



Fleet & Church Crookham Society Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2017

Member of



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Chairman’s Introduction

As Autumn kicks in it is newsletter time again. Since our previous newsletter the Society has continued to represent our local interests in matters that affect the environment in which we live.

Highlighted in this newsletter you will find very interesting articles written by committee members on important issues such as changes to planning notifications, an update on Hartland Park, and Local Listing. The committee remains very active in these areas.

Membership of the Society has reduced slightly in the last year, due to people moving out of the area. In order to continue to represent the community successfully in the

future, it is important that we strengthen our membership and I would encourage all of you to share our work with friends and neighbours with a view to more people joining the Society. We would also welcome anybody who wants to become more active in the Society, either by helping with specific projects or by joining the committee. Any interested parties should contact Gillian Wain, Membership Secretary.

Finally, it may seem premature, but I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2018.

David Bentley

Photo from Phill Gower



We were interested to see one of the shops in the Kings Road Parade is being refurbished, which has revealed the old banner signage depicting ‘Flowers n’ Things, Fleet 3495’.

We believe Fleet’s phone numbers changed from 4- to 6-digits sometime in the mid-1980s, making this shop front over 30 years old, and in quite a contrast to ‘VapER+’ next door.

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.

Moving Goalposts

Just when we thought the long-awaited Local Plan for Hart was progressing, another unexpected twist threatens further delay...

As a reminder, way back in 2012, Hart District Council was planning for 200 new dwellings per year, and the draft Local Plan was reaching the final stage of scrutiny by a Government Inspector prior to adoption. Everything seemed set for the future housing needs of the district from 2011 until 2032 to be defined by a Local Plan, but by the time the Plan was scrutinised the goalposts had already moved, with new rules requiring Hart to consult with neighbouring authorities (such as Rushmoor and Surrey Heath).

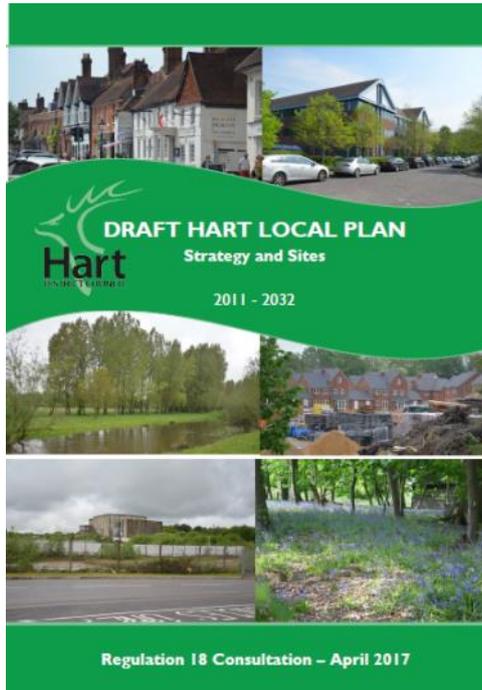
The Local Plans at Rushmoor and Surrey Heath were more advanced than the draft plan at Hart. There was considerable pressure in favour of increasing housing numbers, and the Planning Inspector determined that Hart Council had not engaged sufficiently with neighbouring authorities within the Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SMHA) area.

The Inspector rejected the draft plan as Hart Council was unable to demonstrate that it had adequately engaged with its neighbouring authorities.

By late 2015, Hart Council undertook a public consultation on a new draft housing assessment (the stage before a Local Plan can be drawn up) and Hart residents responded robustly, favouring a new settlement at Winchfield in preference to urban extensions to existing settlements of Fleet and Hook. At that time the overall housing number required was 7,500.

Soon after the consultation finished, St Edward Homes announced that it was proposing to develop the Pyestock (Hartland Park) site for housing. Up to this point, the site had been allocated for a distribution centre (planning permission having been gained some years earlier) and it was widely expected that the housing proposal would be for about 1,100 homes.

