

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 15 July 2019 – Fareham

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Barton, The Mayor, Cllr Bryant, Cllr Clubley, Cllr Fazackarley, Cllr Trott (HCC)

43 residents

Chairman: Cllr Tom Davies

Speakers:

- **Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward**
- **Inspector Sarah Nicholson, Hampshire Police**

What was talked about?

Cllr Tom Davies, 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

Inspector Nicholson gave an update on local policing issues, including progress being made on tackling issues of drugs and rough sleepers since the special CAT meeting in June. There will be another special CAT meeting on this issue in October.

Questions from the floor to Hampshire Police

- Q.** You've told us that there are a group of charities and agencies that can support homeless people in the Borough. There is a legal requirement to put people up in a hostel, but I am not aware of any hostels in Fareham?
- A.** There is a hostel in Fareham on Gosport Road who are engaging with homeless people.
- Q.** I have concerns about organised gangs operating in Fareham, as they do in London
- A.** We are not aware of any gangs.

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- Q.** I live off Highlands Road, where there are around 10,000 vehicles a day with cars and motorbikes travelling at up to 70mph in a residential area with a 30mph limit. There are only two refuges between Kiln Road and Hillson Drive, where people can cross safely - I see many elderly people and children on scooters trying to cross the road. There have been fatalities in the past and I don't want to see any more. I want to ask publicly if the Police can monitor the speed of the traffic?
- A.** I am not aware of any issue in that area, but I would encourage you to contact the Road and Traffic team at Hampshire Police directly. There is also a [Community Speedwatch Scheme](#) whereby community members come together to recognise people who are speeding and to give warnings to one another. Please leave your details at the end of this meeting.
- Q.** There are not enough care services for young people in this area. Many young people don't want to use Hostel 101. What other services are there for young people?
- A.** There are dedicated social care services for people from 18-25. Hampshire County Council can provide information on services for young people.
- Q.** Fareham Council is failing that age range of young people. What services do you have for them?
- A.** Councillor Woodward explained that he would cover this during his Annual Update presentation.

After the questions Cllr Tom Davies reminded the meeting that the email to contact to get in touch with the police is: Fareham.police@hants.gov.uk.

Councillor Woodward – annual update

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

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Questions from the floor on the annual update

- Q.** I'm pleased to hear that there are places for people who are homeless to go, if they want them. So how come there are still people sleeping rough in the cold if there are places for them?
- A.** There is a place to go for all individuals who are sleeping rough and need accommodation in Fareham as long as they engage with the services available to them. There are extra services available during the winter months.
- Q.** I know a number of young people who say they can't do A Levels at Fareham College? If Fareham can't do A Levels, could you consider T Levels.?
- A.** It is a shame that Fareham College does not offer conventional A Level opportunities. It is Fareham College (which is an outstanding college) that decides what courses to offer. Students like the one you referred to who want to study medicine or pharmacy at university need science A Levels so do have to go out of the Borough to study for these.
- Q.** We need a good bus service. Where there were once buses every half-hour, they are now every two hours and there are areas of isolation in Fareham. Can the council do anything to encourage bus operators to provide a better service?
- A.** The Borough has the most successful bus service in the county in the Eclipse service, which runs every 6-7 minutes. The Eclipse will be extended to Welborne (when developed) in the future. However, there are some areas of the Borough where there are no bus services at all.

Bus services in Fareham are mostly run by First Bus, which is a private company. They are not allowed to run bus services at a loss so need to make a profit or be subsidised in order to operate. Hampshire County Council has provided a subsidy in the past, but this has been reduced. The Older Person's bus pass is a good scheme but doesn't produce much revenue for the bus companies.

The Council can't run its own bus services, they need to be provided by bus companies. But, if people don't use bus services, they won't run. The Council does help fund the Dial-a-Ride service which is quite popular.

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- Q.** Is there likely to be any fallout from Brexit on Fareham, for example from the ferries and trucks at Portsmouth International Port?
- A.** The services likely to be directly affected by Brexit (like roads, due to queuing traffic from the ports) are provided by Hampshire County Council. We don't see any direct impact on the services provided by Fareham Borough Council such as refuse collection and leisure.
- Q.** Thank you for Y-Services and the Access All Areas events from a mum of your service users. I'd like to see these services and events continue for the next twenty years.

