

**MINUTES OF FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCILS' TENANTS' &  
LEASEHOLDERS' FORUM**

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**1:30PM AT FERNEHAM HALL**

**In attendance:** Tracy Thomas (Chair); Mollie Pearman (Vice Chair); Eileen Bailey; Liz Bartlett; Tony Bury; Pam Corbin; Sally Eeles; Allan Davies; Diane Davies; Susan Dean; Dorothy Dicks; John Elsey; Ann Fells; Yvonne Goddard; Jim Hennessy; Myra Lee; Doreen Mallows; Cliff Murray; Sylvia Murray; Barbara Perry; Barbara Robertson; Peter Robertson; Sandy Shearman; Phil Taylor; Phil Taylor; Ken Tomlinson; David Town; Paula Weaver; Gary Wheeler.

**Officers & Councillors in attendance:** Robyn Lyons (Affordable Housing Strategic Lead); Barbara Cowie (Food Saver Champion) and Jennie Larkin (Tenant Involvement Officer).

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Tracy Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and Robyn and Barbara introduced themselves.
2. **Chair's announcements and apologies for absence:** There were no announcements.

**Apologies:** Valerie Avery; Carla Banks; Mr & Mrs Buxey; Mr & Mrs Chandler; Joan Chapman; Mr & Mrs Coad; Marie Condon; Debbie & Roy Gibbs; Anne Haddow; Sheila Hewes; Dave Hurden; Mr Johnstone; Mrs MacFarlane; Mr & Mrs Martienssen; Mrs McIntosh; Ruth Payne; Colin Ponteaux; Jenny Rigden-Murphy; Maureen Tanner; Mary Tree; Mrs Weir; Derek Whitear.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Barbara Perry proposed that the minutes be accepted & Sally Eeles seconded this.

**Matters arising** – An action list was circulated at the meeting which included issues raised at the last meeting.

4. **Affordable Housing (Robyn Lyons, Affordable Housing Strategy Lead):**  
Robyn Lyons spoke to the Forum about her role (presentation slides attached).
  - Robyn's role involves looking at the longer term for housing in the Borough of Fareham and what the Council wants to achieve and how. Robyn looks at how we can provide affordable housing; writing strategies and looking at sources of funding. Robyn also comments on planning applications.

- To help her in her role, Robyn looks at the housing waiting list and examines who is waiting for housing and what their needs are. A lot of people are waiting for one bed sheltered housing (25%).
- The Council is currently working on eight sites in the Borough including a site in Highlands Road where there will be 18 flats and five family homes in Park Gate.
- Robyn explained that for large sites, up to 40% of the properties must be for affordable homes.
- Money limits what can be built, but, recent government budget changes mean that Councils can borrow more.
- An Affordable Housing Strategy is currently being written and a strategy for homelessness and sheltered housing will follow. In addition to this a Stock Condition Survey is planned for 2019.

#### **Questions & answers:**

- What is happening with Welbourne? The planning application for the site has not yet been approved & discussions are still taking place. The site will have to include 30% affordable housing.
- Will tenants be consulted about the Sheltered Housing Strategy? Yes.
- How many houses are being built in the Borough. Robyn only deals with Affordable Housing, so, did not have the figures for the whole Borough. There is pressure to build more in Fareham and there are approximately 1,000 people on the housing waiting list.
- How many one bed properties are there? This information will be provided at the next meeting.

Tracy thanked Robyn for her talk to the Forum.

#### **5. Plastic Waste (Barbara Cowie, Waste Engagement):**

Barbara spoke to the Forum about plastic waste and said that much of the information about plastic is confusing and misleading. Barbara said that she would be happy to attend any coffee mornings or other events so that she could go through the issue of plastic in more detail. Barbara talked about the following:

- Some supermarkets are now using paper bags instead of plastic ones for fruit and vegetables. Is this good? Sadly, alternatives can have a higher carbon

footprint and could potentially cause more damage. So, take a reusable shopping bag with you when you go shopping.

(See <https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf>)

- Much of the plastic in the sea around the UK is from littering and poorly covered landfill sites.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-does-plastic-end-ocean>

Consumerism and convenience helps drive the plastic problem and the continued use of single use plastics.