By Spring 2017, Hart Council had drafted a Local Plan and entered a statutory public consultation. Presumably because the Hartland Park site had come forward for housing, the new settlement at Winchfield had been watered down and appeared in the statutory consultation as a new settlement at Murrell



Green. Additionally, overall housing need had escalated to just over 10,000. This was based on a housing needs figure of 8,022 homes plus, controversially, an uplift of approximately 2,000 additional homes as the allocation was unlikely to deliver sufficient affordable housing to meet Hart's needs. This acute shortfall has come about partly because new developments often fall short of Hart Council's affordable housing target of 40%. This can be for a variety of reasons: office conversions, for instance, are exempt from needing

to provide any affordable housing at all. Often, developers are able to successfully claim that delivering the full target of affordable housing makes developing a site financially unviable. Hart District is desperately short of affordable housing (particularly rented) and has already needed to uplift the numbers in order to fulfil the affordable housing need.

We were therefore surprised and disappointed that the St Edward Homes' application to develop the Hartland Park site for up to 1,500 houses contained only 20% affordable housing – just half the target set by Hart Council. Put simply this further shortfall at Hartland Park will need to be compensated elsewhere in the district. Whilst the cost of decontaminating the site is considerable, this cost will have been factored into the price the site was acquired for in the first place. We therefore feel that the Council should not consider any viability claim, and insist that the developer provides the full 40% affordable housing. To do otherwise would short-change the district by 300 affordable units, meaning that a further uplift of 750 homes will be needed to deliver the shortfall of 300 affordable units.

With the consultation complete, and with an objectively assessed housing need of 382 new homes per annum uplifted to 485 homes per annum, the draft Local Plan looked likely to progress to the scrutiny of the Government's Planning Inspector very soon (ie, exactly the same stage we were at way back in July 2012!).

Then, in September 2017, the goalposts moved again as the Government announced a consultation to change the method under which councils calculate their objectively assessed housing needs. The good news is that the suggested method of calculation would reduce Hart's annual housing need from 382 to 292 new homes per annum. Whilst a reduction is welcome, the timing comes at a critical time for the much-needed Hart Local Plan. Any change in the method calculating the housing numbers would not come into force until well into 2018, and Hart simply cannot wait this long.

Hart's Local Plan has already been delayed for 6 years, and at best could not be adopted until well into 2018, by which time there is already a very real threat that central Government will step in and implement a Local Plan for Hart. Additionally there is now real risk the Local Plan is considered to be so late that the plan period needs to be extended as it has too little time to run. Hart Council simply cannot afford for any further delays in adopting a Local Plan and must therefore press on to secure it as quickly as possible.

At the time of writing, there appears to be some hesitation about releasing the findings of the Spring (Regulation 18) consultation prior to moving forward with the statutory public

(Regulation 19) consultation, the results of which will further refine the Local Plan that is presented to the Planning Inspectorate. We hope the Regulation 18 consultation results will be published as soon as possible in order that the plan can be examined and adopted in 2018.

We have very recently been made aware that Hartland Park has been given the green light for the Major Sites Committee to consider up to 1,500 new dwellings (see page 8). Sadly, as this newsletter goes to press, we learn that the Grove Farm appeal for 423 dwellings has been allowed, and a new 700-home application at Owens Farm to the west of Hook has been submitted. Both of these are exactly the type of urban extension to the west of Fleet and Hook so robustly rejected by Hart's residents in the 2016 housing consultation. None of these sites, either separately or in combination, provide any additional secondary school places. In comparison, a 1,900 home new settlement option would (not could) provide a site for a new secondary school for Hart.

Again it seems abundantly clear to us that Hart needs to grasp the nettle and plan for a new settlement somewhere in the district.

Phill Gower

Green Flag Award – 'Volunteer of the Year' for Colin

News from our friends at Fleet Pond Society of an award given to Colin Gray, who is, of course, a committee member and former Chairman of FCCS too

There was a big surprise for Colin Gray, the Chairman of Fleet Pond Society, at the recent Elvetham Heath Countryside Day. He was presented with the Green Flag Volunteer of the Year Award by Paul Todd, Scheme Manger of the Green Flag Award.

This award recognises the dedication shown by volunteers working alongside professionals in improving parks and green spaces across the UK. Apparently he won it by a mile. His leadership of the project to create the new Avondale Pond system in Brookly Wood was cited by Hart Countryside Services as being typical of the dedication Colin has shown. This is to balance out any unexpected overflows from the Thames Water pumping station.

Colin was, for once, speechless when he was called forward to accept the award. Paul Todd said, "Colin is a shining example to all volunteers who are involved with creating and maintaining green spaces for the public, particularly those that qualify for a Green Flag Award."

