

Y CAT Meeting – Thursday 10 November 2016

Fareham Community Church

7 – 8:30pm

Attendance: 21 young people

A 'Question Time' style Y CAT meeting took place in the Youth Room of Fareham Community Church. Young people attending came from the following youth projects: Ignition, Genesis and Odyssey. A group of skaters who use Park Lane Recreation Ground, three Police representatives and the Mayor of Fareham were also in attendance.

The following questions were raised with Cllr Woodward:-

- **From the Park Lane skaters:-**

The original plan for Park Lane skate park had lighting. Why was this not put in?

Cllr Woodward explained that the site currently suffers from high levels of littering and stated that until this improves there will be no lighting installed at the skate park. The young people who use the site explained that it is not local young people who are dropping the litter and that the dark evenings are prompting them to use the multi-storey car parks to skate, which causes everyone a problem. They believe that plans for Park Lane included lighting. They asked if timed lighting could be installed. Cllr Woodward replied that this would be reviewed in the future but would require consultation.

- **From a young person attending Genesis:-**

You promote healthy living but most people can't afford it. Would it be possible to make sports facilities cheaper?

Cllr Woodward explained that outdoor gyms were available in Park Lane, Stubbington, Locks Heath and Whiteley. These facilities let people exercise for free. In addition, there are lots of recreation grounds around the Borough that don't need to be booked to be used for ball games. Unfortunately, as gyms need to cover their running costs, it is not possible for them to significantly reduce their prices.

- **From a young person attending Flame at Holy Rood:-**

Why is there not a sixth form college in Fareham?

Cllr Woodward explained that Cams Hill School are working with Councillors, Head Teachers and MPs to get support to open a separate sixth form centre in Fareham. Currently over 1000 young people leave the Borough to study for A levels.

- **From a young person attending Odyssey:-**

Why are homeless people being fined?

Cllr Woodward explained that there have been problems in recent years in the Town Centre with a small group of drinkers and beggars, many of whom aren't homeless and don't come from Fareham. Many travel to the Borough

to beg as Fareham residents readily give them money. They have made people in the Town Centre feel uncomfortable with their behaviour and as a result visitors' perspectives were that the Town Centre was less safe. In response, the Council has implemented a Public Places Order around anti-social behaviour and begging which will give the Police powers to deal with these people and fine them £100, which most of them can easily afford. Those without a home have been offered accommodation and there are support services that work with them to try to get them off the streets.

- **From a young person attending Genesis: –**

- **Why are we providing housing for people who don't work when young people can't afford to move out?**

- Cllr Woodward explained that we have a duty to provide housing for those who have lost their job or who have had poor life chances. There are very few Council homes available in the Borough and these tend to be focussed on the more vulnerable older people. The Council is always pushing to provide more affordable homes and has made sure that the upcoming development 'Welborne' will have a good proportion of affordable houses available for rental.

- **From a young person attending Crofton Youth Project:–**

- **Could we have more events for 15 to 18 year olds?**

- Councillor Woodward asked the young people what type of events they would like to see. One young person suggested a Local Area Network where young people can use PCs or do gaming. One young person had suggested a silent disco. We will look into these with the Youth Clubs.

- **From a young person attending Genesis:–**

- **Can we have more affordable clothes shops?**

- Cllr Woodward reported that Fareham Shopping Centre is talking to Primark to try to attract them to Fareham. There are lots of empty shopping units across the Country so businesses have lots of choice as to where they are located. The Shopping Centre is actively trying to secure more affordable clothes shops which are attractive to young people. Cllr Woodward added that the change to buying clothing on the internet is having an impact on the variety of shops available in town centres.

- **From a young person attending the Crofton Youth Project:-**

- **Is there any money going towards all the youth clubs?**

- Cllr Woodward explained that there is £60,000 currently available that youth clubs can bid for to support their open access clubs. In addition, the Mayor has chosen Y Services as one of her charities, and they will receive half of all the money she raises from her events through the year.

- **From a young person attending Odyssey:–**

- **How can you stop drivers from going so fast around school areas?**

- Cllr Woodward explained that Police patrol around schools and send out warning letters to speeding drivers. Schools often have '20 is plenty' signs to educate drivers and many areas have also set up Community Speedwatch schemes. This is where local people are trained and supported to patrol

problem areas and take registrations of speeding drivers to generate warning letters.

- **From a young person attending Genesis:–**

Why aren't there more bins to reduce the amount of litter on the street?

Cllr Woodward replied that bins are installed where they are needed. When bins are requested, the Council will check to see if there is a problem with litter in that location and if there are other bins nearby.

- **From a young person attending Crofton Youth Project:–**

Can you expand parks or make parks for certain age groups to make stuff for older kids?

Cllr Woodward explained that there is a programme of refurbishment for all the play parks and residents are consulted about what is needed in that location. He suggested that young people get involved in these consultations. He also reported that the new Holly Hill Play Park, which would be installed next year, had plans for more exciting equipment for older children, such as zip wires.

- **From a young person attending Genesis:–**

Can you promote the facilities already available for young people, e.g. with leaflets and flyers?

Cllr Woodward suggested that young people are better at promoting to young people. He asked how young people like to receive information and all agreed that social media is the best way. Cllr Woodward explained that the Council posts new events on social media but could do with reminding young people what is already available. We will look into this.

- **From a young person attending Crofton Youth Project:–**

I know crime rates are going down, but violence levels are going up. Why is this? What action are you taking?

Cllr Woodward commented that this linked into the earlier discussions about the Public Places Order. PCSO Ann Adams added that crime is being better reported than before, so while it appears there is a rise in incidents it is more to do with the rise in reporting. One young person spoke of his frustration of a violent incident not being resolved. PCSO Ian Wright reminded him that the Police need to prove that someone has committed a crime beyond reasonable doubt to take action.

- **From a young person attending Crofton Youth Project:–**

Could more houses be built on land that isn't being used for anything?

Cllr Woodward explained that the Council was looking to put housing in on derelict sites and sites of old buildings. For example, the joining of Ferneham Hall and Ashcroft Arts Centre was being looked into, which would free some land up for housing while providing a top quality venue. One young person thought that Ashcroft customers may have concerns. Other possible housing sites were being looked at in the centre of Portchester.

Cllr Woodward then invited further questions.

- **Where does the Council Tax go?**

Cllr Woodward explained that 85% goes to Hampshire County Council for schools, social services, roads and waste. Approximately 10% goes to the Police, and a small proportion then is allocated to Hampshire Fire and Rescue. The remainder goes to Fareham Borough Council, which provides bin collections, street cleansing, leisure centres, play grounds, inspections of restaurants and licensed premises, and the administration of planning applications. Fareham Borough Council has the lowest Council Tax in the country.

- **Could there be more yellow lines around Portchester Community School to prevent dangerous parking on the pavement?**

Cllr Woodward explained that it is an offence to park on the pavement which can be ticketed by the Police. The Police added that they also work with the schools to inform parents of what parking is not acceptable.

- **Could lighting be put in on St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield?**

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Hockley, explained that the Council has suggested installing lighting on St Margaret's previously but was not supported by the residents as they would need to forfeit some of their gardens for the lighting columns.

- **Will there be affordable houses for students on the Fareham College site?**

Cllr Woodward sympathised that rental and mortgages are normally beyond a student's income. The 120 houses being built are unlikely to be affordable for students.

- **What do you think of Donald Trump?**

Cllr Woodward stated that he was supportive of the Republican Party, if not Donald Trump himself. He added that a President is limited by legislation so will not be able to make unguided decisions.