



Fleet & Church Crookham Society Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2016

Member of



Fleet & Church Crookham Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27 April 2016, 7.30pm
War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham

Our guest speaker will be Cllr Bob Schofield,
Chairman of Fleet Town Council



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Chairman’s Introduction

Having now been involved with the Society as Chairman for the last 10 months, what a great experience it has been, getting to know the skills of the other members of the committee as well as getting to grips with the local area (being quite new to the Fleet and Church Crookham area).

The latest consultation on the Local Plan has been a strong focus for the Society over the last few months. We produced an easy to read, jargon-free information leaflet which was delivered to 16,000 homes in Fleet and Church Crookham, setting out our views on the potential impact of the proposed options on Fleet & Church Crookham.

As we know, the consultation was halted by Hart District Council and a new consultation launched at the start of February (see page 8). We took the decision to update our information leaflet and I would personally like to thank the

many members who volunteered to hand-deliver the revised leaflets to homes across Fleet and Church Crookham.

Following some work undertaken by a sub-group of the main committee towards the end of 2015, we will be presenting an updated Constitution (see page 2) at the AGM which is due to take place on Wednesday 27 April 2016 at Church Crookham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. We would like to welcome as many members as possible to our the AGM to agree this new Constitution.

As always, we would welcome anybody who wishes to join FCCS as either a new member and/or a member of the committee and I look forward to meeting everybody at the AGM. Why not mention the work of the Society to friends and colleagues and invite them along to the AGM too?

David Bentley

Welcome to our New Members

A warm welcome to **Jim Storey** who has joined since the last newsletter

The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Fleet & Church Crookham Society. Neither the authors nor the Society accept responsibility for any use to which the information contained in this Newsletter may be put.

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Society's Constitution

The Executive Committee decided to review the Society's Constitution this year, and as a result we would like to propose a number of changes with the aim of simplifying it and making it more relevant to the Society's current activities.

Members will be asked to vote on these proposals at the AGM in April. The changes are set out in full below, in order to give members notice of them before the AGM. Where only one word has changed, the word in question has been highlighted in red. The full text of the existing constitution is available on the Society's website.

If you have any questions in advance of the AGM, please do contact us (see back page for contact details).

Clause 2.1

Existing clause: The Society shall be established for the public benefit of Fleet and Church Crookham and the surrounding area (hereinafter referred to as 'the area of **benefit**')

Proposed clause: The Society shall be established for the public benefit of Fleet and Church Crookham and the surrounding area (hereinafter referred to as 'the area of **interest**').

This change would be made wherever the expression 'area of benefit' occurs in the Constitution.

Clause 2 2

Existing clause: The primary objectives of the Society in the area of benefit (hereinafter referred to as the 'Objectives') shall be as follows:

- To protect and enhance the quality of life of the residents.
- To protect and enhance the overall environment, including that associated with recreation.
- To promote high standards of planning and architecture.
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.
- To promote civic pride and stimulate public interest in the area of benefit.

Proposed clause: The primary objectives of the Society in the area of interest (hereinafter referred to as the 'Objectives') shall be as follows:

- To promote the environmental, social, economic, cultural and recreational improvement of Fleet and Church Crookham for the benefit of people living and working there.
- To promote high standards of planning, urban design and architecture in or affecting Fleet and Church Crookham.
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.
- To promote high quality public amenities and services for the people of Fleet and Church Crookham.
- To promote harmonious relations among the community of all races, beliefs and cultures in Fleet and Church Crookham.
- To promote civic pride and stimulate public interest in the area of interest.

Clause 2.3 (item 8)

Existing clause: To invite and receive subscriptions contributions or donations provided that the Society shall not undertake any trading activities in raising funds.

Proposed clause: To invite and receive subscriptions, contributions or donations.

Clause 5.5

Existing clause: To vote at the meetings stated above a Member must be present in person and their subscription paid.

Proposed clause: A Member may vote in person or by proxy provided their subscription is paid.

Clause 6 (and throughout the Constitution)

Existing expression: the Executive Committee

Proposed expression: the Committee

Clause 6.7

Existing clause: The Executive Committee may recommend the appointment of a President to be elected at a General Meeting of the Society.

Proposed clause: The Committee may recommend the appointment of a President or Patron to be elected at a General Meeting of the Society.

Clause 9.6

Existing clause: The Executive Committee may direct that property belonging to the Society be vested in Trustees based upon a proper and suitable arrangement to be determined between the Society and Trustees at the appropriate time.

