

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 16 July 2019 – Western Wards

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Bayford, Cllr Cartwright, Cllr Englefield, Cllr Ford

76 residents

Chairman: Cllr Ian Bastable

Speakers:

- Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward
- Temporary Sergeant Lee Paddick, Hampshire Police

What was talked about?

Cllr Bastable, 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

Temporary Sergeant Paddick gave an update on local policing issues. He explained that the police were aware of and tackling anti-social behaviour in the area and advised residents to be mindful of the increased risk of theft from homes or motor vehicles left unlocked in the summer months. He also mentioned the [Immobilise](#) website which people could use to record details of their property, so it can be more easily recovered if stolen.

Questions from the floor to Hampshire Police

Q. Is the 101 line a premium rate phone number?

A. It is not a free number but may become so in the future (*calls cost 15p, regardless of length of call*).

Q. Recently there was an incident of anti-social behaviour at a local fete. As a community we want to know if there is going to be some action taken.

A. It was a horrendous incident and we are gathering evidence about it.

Q. Will police patrols be increased in the Warsash area?

A. We tend to increase patrols in response to reported incidents and dependent on the police resources that are available.

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- Q.** Is there more we can do to prevent serious assaults in the area – we want to see more being done?
- A.** I will get an officer to update you directly on this issue. It's important that you report crimes to the police, either using the 101 number or online. We can't take action against criminals based on Facebook posts.
- Q.** I tried to report a crime online and the system didn't work. This response is not what the general public expects.
- A.** I can report back that the online system is not fit for purpose.
- Q.** How will you respond to underage drinking in public places?
- A.** If this is reported to us, we will act on it. Our blue light teams will come out in emergencies.
- Q.** How do you prioritise this on your system?
- A.** We need CCTV or descriptions and then we will take it seriously and follow it up.
- Q.** Prevention is better than cure – how many police officers patrol the area at night?
- A.** We have the same amount of officers patrolling at day and at night. During the day we patrol neighbourhood areas and at night we prioritise areas where we think crime may happen. Once we know there is an issue in an area we patrol it.
- Q.** Is there a correlation between the number of houses and the amount of crime (so will crime increase if there are 800-900 more houses in the area)?
- A.** The number of officers in an area is based on the population. Crimes tend to go in peaks and troughs or there is sporadic (e.g. motor) theft. I don't think there is necessarily an increase in crime if more houses are built. I can get some facts and figures if you want them.
- Q.** There is a group of young people in the area who are intimidating and threatening, making other young people afraid to come out. How can you prevent this?
- A.** I don't want to comment on specific incidents, but the local police team are working on this. There are banning orders we can put in place.
- Q.** Giving these young people a conditional caution doesn't have any effect.
- A.** There is also a lot of work going on behind the scenes to tackle this problem.

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- Q.** Is switching the street lights off between 1am and 4am having an effect on crime?
- A.** I live in the area and haven't seen an increase.
- Q.** Bearing in mind GDPR, what are our rights if we catch people taking part in anti-social behaviour (e.g. by posting pictures or videos of them)?
- A.** It can make things difficult for the police in gathering evidence or securing a prosecution if details, pictures or videos are posted online, such as on Facebook. It is better to report the crime to the police and send us any footage. We may be able to post it on our official police Facebook pages.
- Q.** What is the website where you can record details of your property?
- A.** You can record photos and serial numbers of things like bikes, lawnmowers, computers and jewellery at www.immobilise.com. This will increase the chance of getting them back if they are stolen.

Councillor Woodward – annual update

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

Questions from the floor on the annual update

- Q.** My question is about affordable housing development. How can you ensure that developers include affordable housing in their schemes and don't get in a position where they say it is not viable?
- A.** The new National Planning Policy Framework includes a chapter on viability. We agree with developers at the start of the development how much affordable housing will go in.
- Q.** If there are 3000 people in the Borough who need affordable housing, where are they now?
- A.** There can be a number of reasons why people are in need of affordable housing. They could be living in private rented accommodation, living with families, be in rent arrears or in imminent danger of becoming homeless. There are different types of affordable housing including traditional social housing, affordable rented housing and shared equity.
- Q.** There isn't a lot of help for people to buy a house or get on the housing ladder, and wages do not stack up against mortgages. Why are people who need houses here being pushed out by people coming down from London and buying large houses?
- A.** I agree, deposits for homes are very high. That's why providing affordable housing is so important. We are trying to provide different types of tenure for different people or support

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people by providing council housing or homes to buy with a discount. Self-build is also potentially cheaper than buying a conventional home and we encourage this.