Suggestions for alternatives:

<https://www.treehugger.com/green-home/11-easy-ways-reduce-your-plastic-waste-today.html>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/9-ways-reduce-plastic-use/>

<https://www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk/2018/06/04/10-ways-to-reduce-plastic-in-your-home/>

- Why don't we recycle more in the UK? Limited facilities for recycling due to a lack of investment, infrastructure and end markets. The Government needs to take more action and implement legislation that supports a circular economy.
- Microfibres: plastic in materials used for clothing gets washed out and ends up in rivers and the sea. There are also plastics in shampoo and conditioners for example. (See <https://www.hubbub.org.uk/top-tips-for-taking-better-care-of-our-clothes> and <https://innersensebeauty.com/what-are-plastic-resins-waxes-and-silicones-doing-in-my-shampoos-and-conditioners/> )
- A large amount of the plastic found in the Pacific Ocean comes from commercial fishing. (See [www.theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/](http://www.theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/) )
- We all need to shop more responsibly and to educate our children about plastic and waste.  
<http://feeding5k.org/businesses+casestudies.php>  
<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/supermarket-news>



diagram from the short circuit report by Gaia Foundation Friends of Earth

Illustration Kenneth buddha Jeans

- Reduce the amount of plastic you buy; re-use it where you can and recycle. (See <https://zerowasteurope.eu/2013/04/zero-waste-hierarchy/>)
- Some pots, tubs and trays collected by other UK Councils was being shipped to Asia and other parts of the world. What happens to it there?

Those Councils who have been collecting them have often been sending them to the Far East for re-processing. Recently China banned almost all imports of waste, and other countries are following suit. Vietnam recently announced limits on waste imports. and this has given a real headache to those collectors. Often the plastic ends up as incinerator fuel because there is no re-processor who will take it. Sending it abroad can cause more problems, if it is sent to countries where there is a high risk of plastic entering the ocean. All the non-recyclable plastic in Hampshire is incinerated with energy recovery; although this is not ideal, we can be sure it doesn't end up in the ocean.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/uk-plastic-pollution-oceans-recycling-export-waste-malaysia-vietnam-thailand-a8400761.html> and <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2018/12/05/britain-must-stop-passing-buck-plastic-waste-worlds-poorest/>

- Take more care of electrical goods and make them last longer.

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/technology/recycling-electrical-goods>

<https://therestartproject.org/>

## 6. Feedback from meetings with contractors & South Coast Training:

**Feedback from the Housing Scrutiny Panel** – Tracy Thomas will be attending the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Tracy will give details at the next meeting.

**Liberty Gas** – Paula Weaver will be attending the next meeting with Liberty Gas which will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Paula was asked to pass on comments from Mr Bury who said that the service provided to him had been good. John Elsey also commented on how helpful the staff were at Liberty when he rang through with a problem and when the engineer visited. Paula was also asked to mention gas certificates as TSG did not always issue these.

Liberty are to be asked to attend the next Forum meeting.

**Cleaning & caretaking:** Tracy Thomas attended the last contractor monitoring group meeting. Generally, cleaning seems to have improved. Window cleaning is currently being carried out throughout the Borough.

The next Estate Monitor's meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**South Coast Training:** Ten delegates from FBC attended the last event in October this year. Workshops included Confidence Building; Housing Law; Mental Health & Scrutiny. All those who attended enjoyed the day. The next event will take place in May next year and this will be the 40<sup>th</sup> SCT conference. There are currently nine organisations sending delegates to the conferences.

**Editorial Panel & newsletter:** The latest newsletter is almost ready. Volunteers were asked to deliver it and all those who said they were able to do this will be provided with newsletters by mid-December.

**Grounds Maintenance:** Tenants are represented at these meetings by Yvonne; Liz Leach and Linda Wylie. A meeting is planned for early next month.

## 7. Any other matters:

- Residents at Valentine Close are unhappy that the bin area is always in a mess and that someone has urinated in the entrance way. **CCTV is helping with this issue.**
- Rubbish is being put in the wrong place at Solent House and a letter to all residents was requested advising people to take care when disposing of their rubbish.
- Cat litter is not being bagged very well before being put into bins at King George Road.

- There continues to be a problem with dog fouling at Lincoln Close and residents would like a bin for dog waste.
  - Cobwebs are not being cleared away at St Marys Road. **Reported to Hi Spec.**
  - The cleaners are using the residents hoover for the communal lounge at Lincoln Close. **Reported to Hi Spec and issue now resolved.**
  - There is a problem with guttering at King George Road. The phone number for Responsive Repairs was given to all to report such issues.
  - The Forum would like to ask the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Panel to attend Forum meetings.
  - The notices about parking at King George Road are not in the right place and need to be moved. Also, it is difficult to drive out of the block because of cars parking close to the entrance. The same problem occurs at Minden House. Can anything be done?
  - The central heating systems in blocks such as Valentine and Minden are out of date and expensive to run. Are there any plans to update them? **A stock condition survey will be carried out early in 2019 and more will be known after this about any plans to update heating systems. Feedback will be given to the Forum and Shaun Barnett will be asked to attend a future meeting.**
  - There are a lot of weeds around Bellfield and Ransome Close. **This will be raised at the next grounds maintenance meeting.**
  - Paula Weaver requested an estate inspection for Bellfield; Hewett and Ransome.
  - A resident is feeding pigeons at Baytree Lodge. Can a letter be sent out please to all residents?
8. **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 1:30pm.