Fleet Pond nature reserve has yet again been awarded the Green Flag Award for 2017 along with the one at Elvetham Heath and

Hartley Wintney Central Commons which has also has achieved green heritage accreditation for the first time. Colin did have something to say about this! "Hart Countryside Services deserve major congratulations on gaining Green Flags for these wonderful sites."

Jim Storey



Colin, right, receiving his award from Paul Todd

Photo from Jim Storey

Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed

The Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed had its first meeting of members on 3 May this year. Here, Chairman Allan Walker tells us about the aims of the Shed and what they have been up to in their first few months.

A men's shed is a larger version of the typical man's shed in the garden – a place where he feels at home and pursues practical interests with a high degree of autonomy. A men's shed offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction. A place of leisure where men come together to work.

A shed's activities usually involve making or mending in wood (eg carpentry, joinery, turning, carving, whittling, marquetry, furniture renovation) but may include metalworking (milling, sheet metal, welding etc), bike repair, gardening, electronics, tool renovation, boat renovation, model engineering (model railways, planes) and even building a car! Reclamation, reuse and restoration feature strongly – and some say that is true of the men too! Although sheds mostly attract older men, some have included men of any age, women and young people. Whichever activities are pursued the essence of a shed is not a building, which some don't have, but the network of relationships between the members.

The men's shed movement began in Australia, and the concept was first realised in England at Hartford in 2009, about the same time as the first shed in Ireland. There are almost 300 sheds open in the UK, with nearly 100 more in planning.

The Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed has started with a few community projects. One of these was the creation of a podium for Pedal Heaven Kids cycling team,



Owl boxes for Fleet pond

who said, "Thank you so much to Allan and the team at The Men's Shed for the Pedal Heaven Kids team podium. We had some very excited faces at the reveal and it certainly gave them incentive to win at our next race event!"

We also made a mud kitchen for the children at Tavistock Pre-School. The children were very excited to see what it was and they all rushed to play with the kitchen when it was revealed. I'm sure they'll have lots of fun experimenting and making mud pies in the garden. Vanessa, the pre-school manager, has reported that it's been a big hit in the garden. We had great fun building this project.

Another project has been making owl boxes for Fleet Pond.

The Men's Shed aim is "Bringing people together to make or mend in a friendly and safe environment." Would you be interested in joining the Men's Shed in Church Crookham and Fleet? We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 15:30 to 19:30 in R21 at Calthorpe Park School, Hitches Lane, Fleet. For more information please look at our website www.ccandfmensshed.org.uk or contact us on info@ccandfmensshed.org.uk.

**Allan Walker
Chairman**

Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed

Photos from Pedal Heaven and Church Crookham & Fleet Men's Shed



Pedal Heaven Kids podium



Tavistock Pre-School's mud kitchen

Assets of Community Value and Local Listing

Here, Patric Downes provides an update on the Society's ongoing projects to list assets that the community values and local heritage



History Group, and by literally walking nearly every road in Fleet and Church Crookham, we have compiled our own list.

There are two lists: one for Fleet; and one for Church Crookham. Both lists are available in PDF format in the 'Planning'

In previous newsletters we have written about Assets of Community Value (ACVs) and our local heritage. Just to recap, we have now applied for five businesses (all pubs!) to be listed by Hart District Council (HDC) and all applications have been accepted and the businesses placed on the HDC Register. But it goes a bit wider.

The Localism Act of 2010 enabled local planning authorities (in our case HDC) to establish a 'local listing' of building or other assets that are in some way valued by the community. Items on a local listing can be almost anything: a business; a house; an open space; a community hall; and so on.

HDC is not obliged to have a 'local listing'. When we approached HDC about this, they responded that this was additional work that they did not want to undertake at this time. That is their choice.

So we have taken matters into our own hands. Using various sources of information, help from the Fleet and Crookham Local

section of our website.

We would welcome feedback and comment on these lists and the items listed. Please do take a look and tell us what you think.

If you have specific queries, you can send them to patric.downes@gmail.com

Patric Downes



Photos from Patric Downes

Stockton House

Hart Lottery

Hart District Council has recently launched a local online fundraising lottery with cash prizes, the proceeds of which will be going to good causes that benefit the local community.