The Executive Committee recommends that this clause should be removed as it is not relevant to the Society's activities.

Clause 11.1

Existing clause: Any notice required to be given by this Constitution shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered by hand, or posted, or sent **be** electronic means, to the address last notified to the Secretary by that Member.

Proposed clause: Any notice required to be given by this constitution shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered by hand, or posted, or sent **by** electronic means, to the address last notified to the Secretary by that Member.

Clause 12.3

Existing clause: On dissolution the minute books and other records shall be offered to Civic Voice.

Proposed clause: On dissolution the minute books and other records shall be offered to Civic Voice or other appropriate organisations.

Summary of changes section

The Executive Committee recommends that this section should be removed as it is not necessary.

Town/Parish Council Annual Residents' Meetings

Fleet Town Council will be holding its Annual Residents' Meeting on the **Tuesday 5 April** in The Harlington at 7.30pm (with refreshments available from 7pm). There will be presentations by Fleet Town Council as well as displays by local community organisations (including FCCS).



Elvetham Heath Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting is on **Wednesday 20 April** at The Key Centre on Elvetham Heath (time TBC).



Church Crookham Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting is on **Friday 13 May** at Church Crookham Community Centre at 6pm–10pm.



Fleet Phoenix

Fleet Phoenix is your local youth and community organisation, working with and supporting 8- to 25-year-olds in and around the Hart District. Here, they give an update on their work

Based in Fleet, Fleet Phoenix's dedicated and experienced team offers a variety of projects, events and support through youth clubs, advice and information, mentoring, counselling, training and much more. We offer young people the opportunity to find information and receive advice, learn new skills and talents, from music and circus skills, to art & craft and life skills, such as budgeting, job searching and training.

Fleet Phoenix was founded in 2011 by Youth and Community Worker, Charlotte Tickner, when local services were dramatically reduced by government austerity measures. Fleet Phoenix prides itself in its flexible approach to youth work, adapting to the ever-changing needs of the young people and our community.

Last year we supported and worked with more than 1,100 local individual young people, offering support with a variety of issues from employment and education/training advice, housing and homelessness, emotional wellbeing and mental health, sexual health and



relationships, alcohol and substance misuse, and bereavement and illness, to name but a few: the list is limitless. The team believes in a holistic and proactive approach to youth work, building up strong and trusting relationships with young people through early engagement. Building up a level of trust and understanding between the young people and staff is important so

that we can better support them when particular needs arise. The team currently delivers ten youth projects weekly, plus seasonal projects and support at the monthly Hype discos, in addition to two days of training and one of exam invigilation per week at the BMW Academy near Reading.

If you know of a young person in need of support or guidance, why not encourage them to pop by and see us? We are primarily based at The Point Youth Centre, Harlington Way, Fleet; further information of our services and projects is available from our website:

www.fleetphoenix.co.uk

Sonja Gahan

Assets of Community Value – Success!

In previous issues we have talked about Assets of Community Value, and our intent to apply for certain premises in Fleet and Church Crookham to be registered.

Just as a reminder, getting an asset on the register gives it some protection against change of use and planning applications – and especially if the property is put up for sale.

In January, we submitted three applications to Hart District Council (HDC). All three relate to public houses: the Fox and Hounds in Crookham Road, and the Old Emporium and the Oat Sheaf in the town. We chose these three carefully on the basis of community

value, and to a degree because they are significant historical features of our community.

It is interesting to note that of the six assets on HDC's register, four are public houses – which perhaps says something about what people in Hart value most! None of these lie within our patch of Fleet and Church Crookham.

The three applications that we submitted have been approved by Hart District Council. Furthermore, our applications were supported by Fleet Town Council, and we thank them for their endorsement.

The owners do have a right of appeal and have 2 months to do so. However, before considering our applications, HDC did notify the owners asking for comment. As far as we are aware, they have not objected to our applications.

We may well consider seeking to register other 'assets' in due course, so if you have your favourite 'community asset', please do get in touch!

Patric Downes
patric.downes@gmail.com

Photo from Oat Sheaf Pub



Closure of the Red Cross Centre in Fleet

In our last newsletter, we reported that the British Red Cross had decided to proceed with the sale of their property in Clarence Road, thus making it necessary for the volunteers who provide various highly valued services for our community to find new homes from which to operate.