- Q.** Does the Council have any powers to ensure that developers stick to building what they have said they will build?
- A.** If a developer breaches the planning application we can stop them from building, take them to court or invite them to amend the planning application.
- Q.** What if developers don't build the social housing promised, once they start the development?
- A.** It's not as easy as saying "we forgot to build it". They are in a legally-binding contract.
- Q.** Chichester and Winchester have just 4% of their land built on, while Fareham has 38%. Why can't development be allocated on a countywide basis instead of cramming into areas like Fareham. Are you trying to bring Portsmouth and Southampton together?
- A.** This will be covered in the Local Plan presentation
- Q.** Is the Genesis Centre closing?
- A.** No. If the current Genesis Centre could be housed at another site to free the current site for housing this may happen, but there are no plans at the moment.
- Q.** Are there any other youth centres?
- A.** Yes, at Locks Heath Free Church, Crofton Youth Project and others run by Y-Services in the Borough.

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.** You talk about affordable housing, but what about sustainable houses and eco-friendly houses?
- A.** All development is governed by building regulations, which are much better in terms of sustainability than they used to be. We try and make sure homes in the Borough and environmentally friendly – for example we have built 'Passivhaus' homes, which have very low energy consumption, next to Sarisbury Junior School. Developers do like to have or advertise buildings that are a bit different.

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- Q.** You talk about limited, small-scale development on land west of the Western Wards. What is a small-scale development and how many small-scale developments would there be?
- A.** Government guidance says that 10% of homes should be on small and medium sites. We haven't put a strict definition on what would be a small-scale development. One suggestion is that it shouldn't be more than a hectare (two acres) which is quite small scale. It could be up to 100 homes.
- Q.** Building 520 homes a year would mean 9,000 houses which equals 30,000 people. Do you think we have the current infrastructure to support this?
- A.** No, I don't – it would be character changing for the Borough.
- Q.** Will developers get together to provide the infrastructure we need?
- A.** Every planning application has to be taken on its own merits. However, we will work with groups of developers to ensure we don't have six separate sites with six play areas and so on. We would create a development brief to ensure that the infrastructure we need is split across the different developers.
- Q.** How can you put 800 houses on Brook Lane, given the impact on traffic?
- A.** Hampshire County Council's transport department need to look at what can be done to mitigate traffic issues and tell developers what they need to do and pay for.
- Q.** Shouldn't housing be built near the motorway?
- A.** The majority of new housing, such as Welborne, will be built near the motorway.
- Q.** Housing being built in North Whiteley will have a major impact in this area and I have concerns over public transport, policing, traffic, schools and health care.
- A.** We will extract what we can from developers to pay for infrastructure improvements in Fareham without making the development unviable.
- Q.** It's not fair that more and more housing is being built by the coast and the infrastructure is not there to support it. Why can't we have countywide planning?
- A.** County planning does not exist in this country – every planning authority has to deal with its own planning need. South Hampshire has the bulk of the county's population and I can't justify the housing numbers given to us.
- Q.** What can you say to the people who will be affected by the increased housing numbers and see no real push back on these from the Council?
- A.** We will continue to fight those numbers given to us. There will be no rescinding of planning consent and we will look all over the Borough for sites.

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- Q.** Southampton is the 5th best place to get a job, Portsmouth the 6th best and Gosport is number 1. That's why it's so overcrowded in this area – the government should spread jobs around the country.
- A.** Gosport doesn't have many jobs and people are leaving it to get work contributing massively to traffic congestion. We need jobs in this area.
- Q.** Concerns about getting a doctor's appointment and whether QA Hospital will cope, if there is a lot of new development.
- A.** We can't provide GPs as responsibility for commissioning GP services lies with the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We work closely with the CCG and NHS to look at the impact on health service infrastructure of any planned new developments.
- Q.** There's no definition of small-scale development. We can't comment on something we don't have clarity on.
- A.** We don't have a definition for small-scale development as the Government hasn't provided one in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Small and medium sites are normally up to one hectare, but we need to look at the context of each potential development area
- Q.** My question is about affordable housing and protecting green space in the Western Wards?
- A.** We will need to build somewhere, and this affects not just Warsash but the whole Borough – other areas in the Borough don't want housing on green space either.

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