The Fleet & Church Crookham Society Committee has applied to become a 'good cause' in the hope that any future funding from this source can be used to fund some of the activities of the Society.

The lottery is drawn every Saturday night at 8pm and tickets cost £1 per week. The ticket comprises six numbers and the more numbers you match, the bigger prize you win. Players can choose who their ticket supports: either the central fund (funds are dispensed to the local community by a committee) or a specific good cause from those listed. Tickets can be paid for in several ways and players are notified by email when they win. To claim any winnings you log into the site and choose to either have the winnings paid directly into a nominated account or donate winnings back to the good causes.

60% of the ticket price goes to good causes (50% to a specific cause and 10% to other causes), 20% to the prize fund and 20% is spent on administration of the lottery.

To take part in the Hart Lottery, and specifically to donate 50% of the ticket price to FCCS, go to www.hartlottery.co.uk, click on the Society Logo (our application is being approved as this newsletter goes to press), and purchase your ticket.

David Bentley

Out for the Count...

Well, two counts actually.

My good friend Alan 'Howling Laud' Hope – Fleet resident, Town Councillor, and Leader of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party – invited me to attend the counts for both the County Council Elections in May, and the General Election in June.

But the Fleet & Church Crookham Society is apolitical – so the politics stops here!

Process

Both counts effectively ran the same process, albeit with a difference of scale. A series of trestle tables are set out to form a square around the room, thereby creating a semi-secure area within where the ballot boxes are received and opened and the ballot papers 'managed'. The 'counters' are in small teams, and are allocated a certain set of papers to count. They sit at the tables facing out. Within the square the Returning Officer and supporting staff mill about doing whatever it is they need to do. Candidates, their agents, and others invitees like me, are on the outside of the square. It must be odd if you are counting – you can have an official staring over your shoulder, and any one or more of the 'audience' sitting directly in front of you, and watching with beady eyes.

It's a straightforward process. The first step is to simply count the number of ballot papers in each box. This total is reconciled to the count of ballot papers issued at each polling booth to ensure all issued papers are accounted for. The papers are then sorted by candidate, and again the totals for each candidate are reconciled back.

There is a strong focus to ensure that the sum of votes cast for each candidate (plus spoiled papers), equals the number of papers counted first time round. That seemed to run pretty smoothly at both counts.

Once counting is complete, the Returning Officer gathers the candidates together and reviews all 'spoilt' papers – the aim being to agree how each paper should be treated.

Then the result is announced – and that is basically that...

County Council night

As you will know, the polls close at 10pm. Our local count was held at the new Hart Leisure Centre. It was fairly low-key. All that was needed to gain entry was to announce your name and to be on the list of invitees. There was no visible police presence or particular security. Alan and I arrived at the Count at about 11.30pm, by which time counting was already



well underway.

And then, not much happens.

There is frenetic activity within the square, but for those of us on the outside there is little to see or do for a while. By about 1am, most of the count seemed to be over bar the shouting. A short while

later the Returning Officer gathered the candidates together, agreed that all was well, and announced the result using a hand-held microphone. No fanfare, no fuss, no podium, no acceptance speeches.

And it was done. By 1.30am, some were happy, some not, some not bothered, and many tired officials and counters. Just a matter of tidying up after that.

General Election night – Maidenhead

In accordance with Loony Party tradition, Alan was standing against the incumbent Prime Minister – or as Alan put it, Theresa May had chosen to stand against him. So, we're in Maidenhead.

It was always going to be busier and a bit different. We got to the count at about 12.30am – we knew it was going to take a while.

The first thing I noticed was a considerable presence of armed police (only to be expected), and then the need to produce ID, and be thoroughly searched before being admitted to the hall. All fair enough, and all good-natured.

The next key difference was the quite extensive media gallery bristling with reporters, cameramen and technicians – who most of the time seemed to be doing not very much at all. I guess that's how it goes: hours of boredom and then a few minutes' frenetic activity.

And then, again, not much happens for a while – quite a long while. Helpfully there were a number of large-screen TVs in place, carefully balancing BBC and Sky, so we could keep up with the evolving national picture. It was quite interesting to watch how the different camps reacted as results came in, and as predictions became more certain.

Around 3am, a buzz of expectation was in the air. The count was more or less done. I suddenly realised that there seemed to be quite a lot of burly men in dark suits – be-suited Silverbacks if you like. In some imperceptible way, without pushing or shouting, they had us corralled into sections of the room, leaving a clear passageway from the door to the podium at the other end. That was very cleverly done!

