

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 26 July 2017 – Portchester Community School

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Woodward, Cllr Walker, Cllr Fazarckerley, Cllr Bell, Cllr Price, Cllr Cunningham.

Residents: approx. 55

What was talked about?

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

1. Sgt Mark Lamper gave an update from the local Police.

Questions from the floor to Sgt Mark Lamper

Q Concerning Sunday evening, I saw a dishevelled man laying on pavement and rang 101 number but didn't find this very helpful. I was expecting someone to come along and have a word with him to check he was ok.

A The 101 triage system grades a job. They may feel welfare concerns are better suited to a paramedic so the police wouldn't necessarily attend anymore where previously we would have. If you were unhappy about how your call was dealt with please make a complaint and we can look at it properly.

2. 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 How much control do you have over Building control?

A FBC runs building control for Fareham, Gosport and Hampshire. Developers have the choice of who to use... we are not putting it out to others, we do it for the other councils.

Q Concerned about emissions. What are we going to do?

A We are trying to keep traffic moving, stationary traffic belches out the fumes. Stubbington bypass will improve this. That is why we are following the roadworks improvements and of course engines do improve all the time.

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Q Development of Welborne hasn't gone as quickly as you would have hoped, and there is pressure to build homes in the borough. We understand landowners have been asked to put forward land...is there anyway we can find out what land has been put fwd?

A When the local plan is reviewed, you legally have to do a call for sites. Offered land for around 10,700 homes on greenfield sites across the borough, all of those sites are documented. We don't even need a quarter of that. Welborne hasn't moved fwd and will deliver 3 or 4 years late and undoubtedly this will have an effect on other houses as there won't be 6000 homes by 2036. We need to find other sites earlier.

Q Re portchester precinct, why they have agreed planning permission for another coffee shop?

A If it's already zoned for commercial use it is not difficult to make it into a coffee shop. If it was otherwise empty personally I don't see the problem with this. If they can sell hot food they can sell whatever hot food they want to.

Q Re upgrade for Newgate lane, the roundabout at Asda's are they going to do anything about this?

A Providing new access onto Newgate lane from Asda and sorting out the car park.

Q Tell us about local public affairs where implementation has not gone so well so we know where we as local taxpayers stand. As opposed to the achievements?

A The biggest challenge and that we haven't yet delivered on is Welborne. Have over 1000 families on waiting list which is a problem that I mind about. In some cases they will have to wait. Welborne should provide around 2000 houses of this kind.

Q What actions does the council take to evict tenants who make lives of fellow residents a misery? The property I have in mind the occupants are drug users . My complaints to a council officer were just brushed aside

A We take a low tolerance to anti social behaviour. We have procedures to go through, and actions may be taken of which neighbours may not be aware. If criminality can be proven beyond reasonable doubt as courts look very carefully at eviction orders. Please write to me about it and I will make sure it is properly investigated.

Q How can they justify building an 80 room hotel in Fareham when there is a shortage of housing?

A It makes good commercial sense to me to bring in income to the Council and for the commercial success of the town centre. The town centre needs one, it's ideally placed with a car park, we are looking to use our assets to provide housing so we are doing our bit with the land we control. Hopefully that answers the question. Potentially 600 homes in the town centre can be enabled.

Q 2600 council houses in Fareham - how many have you sold off in the past? What powers do council have if brownsite has been approved but developer holds onto the plot?

A We have no powers, we can't make people build. Foolish and wasteful if they don't. We have sold a large number of our council houses, the people who are in it are still living in it. I

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support the tenant becoming a homeowner.

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