

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 9 July 2019 – Portchester

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Bell, Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Price

47 residents

Chairman: Cllr Nick Walker

Speakers:

- Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward
- PCSO Sophie Carter, Hampshire Police

What was talked about?

Cllr Dugan, the Chairman of the meeting, gave a brief introduction and introduced the speakers.

You can view all the presentations from the meeting [here](#).

Hampshire Police update

PCSO Carter gave an update on local policing issues.

Questions from the floor to Hampshire Police

Q. What times are the thefts and burglaries occurring in Portchester?

A. Mostly overnight, but we see more during the daytime during the Summer months.

Q. Has there been an increase in crime since the lights have been turned off during the night?

A. This has only been happening since April, so we are still waiting for statistics.

Q. Can the Council reinstate street lighting between 1am and 4am so that we are safer in our neighbourhood?

A. If there is an incident in a particular area, we can have the lights switched back on (*Cllr Woodward said cases will be looked at with police and county council*).

Q. How many police officers cover the Portchester area?

A. Two.

Q. How many foot patrols are there in the area?

A. (*PCSO Carter*) I patrol the area on a bike and on foot.

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- Q.** Do you have a schedule for your patrols, so you go to known areas for crime?
- A.** We get pointed to live incidents whilst we are on our patrols.
- Q.** Why are there police officers at this meeting when the Police are saying we only have two officers to cover Portchester?
- A.** One of the officers here tonight is a volunteer Special Constable.
- Q.** What happens if one of the two police officers for Portchester goes sick - is there a replacement? Does that send a message out to burglars that Portchester as an easy area to target?
- A.** As well as the two local police officers, there is a rapid response unit based in Fareham which will attend reported crimes in Portchester.
- Q.** What are you and the Council doing to prevent burglaries rather than waiting for it to happen?
- A.** We need to know where crimes are happening – people can report them by phone or online. You should do this rather than just posting about the crime on Facebook or other social media, as we can't by law act on these posts.
- Q.** This is an action group so what are the Police and Council going to do to prevent crime in the area and what support do you require from the Community – so far, the answers are inadequate.
- A.** There are only a limited number of police officers for the area, so we can't physically be a deterrent.
- Q.** There are 17,000 people living in Portchester and we have one PCSO and one Police Officer. How does that compare with Sarisbury?
- A.** There is one police officer for around 11,000 people in Sarisbury.

(Cllr Woodward added): The figures that the police are giving are for the neighbourhood teams, but there are also Rapid Response Officers based in Fareham. The Council sits on a Police and Crime Panel where we raise concerns on police numbers.

You pay for police services directly through your Council Tax (you pay more to Hampshire Constabulary than you do to Fareham BC). You will see more police officers in the Borough in the future, paid for through the police contribution in your Council Tax.

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- Q.** I'm not clear – when will we see these additional police officers?
- A.** *(from Police)*. It takes up to a year to recruit, vet and train new police officers, so you will not see them straight away. We do have six new Special Constables who can take part in patrols

Councillor Woodward – annual update

The Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward, gave a presentation on what's happened in the Borough over the last year and what is happening now and then took questions from the floor.

Questions from the floor on the annual update

- Q.** What is the Council doing to improve air quality by encouraging the use of electric vehicles and to increase recycling?
- A.** There is one electric charging point in Civic Way. Hampshire County Council are the Highway Authority and they are looking at rolling out charging points across the county.

We use a company called Veolia to manage recycling. We would like residents to be able to recycle more in their blue-topped bins, but we do need to make sure that there is a genuine market to recycle what we collect. We are looking at having a new facility in Fareham where we can recycle what we collect.

- Q.** How many new jobs have been created at Solent Airport?
- A.** Our target is to see 1200 jobs at Solent Airport over 25 years. So far (in the first four years) we have seen 650 jobs on site.

- Q.** Why can't local businesses relocate to Daedalus?
- A.** They can – the focus at Daedalus is on aviation, engineering and marine businesses. Solent Local Enterprise Partnership is in talks with local business.

- Q.** Would you give motor trade a chance there?
- A.** It could be possible to have motor engineering businesses at Daedalus and CEMAST already runs courses on motor engineering.

- Q.** The bins for green waste recycling are getting smaller and smaller.
- A.** Our recycling teams are looking to improve on the green waste service. We are one of the few councils in the county who offer a free green waste collection service.

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- Q.** Is there a problem with fly-tipping - is this a cost for the Borough?
- A.** The Council takes a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping. It does cost the Borough money for fly-tipped waste to be taken away.
- Q.** Are there any plans for Daedalus to be used for commercial flights?
- A.** Solent Airport is a business airport, so we don't see airlines like Flybe or Easyjet operating there. There are around 30,000 aircraft movements at Solent a year.