The Brendoncare clubs in Fleet have been successfully relocated in alternative premises: the Wednesday Club in the hall next to the Church of Our Lady in Kings Road, the Thursday Club in the newly opened Community Centre in Crookham Park.

A particularly important service provided by a 12-strong team of volunteers using the Clarence Road Centre has been the Red Cross Mobility Equipment Loan Service. For a while it seemed as if these volunteers might have become homeless. Fortunately, following representations from various quarters, including our Society, Hart Voluntary Action came to the rescue by offering the Red Cross the use of their Hart Shopping Centre hub to house the mobility equipment and the volunteers who run the service.



BritishRedCross

At the end of January, the volunteers moved into the Hart Shopping Centre first floor site to resume the operation of the Red Cross loan service in Fleet. The service provides short-term (up to 3 months) loans of wheelchairs and other independent living aids, for people with a disability or who are recovering from surgery or from an illness; very important in the light of current concerns about hospital 'bed-blocking' problems faced by the NHS and Social Services.

There is no charge for the service although donations are always welcome. The volunteers are available each weekday morning between 10am and 12 noon for equipment to be collected and for users to be talked through how to use their loans. More information on the service can be obtained by calling 01252 810774 or by searching for Mobility Aids on the Red Cross website www.redcross.org.uk.

John Pearson

2016 Fleet Food Festival

The amazingly successful Fleet Food Festival returns to the Views on Sunday 29 May. This year we are excited to be launching a delicious new programme of activities, and there will be an extra hour to enjoy all the fun as the Festival will be opening at 10am.

There will be:

- Over 50 stalls showcasing the huge variety of high quality local suppliers – including street food vendors, cheese makers, bakers, confectioners, ice cream vendors and providers of speciality oils and chutneys. For thirsty folks there will hot and cold drinks, delicious Pimms, speciality beers, wine and liqueurs.
- The extremely popular Cookery Theatre, offering the chance to see amazing cookery demonstrations and food masterclasses from top local chefs – and maybe even a celebrity name!
- Fascinating talks by local experts in the Food and Wine Marquee – get there early as places are available on first-come, first served basis.
- A stage with live music from local bands to suit everyone – jazz to folk and ska to blues.
- Our brilliant local company, Buttons Children's Parties, offering entertainment for all the youngsters.



**Fleet 2016
FOOD FESTIVAL**

Entry fee is £2 (children under 5 go free) and normal Sunday car parking charges apply.

For all the latest information visit our website at www.fleetfoodfestival.co.uk, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter (@FleetFoodFest). Free programmes will be available in the Hart Shopping Centre and other Fleet locations nearer the time.

Fingers crossed for good weather and hoping to see you there!

Sue Tilley



Photo from Aldershot, Farnham and Fleet Camera Club

Plenty of Twenty? – What’s Happening?

As regular readers will know, we have been keeping an eye on the 20mph trial in place in the Albert Street/Connaught/Albany Road area since this began in 2014. The trial was expected to complete in February 2016, so what is happening? Well, it seems, not very much.

We sent six questions to the Traffic Management Unit at Hampshire County Council (HCC). Those questions and the answers received are set out below. Both questions and answers have been paraphrased slightly to make this article more readable.

Question 1: Is the trial still expected to complete in February? If not, when and why?

Answer 1: HCC was initially unwilling to give a date for completion of the trial, except that it will be sometime in 2016. We pressed for more detail on this, and the response was that the trial should conclude “in the summer”. There is no convincing rationale for this further extension, except for the convenience of HCC, and even this later date would appear not to be guaranteed.

Question 2: Will further monitoring of vehicle speeds be carried out post-trial?

Question 3: The intent was to re-survey residents regarding the effectiveness/desirability of the 20mph limit. Is this still in plan? If so, what form will this take and when might this happen?

Answers 2 and 3: The intent to both gather further data on traffic speeds and to re-survey residents has been re-stated. However, no details of this have been made available, nor have likely dates been given.

Question 4: Once the trial is concluded a decision will need to be taken regarding its future. Who will make this decision, and what is the likely timescale?

Answer 4: “A report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment will be presented to Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment for consideration. At this stage it is anticipated that the report will be prepared later this year.” We don’t expect this to happen before the Autumn, and perhaps later.

Question 5: If the decision is to retain the 20mph limit, will any further measures be taken to make the limit permanent eg, traffic calming measures?

Question 6: If the decision is in favour of abandoning the limit, then what happens? Presumably work will be required to remove signage and road markings etc.