And then at about 3.15am (and I would like to say with a puff of sulphur and brimstone,

although it's not true), Theresa was amongst us!

Except she wasn't really. With her eyes fixed on the back of the Lead Silverback, she bowled through the room. Her eyes were fixed straight ahead, she said nothing, and ignored all questions from the press. She did not look happy.

A quick chat with the Returning Officer and the other candidates and onto the platform for the result to be announced. Of course, the result in Maidenhead was never in doubt, although with 13 candidates standing, it took a few minutes.

Then the acceptance speech. A thank you to the voters, a thank you to the Returning Officer and staff, not a word about the national picture; and then she was gone. Bustled out of the back

door with her Silverbacks and away.

No other candidate was invited to make any speech after Theresa. So by 3.30am we were done; finished; time to go home.

It was interesting to attend these counts; to see our democracy in operation, and I learned a lot. Would I do it again? Not for a while. There are some highs, but many boring interludes, and it is a long night. But if you ever get chance, take it. You might never get another opportunity.

We caught the 4.12am 'Zombie Train' from Maidenhead to Reading, and I got back home at about 7am.

Boy. Was I out for the Count.

Patric Downes

Sign up to Receive Notice of Nearby Planning Applications

In July, Hart District Council announced the withdrawal of 'neighbour notification letters' relating to planning applications. Previously these were issued so that neighbouring residents were made aware of a planning application and had an opportunity to view the plans and comment. In its place, the Council has unveiled a new online system where residents can register to receive emails listing nearby planning applications.

The rationale given for the withdrawal of neighbour notification letters was the cost of officer time, printing and postage; there is no statutory duty to issue neighbour notifications. The planning applicant is required to display a brightly coloured statutory site notice, and we assume that a council official visits the property to check this has been done.

Society's concerns

The Society wrote to Cllr Graham Cockarill, Cabinet Member for Planning, to express our concerns at the withdrawal of these letters. We feel that withdrawal of the letters means that immediate neighbours could be completely unaware of a planning application until after approval has been granted: whilst neighbours in the same road may see the statutory site notice, it is unlikely that those to the rear of the property would see it. We also know that not everyone has access to, or wishes to use, an exclusively online system to receive notifications.

We added that, given that a council officer needs to visit to check the statutory site notice is on display, we do not think that it would be either unreasonable or of significant additional expense for the officer to put a letter through the door of the neighbours at the same time.

Furthermore, we do not consider that there is real cost saving to the taxpayer by withdrawing the neighbour notifications. On the contrary, the application fee is intended to cover the costs of

processing an application and this should be a simple matter of determining a fee structure that pays for the associated cost and does not use taxpayers' money.

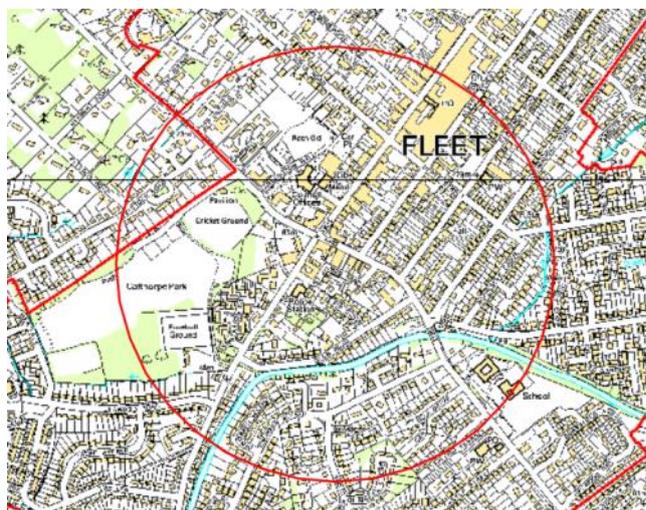
Cllr Cockarill replied to our letter to say that he would raise our concerns with the Cabinet Member responsible for Regulatory Services, under which notifying the public about planning applications comes.

The new online notification system

It is unlikely that this decision will be reversed and therefore we urge all our members to consider signing up to the online system to receive weekly email notifications about planning applications in their area.

