will continue as it is

- **Elly Russell Crookham Road Fleet- You have supplied some information under the Freedom Of Information Act. You raised £440,339 and have spent £150,000 so far, leaving £290,000?**

It was clarified that only £390,000 of the increases tax income had been allocated to the Harlington. £150,000 had been spent to date and the remaining money will be used to progress to the Planning Stage.

The funding of the scheme was explained in detail with an assurance that FTC would only raise what was required. This year's income will continue to be ring-fenced to support the cash flow required to progress the project. Should planning permission not be obtained then the other options would be revisited. Any accumulated funds will always be used to offset long term borrowing of the developed project.

- **Sue Fisher Kings Road Fleet-what will happen if HDC disappears under any future local government reorganisation?**

It was explained that any legal agreement between FTC and HDC would provide for any successors in title.

- **Steve Forster Waverley Road Fleet-two thirds of all FTC taxes would be spent on running the Harlington. Does that leave enough?**

Yes. FTC has been prudent. There is the future development of Pyestock (1500 dwellings) and conversion of offices to flats all of which will bring additional income streams

Cllr Schofield closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming along and with special thanks to all the community groups. Special mention was made of Eileen Bye, Sarah Horton, Michael Butcher and the late Cllr Cantle

The meeting closed at 9pm