Answers 5 and 6: HCC says that recommendations will be included in the report, but there is no detail as to what these options might be.

You might think all of this is a bit of a muddle, vague and unsatisfactory. I’m minded to agree. It’s difficult to avoid thinking that the trial could well become permanent by default, even though that is not HCC’s declared position.

Getting some answers and some clarity on this trial is long overdue. We will continue to ‘pester’.

Patric Downes

A New Harlington

Following recent media coverage of plans to develop The Harlington in Fleet, we invited Bob Schofield, Chairman of Fleet Town Council, to update us on the Council’s plans. Underneath we give our views on the proposals.

The public exhibition of a New Harlington development in Gurkha Square raised a number of questions from the public. Very few concerned the proposed new building which is focused on a new 300-person capacity, tiered, retractable seating auditorium with a 100-person capacity, tiered, seating balcony. The majority of the questions focused on the loss of Gurkha Square as a public space in the heart of Fleet, as a car park close to the high street, and as the venue for the market, Christmas Festivities and Remembrance Day service.

All of these comments have been taken on board and Fleet Town Council is working with Hampshire County Council (HCC) Library Services and Hart District Council to try and evolve a solution that accommodates most of the issues and produces a new facility that will provide a fully integrated library, with other community uses developed by Fleet Town Council. One challenge is to develop a solution that will permit the transfer of the library services and the Harlington events without interruption: one of the primary reasons for a

new, rather than refurbished, facility is that otherwise there would be no public facilities for the best part of 2 years. Despite the problems of refurbishing the existing facilities, it is an option that is being fully explored as well, such that at the end of the current exercise we can present to the public details of the available choices and they can decide which one goes ahead. Until that time no long-term financial commitment is being made by the Town Council.

One question that has been raised is, "Why are only Fleet Town residents being asked to raise the money to pay for a new facility?" Six years ago HDC decided it no longer wanted to operate The Harlington and placed it on a legal transfer order to the then newly created parish councils of Fleet Town, Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath. Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath Parish Council representatives wanted no part in the operation of The Harlington, which at the time of transfer was costing over £300,000 per year to operate. FTC representatives saw the greater community value in running The Harlington and drew up plans to reduce the cost of operations to £150,000 per annum. At least Church Crookham Council offered, for the first 3 years, to share in any overruns over the £150,000 predicted operating costs; in fact, they never



had to make a contribution.

As the old saying goes "if you don't ask, you don't get", so we may as well test the water and ask our fellow parish councils if they would like to make a contribution; we know for a fact that it is not only the residents of Fleet Town who use the facility.

We will keep residents updated on progress, even if our Town Talk newsletter doesn't cross that invisible line that unfortunately separates Fleet Town from Church Crookham.

Bob Schofield
Chairman, Fleet Town Council

Fleet & Church Crookham Society response

Since the front page article in the *Fleet News*, several members contacted the Society regarding the proposed changes at The Harlington.

There was a range of views, though several expressed concern over the extent of the increase in the Council Tax precept and others asked why the Fleet taxpayer would foot the bill for a facility that is used by residents throughout Hart.

We feel The Harlington is an important feature within Fleet, and the wider community, and its existence is important for Fleet and Church Crookham as it acts as a hub for events. For the facility to be viable it needs to be efficient and be able to satisfy the needs of the events and functions that it provides. The current building is falling behind on both these points, and to be viable in the future, is in need of extensive refurbishment or replacement.

The recent newspaper article did not seem very well reported in our view and readers will be forgiven into thinking that their council tax was to rise by some 80% whereupon the increase related exclusively to the element that related to the Fleet precept.

In our view, the proposals may have been received better by Fleet residents if they felt there was an element of choice in the funding of the feasibility work. We fully understand the concern that only Fleet residents are paying for a facility that is used by the whole of Hart, though equally, if the venue is able to be profitable, then it is the Fleet taxpayer who will benefit from the surplus revenue that will help subsidise the tax demand. It does, however, mean that the correct choices are critical to the success of the existing or new facility, and that needs to be explored carefully.

We'd also be keen to explore the idea of a Fleet Residents' discount, loyalty card or some other direct benefit for Fleet residents if it is only Fleet residents who fund the development of the new or refurbished facility through their Council Tax precept.

Phill Gower

Come along to our AGM on Wednesday 27 April at 7.30pm (at the War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham) to hear Cllr Bob Schofield talk further about the plans for The Harlington.

