

# Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 20 June 2017 – Holy Rood Church

## Who was there?

**Present:** Cllr Woodward, Cllr Wood, Cllr Harper, Cllr K Mandry, Cllr A Mandry, Cllr Heneghan.

**Residents:** approx. 85

## What was talked about?

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

### **1. Sgt Nick Morgan gave an update from the local Police.**

#### **Questions from the floor to Sgt Nick Morgan**

**Q** Have the police been consulted over Stroud Green allotments? We have road safety issues. I understand you were consulted on about Meoncross school field but has the council consulted you on the road safety aspect as it is a single track lane.

**A** No as far as I'm aware police haven't been consulted by the council.

**Q** Don't people have to be aware of false IDs. You can read them and people don't know who they say they are?

**A** By all means it is prudent to check people's identities.

### **2. Hayley from One Community talked about Volunteering opportunities and support available in the Borough.**

### **3. Cllr Woodward, gave a presentation about developments in the borough over the past year and a look at what is happening now. You can view the presentation here.**

#### **Questions from the floor to Councillor Woodward**

**Q** You make a point that there are 77 people on the Stroud Green waiting list and then you make a point about the 45 acre site at Daedalus, why could the allotments not have been put

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there?

**A** Daedalus has some areas of contamination and does not have good quality soil to grow on.

**Q** Have you had a soil quality assessment done and will we be able to see reports?

**A** I'm sure whatever we have done we can dig out and show you.

**Q** Regarding Welborne which sounds wonderful...What about the doctors we can hardly get doctors here in our own surgery's as it is because they don't want to work as GPs anymore.

**A** A very good question, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Fareham and Gosport are saying that they don't even want a facility at Welborne despite the fact that it is in the local plan. They have a responsibility to all of Fareham's residents to ensure that they get healthcare. Be that primary Healthcare from the GPs or hospital care in whichever hospital they are sent to so they have a real challenge on their hands and you're right to highlight that fact. Part of the CCG solution is Wickham Surgery which actually sits in West Hampshire CCG and also to use the surgeries in the centre and north of Fareham. In the very early days there is some logic to that but to say that ultimately 20,000 people in 30 years' time should not have their own practice is appalling.

**Q** Recruiting GP's is a big problem anyway, they may say they will give you plenty of GPs for Welborne, but they need to filter down to Fareham and to where we live.

**A** The need was identified for an 8 GP practice to serve Welborne. The secretary of state says he will "get to the bottom of it".

**Q** They've got roadworks everywhere, is there a plan to that? I'm an NHS nurse trying to visit around the community in Fareham and my day has shrunk massively as it takes me half an hour to get two miles.

**A** What people say to me is we want the roads fixed but we don't want road works and unfortunately the two go together. If you want to look at the plan its called Access to Fareham and Gosport, and you can find it on Hampshire County Council's (HCC) website.

**Q** If you look at the Avenue in Fareham and Longfield Avenue, they are both being done at the same time

**A** Yes I know and if they were done at different times then everything would take so many years longer. Newgate Lane north was done in isolation and now it's the turn of Newgate Lane south but fortunately that is off the highway. I take your point about Longfield Avenue but that is

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a resurfacing issue, it's not a new road and it's not an improvement as such. Quite why they picked that time to do it I don't know but I understand it was quite urgent.

**Q** You talked about public spaces, I'm on the Facebook pages and everyone is ranting and raving about litter. I wonder if PSPO people could look at that anti-social litter side.

**A** The PSPO is for the town centre and it's very specific. It's about drink and drugs, begging and anti-social behaviour. In terms of litter, it doesn't just drop out of the sky it's dropped by people. We spend one million pounds on collecting rubbish a year. We are just starting another campaign with education and enforcement on litter and dog fouling but we don't have the facility to have officers stationed in every space 24 hours a day.

**Q** There are lots of locals who would like to do something about it. Can we work alongside the enforcement side of it?

**A** If you make contact with your local councillors then I'm sure we can look into it.

**Q** I have a number of concerns about the Stroud Green allotments, but a major one is that it's a single track road. As it is we reverse back out to Mays Lane sometimes which is a major road. There are no parking spaces or any way to get past. Having more traffic is only going to make it worse. Allotments are used at similar times when people are off or at weekends and it is a major concern.