A link to the system can be accessed via www.hart.gov.uk/planning-residents; also here is a useful step-by-step guide that explains how to set up a search. As well as searching by postcode, there is a facility to centre a map on your property and select a search radius of 50, 100, 500 or 1,000m. A list of applications submitted in the area defined is emailed weekly.

Gillian Wain



A New Danger: Planning Performance Agreements

Representatives of your Society attended a specially convened meeting of Hart Council's Planning Committee at the end of August where it was decided that the Hartland Park (Pyestock) site was capable of supporting up to 1,500 homes (subject to some transport and viability issues being settled).

When the Planning Officers were quizzed on some of the infrastructure questions, it seemed clear that the information was either unavailable or incomplete. Members of Hart's Planning Committee were then specifically advised by Hart's Chief Executive to ignore any external factors (such as transport access, education, healthcare, affordable housing, etc) in making their decision that the site was capable of accepting as many as 1,500 homes.

The St Edward Homes' scheme proposes only 20% affordable housing (half of Hart Council's 40% policy), though it appears that a viability study had yet to be completed. In addition, Hampshire County Council has a holding objection regarding the transport infrastructure as sufficient evidence has yet to be provided to demonstrate whether the proposal will have an unacceptable impact on local traffic.

It transpires that in September 2016 Hart Council entered into a 'Planning Performance Agreement' (PPA) with St Edward Homes. In exchange for Planning Officer time to assist with some of the detail planning and infrastructure research, Hart has received £52,000 from St Edward Homes.

It seems to us that, under the terms of the agreement, Hart Council had received all of the money by the time of the planning meeting, though much of the work was incomplete.



Earlier in August, Hart Councillors had raised concerns on learning that Hart Council had entered into such an agreement, prompting Daryl Phillips (Joint Chief Executive) to offer reassurance about the use of PPAs, saying, "These are encouraged by the Government to ensure that local authorities have the right resources/skills to determine planning applications. They have been in use since

2008. They are widely used by many local authorities right across the country."

Whilst the Joint Chief Executive stated that PPAs are "widely used", we are not aware of any previous instance where they have been deployed in Hart District. Whilst they may be completely legitimate, it seems to us that a mechanism that involves the applicant paying a substantial fee to the Council for undertaking some of the justification work in determining the effects of the viability and infrastructure constraints of a planning application may appear to be a conflict of interest less than palatable to residents. It seems to the Fleet and Church Crookham Society that agreements of this type are a very blunt instrument geared to provide a fast-track positive outcome for the developer. Furthermore, we are very concerned that this type of agreement does not provide best amenity value for Hart's residents.

The result of the August Planning Committee meeting was that the Council accepted that the Hartland Park site was capable of accepting up to 1,500 homes, even though Councillors were instructed to ignore essential infrastructure requirements such as affordable homes, transport, education, healthcare, etc.

The Society firmly believes that Hartland Park site plays an important role in assisting the District Council to meet Hart's future housing needs, but the use of Planning Performance Agreements seems to us as planning of last resort, and threatens to under-sell essential infrastructure for the residents of Fleet & Church Crookham. We will continue to watch the performance of Hart Council in this area very closely.

Phill Gower

An artist's impression of the entrance to Hartland Park, released recently



Photos from St Edward Homes

Civic Voice Membership Benefit

The Fleet & Church Crookham Society has renewed its membership of Civic Voice' for another year. One of the benefits to our members is a National Trust pass (worth up to £14).

To claim a pass each member must send a SAE to with a note of their name and civic society to:

Civic Voice
The Coffin Works, 13–15 Fleet Street,
Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham B3 1JP



Fleet and Crookham Local History Group

Our friends at the Fleet and Crookham Local History Group have given their website a new look. 'The site is packed full of information about the Group's archive of local heritage material, publications and projects, as well as details of their regular talks and how to join.

Visit www.fclhg.org.uk and take a look!