Hart District Council Housing Consultation (Take Two...)

Phill Gower updates us on the twists and turns in the Housing Consultation story.

From our Autumn 2015 newsletter you will have seen that Hart District Council was consulting on housing options that will feed into the Local Plan for the district.

Hart Council has to produce a Local Plan to demonstrate how it will meet housing need for the planning period that runs from the past date of 2011 through to 2032. It also has to consider how well neighbouring districts are able to contribute to the housing needs to ensure that the housing needs of the wider area are satisfied. This wider area is referred to as the 'Strategic Housing Market Area' (SHMA) and Hart District Council is grouped with neighbouring Rushmoor Council and Surrey Heath Council for the purposes of calculating demand.

Hart District's share of new housing has been calculated as around 7,500 new properties, of which around 4,600 have been built or received planning permission in the period from 2011 to now, leaving approximately 3,000 still to find. Unfortunately, Surrey Heath and Rushmoor expect to fall short of meeting their share by up to 3,000 dwellings, meaning that Hart DC has to demonstrate how well it is placed to take up some or all of the shortfall.

Most of Surrey Heath falls within the Greenbelt protection zone around London. Much of Rushmoor is constrained by the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area created to protect the heathland habitat for several rare species of birds afforded European protection.

To summarise:

7,500	Objectively assessed housing need (2011–2032)
-4,600	Built or received permission in 2011–2015
2,900	Subtotal
+3,000	Possible shortfall Rushmoor/Surrey Heath
5,900	The possible number of new homes that Hart may have to plan for

Hart District Council policy is to give priority to brownfield land first (ie to redevelop land that has been previously developed). For the purpose of the Local Plan, Hart Council has to demonstrate that brownfield sites are both available and developable. (It cannot simply list the sites that it would prefer to come forward for housing without there being any realistic chance that the site will become available.) Hart

Council considers that the rate at which brownfield sites can become available will not keep pace with the housing need, meaning that it may have to consider using some greenfield land to take up the shortfall.

The recent consultation was aimed to establish views on which of three greenfield approaches (or combination of approaches) should be chosen in the event that the pace of brownfield development is unable to cope with housing demand. The consultation ran from early December and was scheduled to finish on 15 January. Given the importance of the consultation for the residents of Fleet & Church Crookham, your committee felt that a large scale promotion of the consultation

by way of a leaflet drop to the 15,500 residential addresses in Fleet & Church Crookham was an excellent use of accumulated funds. We hope very much that the Society's members agree that the effort was worthwhile for the benefit of Fleet & Church Crookham residents. Obviously we are not thrilled with the prospect of promoting large-scale development in Winchfield (or anywhere else in Hart for that matter) although the demands placed upon Hart means that very tough choices are ahead. We appreciate that there are differing views on where housing should be positioned, although if the decision was clear cut, there wouldn't be much point in Hart undertaking a consultation in the first place.

We also presented to various community/residents group meetings around the district and had a display at The Harlington for the duration of the consultation.

We were also busy on social media with an updated website and regular Facebook and Twitter updates. Our website was referred to by Fleet Town Council's own literature as being "an in-depth independent review of the issues... [which] provides an excellent explanation of the jargon and explodes many of the myths of why we need housing at all.

But within days of the scheduled completion date disaster struck! You may have seen in the papers that the consultation had to be withdrawn with only one day left to run due to inconsistencies in the response form.

Distilled to the basics, the online response form was different to a version of the printed response form. This meant some of the villages



listed to take housing described in Approach 1 (dispersal strategy) in the online form did not include all the villages listed in the paper version. Additionally a version of the paper response form allowed valid responses from question 4 or question 5, when the online response was only valid if both question 4 and question 5 were answered.

Whilst in our view, the inconsistencies were minor in nature and did not seem to benefit or would not be detrimental to any particular approach, it is vital that the consultation was consistent and transparent, so Hart Council took the decision to withdraw/stop the consultation. (HDC has now published report on what happened which is available as paper C of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's 15 March meeting).

