

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 18 July 2017 – Ferneham Hall

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Woodward, Cllr Birkett, Cllr Trott, Cllr Brady, Cllr Bryant, Cllr Keeble, Cllr Clubley, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Steadman

Residents: approx. 60

What was talked about?

Cllr Birkett, the Chairman of the meeting, gave a brief introduction and introduced the speakers.

1. Sgt Mark Lamper gave an update from the local Police.

Questions from the floor to Sgt Mark Lamper

Q Why are you not moving to FBC offices anymore?

A I'm not privy to that information or involved in that decision. That is between FBC and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Q Re litter around Fareham police station, the guttering embankment is usually full of litter. I wrote to Cllr Woodward about it with enclosed photographs. He wrote back and said it was the responsibility of the police. Is that correct?

A We have caretakers who clear up. If it needs to be done more frequently then we can look at that.

Q I'm disappointed with the speed limit in Southampton Road where I live. There are a high volume of cars that use it as a thorough fare. I've been there 9 years. There was a petition initially but some residents weren't keen on traffic calming. I want something to be done. Every time I arrive at my house, I can see in my back view that there is a car coming down the road. and with double banks of cars on either side. It's a problem to enter your own driveway and it's quite dangerous. The speed limit needs to be 20 please. I'm very impassioned about this.

A We don't set the speed limits, we enforce them. This would be a matter for Highways.

A from Fred Birkett (on behalf of HCC) The county council is part of this and I'm happy to talk to you about it afterwards.

Q A week ago in Watersmeet I heard there were young people hanging around and they had devices which interfere with garage doors. Quite a lot of it about so I here.

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A I'm aware of garage door incident and we can get some resources to look at it if needed.

Q Re Highlands Road shops and street drinking during the day?

A I'm aware of that. It's an ongoing issue. We will get some resources to look at that.

Q I'm interested in safety, in particular i'm concerned about what happens on pavements with respect to cycling - young people don't seem to understand it is a pedestrian area and mobility vehicles are a problem too. I'm also interested in the public order in West Street after 2100 hours. Public order, in my opinion, is a very important part of policing and yet it doesn't seem to be done.

A We use a traffic light Red, green and amber system for policing West Street after 2100 hours. So we risk assess it depending on the impending event, for example payday. Fareham really is a ghost town compared to what it used to be like and we don't have enough staff to wander around just in case something happens. If we have intelligence or a potential event then we will put out more officers accordingly. I agree with you about preventing crime and safe guarding people but we just haven't got the resources to wait for something to happen.

2. Hayley from One Community talked about Volunteering opportunities and support available in the Borough.

3. Cllr Woodward, gave a presentation about developments in the borough over the past year and a look at what is happening now. You can view the presentation here.

Questions from the floor to Councillor Woodward

Q Why are the police no longer moving into the Civic offices?

A The police approached FBC around 3 years ago stating their intention to close the police station in Fareham. The discussion has dragged on and on. I contacted Police and Crime Commission and asked them to decide by the end of July. They were worried about the costs. They own the police station at Park Gate so I suggested that they can put neighbourhood teams there provided they can find a small space in the town centre to house some of their staff. But they don't require a space as large as they initially thought so the Civic Offices are not suitable.

Q What will happen to the police building eventually?

A It would be difficult to convert it so it will be flattened. There is potential for housing, a multi-storey car park and potential for shops. It's a big site so there are all sorts of possibilities for it.

Q Do you have a timescale for development of junction 10 into a full junction?

A This will be determined by the speed of the planning application for Welborne. The detail is with Highways England at the moment. They are also looking at making the M27 a smart motorway and that project is planned to start in the New Year from junction 4 to junction 11.

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They have to tie this in somehow so as not to prejudice junction 10. The funding from the local enterprise partnership of £29m has to be spent by 2021. It's an early phase of the development in the Buckland plan, so it should fit in with 2021 timescale.

Q The vision mentions a variety of shops so my question is how can the council ensure this? At the moment every other shop is a coffee shop.

A There must be some logic to it as they do seem to manage to sell lots of coffee and cake! We can't dictate what goes in there unless we own the building. In the Shopping Centre we do have a requirement to agree tenants, but for West Street we can only encourage the landlords and give them options. We hope the owners would want to encourage variety. The reason you see some many charity shops in vacant units is because they get an 80% discount on business rates and then the Council gives them another 20% so that's a 100% discount. I am meeting them with the Shopping Centre owner in a few weeks' time about some of the bigger empty units so hopefully we will have some news on some of those soon.

Q Can you tell me about the redundant Fareham court building?

A It's going to be knocked down and will become housing. Our housing target is 600 over 20 years. We should have total influence on the design.

Q Re the converter at Daedalus? Why then transport to Chilling? Can you not convert the existing power station at Fawley instead?

A Fawley power station has been sold in its entirety and is being developed. As a planning authority we can only determine a previously used site, they thought it made sense to go there and they are absolutely committed to Daedalus now.

Q Re the new coastal works at Hill Head will there be sufficient drainage system for the water where waves break over? Where there is a similar wall by the sailing club it is ankle deep in water in the winter.

A Yes it is designed by Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership which will meet these requirements. The challenge is finding the money to pay for it as homes are not at risk and therefore we don't get any money from the Environment Agency. We have had to find the £1m from the council's resources as we value the promenade. We can send you the plans if you speak to us after.

Q Re the plans for the Multi-storey car park, why are we reducing the no. of parking spaces in Fareham?

A When we undertook a parking census it revealed that is only 50% used. People prefer more spacious multi storeys and Market Quay car park. Calculations show 600 spaces is appropriate for that area given usage of car parks across the town centre.

Q Looking to the future, aren't you creating a new problem as people won't pay for parking. If you are putting more housing in and more shops, will it be sufficient for the future. There is more and more parking in service roads and this will spread out. During the week the service road by Delme pub is a car park.

A Intention is to build a new multi storey at Market Quay to give more spaces. People park

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in residential streets to avoid parking charges. Our charges haven't changed in 7 years. There will be about 30 new homes a year within the town centre so it is not going to have a huge overnight impact.

Q What's happening with the land between Tesco's and Bath Lane where there was planning permission for flats? The trees were cut down several years ago. It is an eyesore. I understand the planning application has now lapsed.

A Anybody can apply for planning permission; it's down to them how quickly they build. We can't force a private landowner to build houses. The Magistrates Court building is different as it's in public ownership so you can take that as a certainty. The challenge is often getting the funding to be able to do the housing, particularly for a housing association. A lot of factors in play and they rely on sales of existing stock. With our housing company set up with Eastleigh Borough Council, Aspects, we will be funding and building the housing. We could certainly look at renegotiating the deal we had with the carpark.

Q Re law and order, we were told the number of police officers has been cut. At what point will we have no police officers?

A It's not always every town loses police officers. They make a judgement about where they are needed. Simple fact of the matter is we have a low crime rate particularly for serious crime. We have officers too which try and help with low level crime. More officers might go to Gosport but we still have access to them if we need them.

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