

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT)

Tuesday 21st June 2016

Who was there?

Present: Chairman Cllr Fred Birkett, Executive Leader, Cllr Seán Woodward.

Residents: 40

What was talked about?

Sgt Mark Lamper from the local police was in attendance and gave an update to residents of local policing issues in the area.

Updates from Sgt Lamper include:

- Response and Patrol teams moved to Fareham Reach

Homeless and street drinkers

- Working in partnership with FBC and other agencies
- Off licences targeted and agreement not to serve those causing issues. One off licence given FPN for selling to drunk male
- Dedicated Hi vis patrols in Fareham and joint patrols with FBS and other agencies
- Resident meeting TC, Bench removed from behind Trinity church

Travellers

- The police have worked with FBC enforcement team to remove all travellers and target hardener all open spaces.

Hayley Hamlett from One Community was a guest speaker and discussed local volunteering opportunities in the area and the upcoming Community Showcase on 2 July at Ferneham Hall.

Executive Leader, Cllr Seán Woodward then gave a presentation about the past year's accomplishments and initiatives that are to take place in the Borough.

Following the presentation, the Chairman opened the floor for questions.

- **You mentioned Fareham Community Hospital, are there any plans for another hospital or a walk in centre for Fareham?**

We have Fareham Community Hospital which has consultants, certain therapies and MRIs, but it does not provide beds and nor does it operate around the clock. We are pressing the NHS very hard to improve the facility and provide beds for maternity and elderly care, as well a minor injuries unit. Unfortunately, we are not getting very far.

- **What's going to happen to the derelict site on the corner of Trinity Street and Osborn Road?**

I imagine there will be a residential development on it, but it is up to the landowners to get their planning consent and to get that built.

- **I live in Palmerston Avenue, next to the building site of Stevenson Court. 18 months it has been ongoing and it still looks like it won't be finished soon, but recently there were two ladies who told me they were councillors and were looking at the area and thinking about putting flats on the BT building site?**

I guess if BT were to declare it surplus to requirements then it would probably be a very good site for housing for us, but if they haven't done it, we are not going to take it off them. In regards to Stevenson Court, we are expecting that to be finished soon.

- **What are the Council doing to encourage non-food retail outlets in the town centre?**

Our powers to bring in particular shops are very limited as we don't own shops in Fareham. We own the land where Fareham Shopping Centre sits and we get 15% of the rents and 15% of the costs when there are void units in there. We do work closely with the owners of Market Quay and Fareham Shopping Centre and we do meet regularly with other traders and owners on West Street as well. It is sad to see holes in the town centre, we do have less than most, but ideally we don't want to see any. The reason you see charity shops popping up is that when you put a charity shop in, you do not have to pay the business rates anymore. We will work hard with owners of all retail units to try and encourage non-food usage.

- **In regards to dog poo bins, you have been running this campaign, but for over two years, I have been in communication with councillors, Fareham Borough Council, operations managers, and Strand Security to try and get bins put around the Easy Access Trail. There are bins at the Birdwood Grove end but there is nothing at the Cams Mill end at all. There has been a considerable increase in footfall since the Cams Mill pub has opened and there are dog walkers carrying bags and asking where to dispose of them. We have met the criteria, but we are still waiting for a bin.**

There may be a matter of land ownership, so we would not put them on private property, but it's not to say that they couldn't of course.

- **Strand Security has said that they would put them in, but it has been two years now.**

Do you have some correspondence that you can send over to me so we can speak to Strand Harbour and see what we can do?

POST MEETING NOTE – two new dog bins now installed

- **What is the Council's opinion on apprentices, particularly in the trades?**

We support and employ apprentices across a range of trades and many of the people stay with us long term as well.

- **Does that include building trades?**

Yes in regards to building maintenance. We don't physically build houses ourselves but anything we do as a Borough Council, we will take on apprentices. We do encourage developers very firmly to not just take on local staff, but apprenticeships as well.

- **At the top of Furzehall Avenue, there are offices which have employees who smoke. They have been told not to smoke outside the offices, so they have nowhere to go, and they end up going down the pathway to the field designated for leisure use. They are leaving cigarette ends everywhere Can you put a notice up about using the bin nearby?**

Unfortunately we cannot ban smoking. But thank you for your comment, we'll have a think.

- **You mentioned the Strategic Gap between Fareham and Stubbington, what about the one between Cartwright Drive and the Tithe Barn, as there is proposed development there, an older person's village?**

Behind the Holiday Inn, there is a planning consent for an older persons' village. As part of the planning consent a country park is going to be given to Fareham Borough Council which will be within that Strategic Gap. The Tithe Barn's future is going to be secure as well as part of that application and all of the lakes and those areas there.

We don't have greenbelt but with the devolution deal we might get from government would give the power to designate green belt. At the moment the only way that we can protect these Strategic Gaps is having developments like Welborne and saying yes we are providing the housing requirement for our Borough.

- **I live along 'Lung Cancer Lane' aka Gosport Road; if Newlands is built and there is so much is going in at Daedalus; why has traffic got even worse since our bus service was reduced? Can't another road be created as Stubbington Bypass isn't going to cure it?**

The Stubbington Bypass will be very helpful with traffic which is going west out of

Gosport. A new Southern section of Newgate Lane will be helpful as well.

Bus companies cannot run a service at a loss. If one does they will have to stop that service unless the County Council picks up some a subsidy for that service to run it. HCC spends something like £18 million a year on subsidising buses; a vast majority of it goes on subsidising the senior bus pass. We did a consultation two years ago where we said to people we have less money to subsidise buses, what would you like, they told us very strongly that they wanted Monday-Friday daytime services as the priority over evenings and weekends, so that was the decision that was made.

- **The E1 and E2 run every ten minutes; following behind it, you have the 9 and 9A, which are then followed by the E1 and E2. You have four buses following each other within minutes which are empty?**

The services run at a profit. Unfortunately I do not have expertise in running a bus company, but you can make suggestions to Mark Reddy, who is the MD of First which operates services in Fareham. The bus companies are happy to experiment and are willing to take on suggestions and trials. If they are proven to be successful and they are profitable, they will run them.
- **The central funding for the IFA2 proposal will come from the European Union, what are the implications in the event of a Brexit?**

None, it is a commercial scheme. Whatever subsidies are going in to building the power station, they are putting it forward as a commercial proposition. I asked National Grid a few months ago, and they stated that it would be unaffected.
- **In regards to affordable housing, Hampshire Rose site. Is there anything happening on that yet?**

We do have officers working on plans for it and working with partners in Eastleigh, with a company called Aspects Housing, which we set up with them, and they are working on a housing application at the moment for it.
- **The Southern Co-op in Highlands Road; Highlands Road seems to be the prime rat run between the A32 and the A27. We have loading restrictions between 8.00-9:30am that are ignored. Can anything be done about it, to enforce the rules that you have made?**

Yes, if there is a traffic regulation order there, then we have our enforcement officers who can come and enforce it, so if you would like to report it to your local councillors they will be able to get an officer out there.
- **The Fareham to Stubbington Strategic Gap, I understand it applies to housing, but isn't there an inconsistency that it doesn't apply to roads?**

The Stubbington Bypass doesn't affect the status of the Strategic Gap. If you look at the data and documentation that was put in as part of the planning application for the Stubbington Bypass, most of it was about satisfying environmental concerns.

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