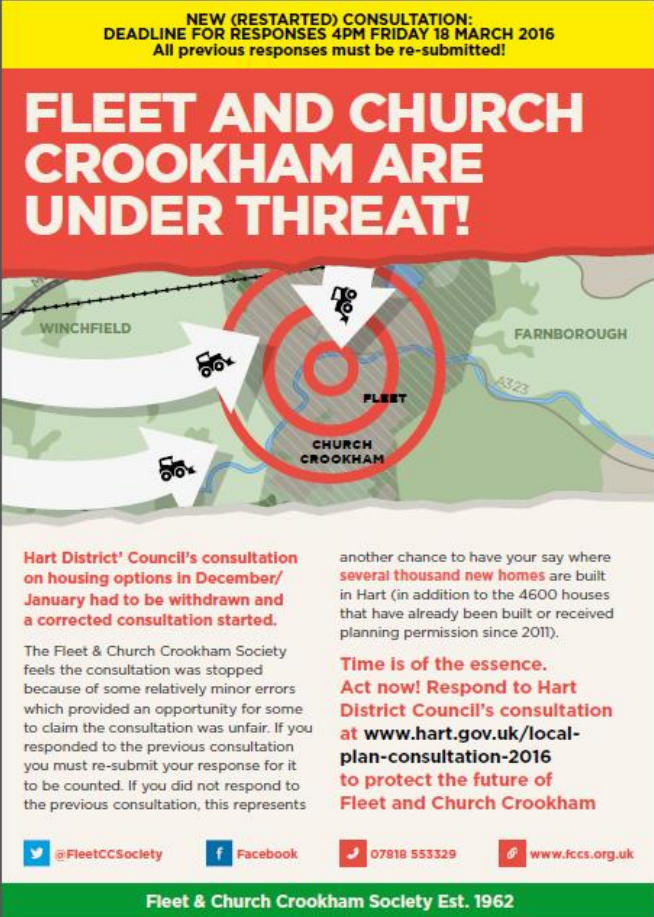
A new/restarted consultation was launched at the end of January and (at the time of writing) is scheduled to finish on 18 March.

Given the amount of mis-information that had reached the local press and social media, your committee took the decision to undertake a second leaflet drop, but felt that the considerable cost of paying for delivery to all houses in Fleet & Church Crookham could not be justified. Following an email request to members asking for distribution assistance, we were thrilled to receive many offers of support and as a result increased the intended print run from 6,000 to 10,000 leaflets. We are very grateful to the many members who stepped forward to offer their time to help deliver the leaflets.

The consultation has also provided the Society opportunity to network with other organisations sharing a similar view to ours that we may not otherwise have connected to. Their encouragement and support has been a valuable boost to our resolve. Our thanks therefore to FACE-It, Hook Action Against Overdevelopment, and Chris Riley at Hart Observers for their most valuable input.

Understandably, residents groups situated near to Winchfield campaigned hard against the New Settlement approach and there were considerable debates running on Facebook and Twitter social media from all sides. Possibly lost in the melee was that the consultation was not about whether housing should be provided on brownfield land versus greenfield land. The consultation is about three exclusively greenfield approaches for when brownfield availability cannot keep pace with demand.

Our revised leaflet:



**NEW (RESTARTED) CONSULTATION:
DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES 4PM FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2016
All previous responses must be re-submitted!**

FLEET AND CHURCH CROOKHAM ARE UNDER THREAT!





WINCHFIELD FARNBOROUGH
FLEET CHURCH CROOKHAM

Hart District' Council's consultation on housing options in December/January had to be withdrawn and a corrected consultation started.

another chance to have your say where **several thousand new homes** are built in Hart (in addition to the 4600 houses that have already been built or received planning permission since 2011).

Time is of the essence. Act now! Respond to Hart District Council's consultation at www.hart.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation-2016 to protect the future of Fleet and Church Crookham

The Fleet & Church Crookham Society feels the consultation was stopped because of some relatively minor errors which provided an opportunity for some to claim the consultation was unfair. If you responded to the previous consultation you must re-submit your response for it to be counted. If you did not respond to the previous consultation, this represents

 @FleetCCSociety  Facebook  07818 553329  www.fccs.org.uk

Fleet & Church Crookham Society Est. 1962

At the time of this publication, the results of the consultation should be close to being announced and we await to see how that impacts the subsequent progress in the preparation of a much needed Local Plan for the District.

Phill Gower

Committee members Dave, Jenny, Gillian and Phill gave out the second leaflet at Fleet Station



Do we have your email address?

If you haven't received an email from us about the Housing Consultation over the winter then we do not have your email address. We use members' email addresses to communicate occasionally about important issues. You can still receive your newsletter in hard copy if you prefer it, but if you can let us know your email address we can send you updates in between newsletters. Please let us know by emailing us at newsletter@fccs.org.uk

I Drive an Ambulance!