A display on local businesses in Fleet Library

Fleet & Church Crookham Society Activities March–September 2017

- 27 February **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower and Colin Gray. Amended application to build two substantial new houses at land to the rear of Heather Hill, Reading Road North, reignited objection from neighbouring properties.
- 7 March **Harlington redevelopment** residents' Q&A session. Society represented by Patric Downes.
- 9 March **Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting.** Society represented by Jenny Radley where topics included a review of flight movements in 2016 (aircraft movement numbers remained virtually flat over the past year), and an update on the building of the new exhibition hall 1 for the Farnborough Airshow 2018.
- 13 March **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where items discussed included offices Infineon & Loric, Minley Road, conversion to 20 & 13 housing units respectively; Phases 3–7 Edenbrook development (141 houses); demolition of the Bailey, Brankenswood Road and erection on site of 14 sheltered flats.
- 14 March **FCCS committee meeting**, where topics discussed included renewing Civic Voice membership and the Harlington redevelopment.
- 16 March **Harlington redevelopment** consultation. FCCS response submitted.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Harlington Development Consultation

Saturday 25th February - Saturday 18th March 2017

In January 2016 we said:

- "We will engage Engineers and Architects to start design work in 2016-17"
- "We will develop 3 options to replace, to modify and to renovate The Harlington"
- "We will consult with the public on the options"

We have completed the first two actions and now we want to know your opinion!

- 27 March **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. Applications included outline application for 1,500 houses and full application for the first 189 houses at Hartland Park.
- 28 March **Fleet Town Council Annual Residents' meeting.** Members of the committee attended the meeting and the FCCS had a display board as part of the local groups' exhibition.
- 10 April **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. Hartland Park discussed in detail and a long list of objections raised by the committee. Also discussed was the application for Oatsheaf Parade yoga centre conversion to six flats.
- 10 April **Falkner's Arms** (pictured right) **listed as an Asset of Community Value** by Hart District Council following FCCS's application. 
- 19 April **FCCS AGM.** The business of the Society was followed by an interesting presentation from Sue Tilley on the recent application for Fleet to become a business improvement district (BID) and the benefits that will bring.
- 21 April **FCCS's successful listing of Falkner's Arms as an Asset of Community Value** covered by the Fleet News & Mail.
- 24 April **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. Items on the agenda included 115–123 Fleet Road conversion to six flats; land to rear of 61–65 Albert Street, erection of three houses; land at Grasmere, Chestnut Grove (Fleet Pond end), erection of two 5-bed houses.
- 25 April **Hart Draft Local Plan briefing** for councillors and local groups. Society represented by Phill Gower. Hart planning officers explain need to uplift housing numbers due to the acute shortfall in affordable housing throughout Hart District.
- 8 May **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray. Applications included elevation amendments to flats to replace retail and store 16–18 Kings Road (adjacent Clarence Road corner); 2 Reading Road South (adjacent WaterSky restaurant) change of use from retail unit to 4 flats; The Station pub new entrance design with higher level lighting and new porch.
- 8 May **Meeting of local community groups with road closure needs.** Phill Gower represented the Society to discuss options if the existing road closure arrangements for community events (such as half marathon etc) had to be subcontracted to private companies.
- 8 May **Hart Voluntary Action Forum.** Society represented by John Pearson where topics discussed included the new Church Crookham & Fleet Men's Shed (see page 4); a presentation by Fleet Lions on their activities; a talk on the Good Neighbours Network; and a presentation on the Fleet Indian Community Group.
- 9 May **FCCS committee meeting,** where topics discussed included feedback on the AGM and the Patric Downes' work on behalf of the Society on a local heritage list and next steps (see page 5).
- 9 May **Hart Lottery launch.** Society represented by John Pearson (see page 5).
- 10 May **Hartland Park planning application.** Society's initial concerns over the outline planning application quoted in Fleet News & Mail.
- 23 May **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray, Phill Gower and John Pearson. Agenda include demolition of 144 Clarence Road and erection of five houses; land at Elvetham Bridge House Reading Road North erection of one detached house.
- 12 June **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray. Items included 3 Fleet House, Fleetwood Park (Ancells) addition of an upper floor for 14 flats; 154 Connaught Road conversion of a bungalow to a 3-storey 5-bed house (FTC considered this was not an "extension" but should be considered a FULL application).
- 7 June **Hart Draft Local Plan.** FCCS response submitted.
- 13 June **FCCS committee meeting,** where topics discussed included the draft Local Plan and updating Conservation Areas.
- 14 June **Fleetwood House (The Briary), Reading Road North** (pictured right). Objections submitted to the planning application to build 60 flats. Sadly, planning permission was granted. 