**A** Well that's why we are in consultation so do feed in your comments and when we come to make a decision. You can also make deputations to the Councillors as well before the decision is made. I think we accept we need allotments, it's just where we put them is a matter for public debate.

**Q** When the school got their playing fields there was an agreement which I've got on email from one of the Council officers stating that we would have regular planning meetings with local residents in the road starting in Oct 2015. While I appreciate they were delayed, as the playing field was delayed. No one has contacted me and I live right opposite the allotments and none of my neighbours have been contacted. You're adding something else into the mix now and still nobody's actually doing anything about it.

**A** Your Councillor is over there, please make sure you talk to him afterwards about traffic management in Stubbington.

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**Q** Fareham Community Hospital is such a fantastic facility however to get there by taxi costs 25 pounds. Is there any way that FBC can do something to enable more people to get to use that hospital that is absolutely amazing?

**A** I think it is used overall to 40% of its capacity which it is scandalous because of course the NHS is paying 24 hours a day for that facility and only using it until from 9- 5.30 which is crazy... Buses would be the obvious form of transport there and the problem is it is so poorly used there aren't the volumes for people going to it. Bus companies have to run at a profit. We tried taxi share and that was another failure. When the hospital is used more hopefully buses will become viable.

**Q** I've been reading your documentation on the walls for Stroud Green allotments and I've been doing some reading tonight and found out Peter Bradford who is a chartered planning consultant for a community programme in Lancashire and he said there is no requirement for planning consent where land is used for agricultural purposes provided there are no buildings or car parks or means of access. However looking at your diagram there is a car park so what's the rationale between your report and theirs?

**A** To create a car park will require planning consent because it requires engineering works. To create allotments doesn't and the land is already allotments/open space. The entirety was allotments once upon a time. In the charitable trust, which the Council administers, it is designated as allotment/open space so planning consent wouldn't be needed for allotments. It is interesting to note that I talk to you about leisure centres, playgrounds, public open space but there is only one thing in law councils have to provide leisure-wise and that is allotments. We don't have to build a leisure centre or anything else.

**Q** I know in the grand scheme of things when you discuss these matters we are small fry but there is more than just a strong feeling from a lot of individuals about Stroud Green Allotments. The plan that you proposed which was the suggestion of 90 plots on the Gosport Road seemed to fulfil the need and you quoted yourself saying it's an ideal solution. So why have we stopped that? I can understand the Bypass plans would be in place and they need a compound area but that's only a temporary requirement. Why can we not stick with your original intention of the 4 acres from Basil Baird and maybe in the short term having a few allotments and in the longer term when the bypass has gone you can expand it? It seems to fulfil your

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waiting list requirement.

**A** Well one of the issues is money to be honest. You look at money when Council owns land which can be used or in the case of Basil Baird's land, it's land which the Council would have to go and lease for a period. Demand was another one. Waiting list was 77 for Stubbington

**Q** For the whole of Fareham, you mean

**A** Not according to the information I have.

**Q** Well we have got some discrepancies on the figures all be it in that area

**A** The information I have is there are 77 residents of Stubbington and Hill Head on the waiting list for allotments. The allotment association would probably be a good source to talk to as presumably they advise on the waiting list. As I say, it is a consultation. It is for people to make their views known and it will be for the Councillors to make a decision.

**Q** I would like to make a point too that the council does not own that land it was bequeathed to them and they are the trustees of that land and it wasn't all allotment land it was part fields and part allotment. It is an open green space and the only one in north Stubbington for people to enjoy recreation and you are affecting a lot of people to take if from public access land to a private allotment and it is really important that we have the opportunity to consult fully.

**A** Well this is another part of the consultation. Ultimately there will be a report to the Executive and you can come and address Councillors directly if you wish.

**Q** Do we have a date for the start of the Bypass?

**A** We have the beginning of 2019 at the moment because we have to get Newgate Lane South completed first.

**Q** Can you explain why outline planning permission was granted for IFA2 before the secretary of state made a decision about calling in the project?

**A** That isn't correct. The secretary of State had the right to exercise something which is called a Section 31 Direction if he had wished to determine the application himself during the process prior to the planning consent being granted. There was a dialogue all the way through between the planning unit in the Department of Communities Local Government and FBC planning officers. The Secretary of State did not choose to exercise his powers and therefore planning consent was properly granted.