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.** Will the Smart Motorway project include the new junction at Welborne?
- A.** In an ideal world, it would, but Hampshire County Council (as the highways authority) haven't commented on the revised Welborne application yet. The smart motorway and Junction 10 work won't happen at the same time, but any conflict will be minimised.
- Q.** Would it be cheaper to do the smart motorway work at the same time?
- A.** Yes, but Highways England haven't provided feedback on the details of the Junction 10 proposals yet.
- Q.** Will the money still be available for the J10 improvements?
- A.** Yes.
- Q.** When the Stubbington bypass is built on the land between Fareham and Stubbington, will this limit the likelihood of development in this area due to the noise from the road?
- A.** The noise from the bypass could affect the availability of the land around it for development.
- Q.** If there is development in the area between Fareham and Stubbington, won't construction traffic overload the new bypass and Peak Lane?
- A.** There would be an impact from construction traffic, but if the bypass wasn't built the roads would take an even greater hit.

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- Q.** It seems an anomaly that we are talking about more houses and an increase in people living in the Borough, when there is nowhere in the Borough where people can take A Levels.
- A.** Whilst Fareham Borough Council can work with the County Council to make school places happen, we can't make A Levels happen – it's up to the colleges to make this decision.
- Q.** I have a concern about buses running from Kiln Road to Welborne and the new Junction 10. The area needs better access to the Eclipse bus service. If I have an idea on transport how do I talk to Hampshire Highways to make it happen?
- A.** Hampshire County Council, as the highways authority, have not yet commented on the revised Welborne planning application. If you see me afterwards I can give you the name of someone to contact at the County Council.
- Q.** I am concerned about the lack of comments in this consultation on homes for single people – all the houses mentioned are for families. What about single people – you don't refer to them at all?
- A.** You make a good point as Fareham does have a quarter of people living on their own. Planning applications for homes do include housing in different shapes and sizes and we can assess these on the basis of what we think people need, including making sure there is accommodation for young people. We are very conscious of the fact that young people and other people may be living alone in Fareham. When it comes to waiting lists, people with families and children will always take priority.
- Q.** I'm particularly interested in the development of Newgate Lane and the impact on schools and doctors' surgeries. I also don't think they should be expensive houses.
- A.** We'll look at the impact of any development on schools, working with the County Council as the education authority. This could mean building new schools or looking at schools which aren't full.
- Q.** As soon as the new bypass is built, there will be development around it, which would cause bottlenecks and impact Gosport, where people can't get off the peninsula. You'll build the new road to alleviate traffic and then it will worsen again. You should keep the greenfield gap.
- A.** We have to produce a Local Plan and allocate sites for new housing, otherwise we will end up like councils which don't have local plans and not be able to defend against planning appeals. I accept that new development will have an effect on traffic, but we will try and improve roads and school facilities.

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- Q.** The area around Newgate Lane has always been described as a strategic gap – has it lost its status?
- A.** No, it has always been a strategic gap.
- Q.** What are the proposals for the old Court House in Fareham? There are also a lot of properties sitting empty on Osborn Road.
- A.** We want to see previously used or derelict brownfield sites in the town centre being used for housing. There is an application in for the Court House site for housing, but it hasn't been determined yet.
- Q.** Are you going to do anything to improve the evening economy in the town centre, including food outlets?
- A.** The Council has a regeneration plan Vision which details what will happen in the next few years. We don't control who takes the outlets in Fareham Shopping Centre.
- Q.** Will a station at Welborne be built earlier, rather than later in the development?
- A.** We are hoping that there will be a rail halt at Welborne and that land will stay available for a station to be built. Network Rail has proved that a station could be built there – we now need someone to pay for it.
- Q.** Will there be trees planted around the bypass to absorb the noise from the road and will there be guaranteed green sites in the strategic gap?
- A.** I hope that if there is any development in this area that we still have a strategic gap and ensure that there are green sites.

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