Councillor Woodward – Local Plan update

The Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward, gave a presentation on the current consultation on issues and options for future development in the Borough, which will inform the development of the Draft Local Plan

Questions from the floor on the Local Plan issues and options consultation

- Q.** You mentioned that 520 houses will need to be built in the Borough a year. Do you think Fareham needs this many?
- A.** The estimated need for housing in Fareham was previously around 420 homes a year. Historically completions have been around 200-300 homes each year. But no I do not believe we do.
- Q.** Previous Local Plans have had a Countryside Policy covering areas close to the coast – has that policy disappeared?
- A.** We are working with ten partner councils to look at how we protect areas such as the Meon Valley.
- Q.** Does the current consultation mark areas for development?
- A.** Yes, it shows areas (including in Portchester) that have been previously proposed for development. We are consulting residents on whether they think these areas are appropriate for future development.
- Q.** Have some areas already gone into the Local Plan?
- A.** Nothing has been added to the 2015 Local Plan. The Draft Local Plan did include some sites in Portchester such as Romsey Avenue .
- Q.** It's nice to see the coastal area is being protected. Are sites close to the coast protected more than other areas?

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- A.** The Council's view is that there is limited scope for development in the coastal areas in the Borough.
- Q.** Would you class the sites in Cranleigh Road and surrounding Portchester as a large site?
A. Major development is classified as a site of 10 or more homes.
- Q.** What confidence do you have that large sites provide appropriate infrastructure and quality of life?
A. The Council works with developers to ensure that larger sites have the right infrastructure such as supermarkets and schools.
- Q.** We need to look at the development of new sites with a strategic insight?
A. I agree with you. We need to look at a series of sites across the Borough and also ensure that there is the right infrastructure.
- Q.** I'm concerned that the wording on the option areas in the Fareham Today (for example for the Western Wards) asks leading questions.
A. We want to start a conversation with people and encourage responses and comments. We also want to encourage people to give their views (in the free text section), rather than just saying 'yes' or 'no'. The Fareham Today text has been written to encourage open answers.
- Q.** It doesn't feel like public transport is improving? Can we improve public transport services in the future to improve transport solutions?
A. Public transport is important, and the Borough already has the most successful bus service in the county with the Eclipse service. It is very busy, running every seven minutes. Bus services are not allowed to run at a loss, so need to make a profit or receive a government subsidy to operate. If people don't use bus services, they won't run.
- There are also millions of pounds of road improvements being made in the Borough, including the Stubbington bypass and Smart Motorways.
- Q.** Many trees can be lost because of new developments, but they play an important part in tackling poor air quality and noise pollution. What are you doing to protect trees?
A. Yes, it is important to protect trees, and this should be reflected in the Local Plan. The Council has a policy of tree planting and we have seen planted 30,000 trees at Daedalus.

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- Q.** What is the Council's plan to mitigate nitrate levels?
- A.** An Integrated Water Management Study has been produced by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), working with partners such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. This study, put simply, did not raise an immediate nitrate issue, however the advent of two European legal cases has meant no planning permission can be granted for new developments without suitable mitigation measures.
- Q.** Weren't nitrate levels raised as an issue in 2009?
- A.** There have been European Court judgements in 2019 to ensure that improvements are being made in nitrate levels in the local area and make sure that actions are taken to mitigate these levels. A big issue is nitrates from fertiliser used on farmland which finds its way into our water system many years later. If you have a mitigation solution, I would love to hear it.
- Q.** If the developer pays a large sum of money, can they mitigate nitrate levels?
- A.** Some developers have large development such as Welborne which, being on farmland, are nitrate-neutral. It's very difficult to mitigate nitrate levels on farmland.
- Q.** Why has no development been proposed for Sarisbury, when other areas with limited accessibility have been identified?
- A.** There are already 1500 extra houses in the Sarisbury area at Whiteley. Swanwick and Burrage have been identified as possible areas for future development. They too are in Sarisbury.
- Q.** Cycleways in Fareham are dangerous areas and cyclists have no respect for people.
- A.** I think what you are suggesting is that cycleways should be separated from pathways. I suggest you respond to propose that.
- Q.** Is the current judgement on nitrates European legislation or British legislation?
- A.** The UK will be bound by European judgements that have already been signed (such as on nitrates) if the country leaves the EU in October, and EU legislation is underpinned by UK legislation.
- Q.** How long are we going to need to build 520 houses a year?
- A.** The figures for Fareham require 520 houses to be built year until 2036.
- Q.** Broadband should be a utility, just like water and gas and should be embedded into every development.

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- A.** The Council sees broadband as part of development infrastructure.
- Q.** Is there any joined up thinking between councils on developments in the wider area, for example 1000 houses being built in Havant?
- A.** Councils work together on highway issues relating to developments as part of Hampshire County Council, which is the highway authority.
- Q.** Building infrastructure on new developments seems very haphazard.
- A.** The Council reviews the infrastructure needed on large developments and looks to get developers to pay for this.

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