

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT)

Tuesday 12 July 2016

Who was there?

Present: Chairman Cllr Michael Ford, Executive Leader, Cllr Seán Woodward.

Residents: 60

What was talked about?

PC Jacqueline Wild and PCSO James Harry from the local police were in attendance and gave an update to residents of local policing issues in the area.

Updates from PC Wild included:

- New Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney
- New Police & Crime Commissioner Michael Lane
- Response & Patrol 24/7 moved to Fareham Reach

Local issues

- There have been issues with youths at Strawberry Fields and the police are monitoring it.

Travellers

The police have worked with the Council enforcement team to remove all travellers and make it harder for them to access open spaces.

Questions from the residents to police

- **Could you tell us how many police personnel there are in our four wards? Is it enough?**
In my opinion, there are never enough police, but unfortunately the numbers have gone down.
- **With the increase in developments, is there someone who looks into the increase of officers on the beat?**
That is the responsibility of the powers higher above.

Carol Grant from One Community was a guest speaker and discussed local volunteering opportunities in the area.

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 said about new homes, nothing is being said about doctors, hospitals, education facilities for all these new people coming in.**
The biggest development which could take place in Fareham is Welborne, which is 6,000

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new homes, and employment starts for 6,000 new jobs, a secondary school and three primary schools. The health facilities are down to the NHS and the Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group which has a duty to ensure that sufficient healthcare facilities are provided there.

In terms of schools, bus routes and community facilities, they will all be provided and required as part of the planning consent. That is the beauty of standalone development which is of a size to generate money that is needed for infrastructure, which includes the things you mentioned, which will then be commissioned to go in there.

All those things that you mentioned will be taken into account by developers and by the agencies which provide those services, and will consult with the Council, before planning consent is given.

- **There are to be 6,000 houses, how many of those will be available to those on the housing waiting list? Can they afford it?**

Very good question. We do have a significant need for affordable housing in Fareham and there will be 2,000 houses which will be affordable. There will be a variety of tenures; so there may be houses at a discount; shared equity; social housing for rent; even self-build.

Fareham Borough Council will decide who will go into them. We are very tight with our housing waiting list as we do have 1,300 families on the list in Fareham, but we do cut every year and start again to make sure that the people on the list are local to Fareham.

- **What is the Council's position on the smaller group of green sites and the agricultural sites?**

The last time we reviewed our Local Plan was a few years ago we had developers put forward around 50 sites which was almost every green gap which we dismissed. That is our attitude but we do have to accommodate for our housing need. By 2036, there are to be an extra 10,000 - 12,000 new homes. We do need to find more sites, but what we are doing is saying we have got Welborne; we will do brownfield first for the extra. There are a number of sites being pursued in Warsash as we speak, but as far as we are concerned, this is countryside. If the developer can prove that we are not meeting our five year target, then all sites become vulnerable. If we can demonstrate that we are providing housing, then we can fight appeals.

- **How many houses are you behind on your target?**

In regards to a five year housing supply, we are on target. It is tight but it has been met.

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- **We are an aging population, with increasing healthcare needs; getting a doctor's appointment is impossible. You said earlier that the local clinical commissioning group is responsible for the surgeries. What is the Council doing to make sure that we have adequate GP provision, because it is not adequate at the moment?**

Very good point. GPs are private businesses and are not employed by the NHS; they are private contractors and run their services at a profit. If a GP surgery is to be built, then a GP has to pay for it. Healthcare is funded by general taxation delivery, not Council Tax and the responsibility for delivery is Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group.

- **There is development going on all around Warsash which will add pressure to the GP surgeries, and if we don't get some change in policy from somewhere, then there is a crisis. Can the Council incentivise the development of local practices in some way?**

We are not going to hand Council Tax to private businesses to set up doctors surgeries, but the Clinical Commissioning Group has a responsibility to ensure there are sufficient GPs to deliver the NHS primary care service in Fareham. The person to speak to is the Chairman of the CCG; we have had them here before talking to us about their problems that they need to deliver. We do speak regularly and we do have local councillors that work with the CCG.

- **Our roads are full up, our schools are full up. There is still building going but everywhere is full up! What if Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire in that sense, could protect us in Warsash from that over fertilisation of this area. Do we need to go down the route of parish council and sorting it out ourselves?**

In regards to your comment about parish councils, they cannot make decisions on planning applications, as the local planning authority is Fareham Borough Council. If we start refusing planning applications, we could lose control when the planning appeal is lost. We have to accept that we live in a densely populated part of South Hampshire, but if we do not do this housing, then it will be done to us. It is a real challenge and your concerns are shared.

- **Essentially the Central government is in charge then?**

Until we can get devolution as we will have the power to designate areas as greenbelt which would have statutory protection.

- **You spoke about the Daedalus site and spending £50 million on it, what annual return do you expect to get on that money?**

The return will be able to help create 3,500 jobs and people paying income tax and there

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will also be highly skilled jobs in advanced engineering. If the National Grid proposal goes ahead, then we will be leasing ten acres to National Grid for millions of pounds. The innovation centre is full so that is now returning on profit, other businesses have moved to the site who may want to buy a piece of land so that is how we get our return.

- **When will Fareham Borough Council make a decision on the land around Coldeast sites and how will we know about it?**

That will happen during the summer, officers and members will be working on it, and I would expect that in the autumn this year, then we will be looking at getting a draft of the role of the Local Plan, and then physically making the decision on all of those sites, and say are they in or are they to be ruled out. This year we will know what Fareham Borough Council is recommending.

Another site will come forward in Warsash which will be the School of Navigation where half of it is down by the water, the university is retaining to improve the facilities for students, but the other part of the site will inevitably go for housing. That site is brownfield and it has been submitted in response to a call for sites.

- **How many years ago was the previous call for sites?**

Four.

- **How many sites came forward?**

There were 50 and we said no to all of them.

The building that is going on is in a very condensed area, these have not been allowed to settle down and now more sites are being looked at. Brook Lane is so narrow and there are more houses to be built which mean these roads are going to be even worse! There hasn't been enough time to accommodate the building which is going on?

The only way we could improve this would be to widen the roads, which we cannot do as it would take people's front gardens which honestly would not happen.

The reality is that we have got the roads we have got in our residential areas; we can try and improve distributor roads, but we cannot widen those roads.

In regards to the building, we need to accommodate for the housing need, if we don't cater for that then we will lose the planning appeals, and then we will get nothing except for houses.

- **A pedestrian's point of view of Warsash. There are a lack of litter bins; a lack of toilets and overgrown pathways.**

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Give the specifics to the Chairman (Councillor Ford), as your local Councillor; he will be able to help.

- **Very concerned about Taylor Wimpey and their proposal for 90 homes. If they are given consent, the traffic will be a nightmare!**
Taylor Wimpey and three other developers have put in applications. They have a right to make planning applications and we have a right to refuse.

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