- 6 July **Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting.** Society represented by Jenny Radley. The meeting was fairly routine apart from an item on the Rushmoor Local Plan consultation.
- 6 July **Hartland Park** planning application. Comprehensive response submitted to HDC covering our concerns over housing density and lack of infrastructure.
- 10 July **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. The agenda featured a proposal for land at Kennels Lane for SANG to support housing development at Hartland Park.
- 13 July **Rushmoor and Hart Passenger Transport Forum.** Society represented by John Pearson where topics discussed included a Hampshire County Council Passenger Transport Group update, and an update on Stagecoach's businesses and the services it provides in our area.
- 17 July **Neighbour notification letters.** FCCS writes to the HDC Cabinet Member for Planning to object to the withdrawal of neighbour notification letters relating to new planning applications, and our concern over possible lapsing of the Conservation Areas (see page 7).
- 21 July **Draft Rushmoor Local Plan, Policy SP4 Farnborough Airport.** Society submits comments on the Plan in relation to policy for Farnborough Airport and in particular on the policy relating to noise and safety which are the issues that cause most concern for residents in our area.
- 24 July **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray. The only contentious issue was an application for two advertising hoardings, six flags and other advertisement boards for the Hartland Park housing development; FTC considered this premature when no permissions yet granted.
- 28 July **Response to our concerns over the withdrawal of Neighbour notification letters** from Cllr Graham Cockarill, Portfolio-Holder for Planning at Hart District Council.
- 1 August **FCCS committee meeting,** where topics discussed included Hart Lottery and local Conservation Areas.
- 7 August **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray where applications discussed included 125–147 Fleet Road (application for 40 flats in four-storey blocks following demolition of the two office blocks); Hartland Village application to build an Information Centre, access, car parking, wooden pergola, fencing and others works; Lorica House/Infineon House, Minley Road, offices due to be converted to flats where FTC maintained current objections, seeking full planning application not permitted development.
- 21 August **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where the agenda included a proposal for extension of a house in Darset Avenue met with objections for inadequate parking.
- 24 August **Hartland Park** outline planning application (pictured, right) discussed at HDC Planning Committee meeting (see page 8). The purpose of the meeting was to provide steerage to the planning officers and developer as to whether 1,500 houses is appropriate if the other constraints such as affordable housing, housing mix, environmental issues etc can be resolved. Phill Gower spoke on behalf of the Society, raising concerns that agreeing to 1500 homes, even in principle, is both premature and will undoubtedly mean the site in undersold in infrastructure provision.
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- 12 September **FCCS committee meeting,** where topics discussed included the Local Plan and Hartland Park.
- 22 September **Local Heritage List.** Patric Downes met the Clerk to FTC to review our list and look at how the Society and FTC could work together to protect heritage and conservation areas in Fleet.
- 25 September **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Colin Gray where the agenda included amended elevations to a block of 50 Extra Care Apartments at Edenbrook; and 36 units at Zenith House, 3 Rye Close, submitted separately as 9 flats, 4 flats and 23 houses.

Diary of Forthcoming Events

- Sat 4 November Annual craft & gift fair. United Reformed Church, Kings Road, 10.30am to 3.00pm. Entry 50p
- Thu 9 November Hart Voluntary Action AGM, Council Chamber, Civic Offices, 09.30–12.30
- Thu 9 November FACC meeting. 2pm at Rushmoor Borough Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough GU14 7JU
- Sun 12 November Civic Remembrance Service in the Harlington at 2pm, followed by parade from Church Road car park
- Wed 29 November Fleet Christmas Festival, Fleet Road, 3pm–9pm

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- Sun 19 March Fleet Half Marathon – road closures in force throughout the morning
- Wed 18 April Fleet & Church Crookham Society AGM. 7.30pm. Holy Trinity RC Church Hall, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham GU52 8JU**
- Sun 3 June Fleet Pond Wildlife Day, 10.30–15.30.; details from countryside@hart.gov.uk

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If you would like to receive
this newsletter on a regular basis, please
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Acronyms used in our newsletter

ACV	Asset of Community Value	SANGS	Sustainable Alternative Natural Green Space
FACC	Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee	SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Area
FTC	Fleet Town Council	SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
HCC	Hampshire County Council	SPA	Special Protection Area
HDC	Hart District Council	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 & Newsletter Editor:	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.

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.