Well, that's not actually true, so I guess I'd better explain why I just lied to you. I am a volunteer driver for the Fleet and District Voluntary Care Scheme – a local charity known as Communicare.

Communicare provides transport to and from medical appointments. The service is available to anyone who is unable to use other transport. Drivers use their own cars, picking up 'clients' from their home, and, in most cases, staying with them until they are ready to return.

A "medical appointment" is defined quite widely: obviously hospital and GP appointments, but also opticians, dentists, therapy and so on. Most journeys are local (GPs, Frimley etc), but we occasionally go further provided a driver is willing to volunteer.

It's not a free service, but there is no set fee. Communicare works on the basis of donations for each journey, and although there are recommended donations to cover costs, this is not rigid. Clients are free to give as much – or as little – as they wish. Most people, though, give 'a little extra'.

Drivers and 'Duty Officers' (call takers) are not paid as such. They give their time for free but do receive expenses to cover running costs. Any profit made by Communicare is used to support local good causes, for example hospices or purchasing small items of equipment.



Help – when you need it most
Established 1981
Reg. Charity No. 283495

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this service, please do get in touch (contact details below). It's free to register, and, as I found out last year when I accidentally threw myself off a ladder breaking my shoulder, you never know when you might need us!

But we also need more volunteers to help deliver the service. We need Duty Officers (based at home) to

spend a few hours at a time taking 'bookings' and allocating drivers; and we need drivers. There are no set commitments. Drivers are free to accept or reject 'jobs' depending on their own availability.

My friends will tell you that I am not the most warm-hearted, empathetic person – so why do I do this? Actually, I enjoy it. I've met lots of interesting people and heard some wonderful life stories, and there is a great sense of satisfaction in helping people out, even in this small way.

So...if you want to 'use' us as a client, or whether you want to be 'of use' to us as a Duty Officer or driver, please do get in touch. Call 01252 613121 from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.

But if you would prefer an informal chat to find out more, please feel free to contact me directly, and I'll do my best to sign you up!

If only I had a blue light ...

Patric Downes
patric.downes@gmail.com

Fleet & Church Crookham Society Activities November 2015–March 2016

- 2 December **Hart Council Housing Consultation presentation to Parish Councils.** Phill Gower attended as an observer.
- 7 December **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where a two-storey extension in Westbury Avenue was considered that included 13 Velux windows!
- 9 December **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation.** The Society's views are published in the Fleet News & Mail.
- 10 December **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation.** We receive an email from our MP Ranil Jayawardana in answer to the questions we posed to him following publication of his views on brownfield development.
- 12 December **Hook Parish Council public engagement meeting** on the housing consultation. FCCS had a display board on our campaign.
- 14 December **Fleet Neighbourhood Planning Meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower.
- 15 December **Committee meeting,** where we discussed the feedback we had received to our housing option campaign and planned next steps.
- 21 December **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting & Extraordinary Town Council meeting** to discuss the Town Council's response to the housing consultation. Society represented by Colin Gray and Phill Gower. The Council's leaflet being sent to all households about the consultation says, "For an in-depth independent review of the issues we would suggest you visit the website of the Fleet & Church Crookham Society. They provide an excellent explanation of the jargon and explode many of the myths of why we need housing at all."