**Q** Going back to the article that was in the News regarding the allotments - It says here it's already been funded and that it wouldn't cost you anything. It says in there it wouldn't cost the Council anything.

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**A** The money that would be used would be coming from the Council's coffers. So we can't do anything that doesn't cost the Council anything

**Q** The statement in here says the cost of setting up the allotments would be met from money given to the authority by the Homes and Communities Agency.

**A** Yes there is a dowry which was given to the Council when we took over Daedalus but that is going to be pretty well exhausted by repaying loans on site. If we do go with Stroud Green Lane of course those allotments are going to cost money to set up.

**Q** But if you were prepared to do 90 allotments in the first place it's only 35 on Stroud Green. I can't equate it because the 90 would have solved everything.

**A** It is an option, that one will remain an option. Stroud Green Lane is an option. We have approached another land owner as well to the North of Stroud Green Lane to ask whether they would be interested in making their land available for allotments. So we are looking at options but we just felt that it was appropriate that if we are looking at Stroud Green Lane that we consult with the people of Stubbington on what it is we are looking at. We could have quietly brought it before the Executive and said agreed but that is not the way we do things.

**Q** Surely that is not in the interest of all the people who use that land. I mean I lived there for 50 years I see more and more people. Before 6am there are people exercising animals before work, it's also a social thing. There are a lot of other things to be considered apart from 35 people who will have private land, there's no public access. What happens if a child throws a ball in and in the winter time its waterlogged so you haven't got access on that bit at the bottom we've got mallard ducks on there in the winter. I see all this.

**A** We will see later this year what the drainage is like there. All the points you make provided you put them into writing will be taken into consideration.

**Q** Re road safety, I spoke to Councillor Wood about it some time back about the money being exhausted for yellow lines. The western end of Nursery Lane which has access to the rear entrance of Hammond School is a problem.

**A** It's not that the money has run out but from the 1 July FBC is no longer responsible for traffic regulation orders, that function is reverting back to HCC. Have a word with your HCC Councillor in a few moments and talk to her about it.

**Q** The other point I want to make is about the new pavement in Stubbington village. It's all now coming up.

**A.** It's the very same lady from HCC that you would need to address.

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**Q** Re the sea defences in Hill Head, the sea wall. Does that include the area around Osborne View which had quite bad slippage?

**A** No it doesn't go that far. That's going on to private land.

**Q** Ok, it's just that in front of the Osborne View there is very bad slippage

**A** We have asked for a grant very recently for private frontages along there which we are looking at, at the moment.

**Q** Going back to Stroud Green Lane, and your comments that the only open space that you have to provide is allotment space why is it that in the Welborne plan you are putting the onus on the developers to provide a significant quantity of open space and yet you are taking away the only piece of open space in north Stubbington which probably serves in excess of 2000 people.

**A** What I said, just to clarify, is that the only statutory requirement for the Local Authority in terms of leisure facilities is to provide allotments. But that doesn't mean that we as a local council don't think it's not incredibly important to provide as much public open space as we possibly can. In fact the Crofton area is overall very well endowed in terms of public open space. Stubington fairs extremely well as a Ward to which we are adding 45 acres at Daedalus. But I fully accept your points about Stroud Green Lane.

**Q** For public open space to be successful it needs to be accessible. Now if Daedalus is 45 acres the majority of people will have to drive to get there because it is not going to be walkable for residents of north Stubbington. You wouldn't let your children of 13 and above even walk down there. You're trying to encourage children to be more active and you are taking away a piece of play space.

**A** Ok what I'm trying to look at is overall quantum of space in the area but I fully accept what you're saying about this particular piece of open space. The Councillors will of course take this into account before they make a decision. Your points will be heard and a decision will be made.

**Q** Can you just clarify one final thing, consultation ends on 26 June and the Exec meeting is on 10 July and normally reports are available 7 days beforehand. So that report will be available on the 3 July. That means that there is about 4 days only for your officers to consider the comments – am I right?

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**A** But that infers that the Officers are not already reading the comments as they come in which I can ensure you they most certainly are and so are the Councillors. As of today we've had around 100 submissions and I've already received a report about these. They read them all and they will be reading what comes in over the next week and I'll say the way we operate in Fareham means we will still take into account any comments that come in right up to the day of the meeting.

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