- 9 January **Assets of Community Value.** Our nominations of the Fox & Hounds (picture, right), Oat Sheaf and Old Emporium public houses to have Asset of Community Value (ACV) status are sent to Hart District Council by Patric Downes. (see page 4)
- 11 January **Church Crookham Parish Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower who provided input to the meeting to explain why we felt the New Settlement approach was the only viable option. The Parish Council agreed.
- 14 January **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation** is 'stopped', one day before the planned end.
- 19 January **Hart District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.** Society represented by John Pearson and Phill Gower. We wrote to the Chairman of the Committee to raise our concerns over the events that led to the stopping of the Housing Options consultation. At the meeting, the Committee undertook to review what had happened to identify lessons that can be learned.
- 20 January **Committee meeting,** where discussions focused on the Housing Options consultation and what we needed to do next, as well as plans for the AGM.
- 21 January **Fleet Neighbourhood Planning Meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower and Dave Bentley where good progress was reported from the various input streams including housing and Town Centre sub-groups.
- 26 January **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. Applications included a particularly unsuitable application for four flats packed into the car park area behind shops at 208–210 Fleet Road. The Society has raised objections. Other applications included office conversion to flats in Albert Street with substandard parking.
- 28 January **Assets of Community Value.** Our nominations (see 9 January) are acknowledged by Hart District Council.
- 28 January **Proposal to remove guards from Govia Thameslink trains.** Although Govia Thameslink trains do not pass through Fleet, we were disturbed to learn of its proposal to remove guards from its services. John Pearson wrote to Govia Thameslink on our behalf to express our concerns and also wrote to South West Trains to ask them to confirm they are not considering such a backward step in service. We have since received a reply from Govia Thameslink saying they are reviewing their plans.
- 28 January **Fleet Neighbourhood Plan housing sub-committee.** Society represented by Phill Gower. Further progress made, assisted by previous work done by the Fleet Characterisation Study.
- 4 February **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation** starts again. The Society updates its website, revises its campaign leaflet and emails members for whom we have an email address
- 5 February **FCCS submits objection to an extension in Ryelaw Road** that threatens the street scene and amenity of the neighbouring properties.
- 6 February **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation:** FCCS re-confirms it previous response.
- 8 February **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower, Colin Gray and Patric Downes. The committee considered the Society's nominations for ACVs and gave its support to the application.
- 8 February **Hart Voluntary Sector Forum.** Society represented by John Pearson. A presentation given by Hampshire Red Cross included special mention of the relocation of its mobility equipment loan service to premises in Hart Shopping Centre (see page 5). Other presentations were given by the Citizens Advice Bureau on the local introduction of Universal Credit, by FareShare in Hampshire focusing on fresh food recycling and by Vanguard, a Group supported by the North East Hampshire & Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group, on Community Ambassadors.
- 10 February **Hart's Refined Housing Options consultation.** Meeting of FCCS, FACE-IT, Hart Observers and Hook Action Against Over Development to discuss the latest status of the consultation and how each group proposed to encourage participation in the consultation.
- 29 February **Friends of Ancells Farm AGM.** Phill Gower gave a presentation about the Hart Housing Options Consultation
- 1 March **Committee meeting,** where discussions focused on the Housing Options consultation and plans for the AGM.
- 3 March **FACC meeting.** Society represented by Jenny Radley. Main topics were an update on the airspace change proposal (a decision by the CAA is still on hold until TAG do more work negotiating with general airspace stakeholders and performs more flight simulation exercises to prove the proposal is viable).



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Tue 5 April	Fleet Town Council Annual Residents' meeting, 7pm for 7.30pm start, The Harlington
Wed 20 April	Elvetham Heath Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting, time TBC, The Key Centre, Elvetham Heath
Sat 23 April	Fleet Town Council Action Day, 9.30am–12.30pm, meet at The Harlington. Activities to clean up our town; all equipment & materials supplied
Wed 27 April	Fleet & Church Crookham Society AGM, 7.30pm, War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham
28–30 April	Fleet Pond Society 40th anniversary exhibition, Hart Shopping Centre
Fri 13 May	Church Crookham Parish Council Annual Residents' meeting, 18.00–22.00, Church Crookham Community Centre
Sun 29 May	Fleet Food Festival, The Views (see page 5)
Thu 23 June	FACC meeting. 2pm at TAG Headquarters, Meadowgate, Farnborough.
Sun 5 June	Wildlife Day at Fleet Pond
2–3 July	Fleet Carnival

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Acronyms used in our newsletter

FACC	Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee	SANGS	Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space
FTC	Fleet Town Council	SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Area
HCC	Hampshire County Council	SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
HDC	Hart District Council	SPA	Special Protection Area
HWT	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch	TAG	Techniques d'Avant Garde Aviation, owners of Farnborough Airport
PSZ	Public Safety Zone (of Farnborough Airport)	RBC	Rushmoor Borough Council

Your Committee

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Membership Secretary:	Gillian Wain, 01252 677536, gillian.wain@fccs.org.uk
Executive Committee:	Judy Armstrong, Patric Downes, Colin Gray, John Pearson, Jane Rippon
Co-opted Member:	Jenny Radley (FACC Representative), 01252 628751, jenny@jradley.com

We welcome suggestions of topics for inclusion in this twice-yearly newsletter, and events for listing in the diary. Please send contributions to newsletter@fccs.org.uk or phone Gillian Wain on 01252 677536. We encourage members to receive the newsletter by email instead of printed copy. Please let the Membership Secretary know if you would like to receive the newsletter by email only.

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