



Fleet & Church Crookham Society Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2017

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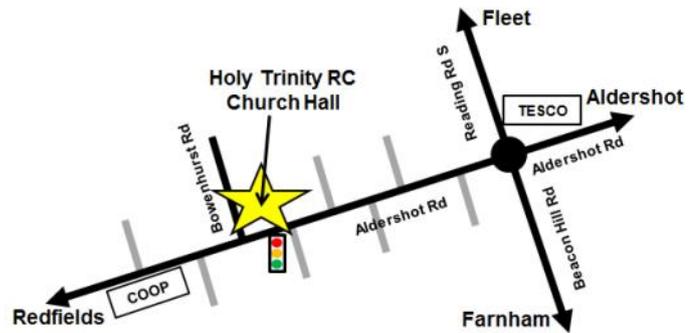
Fleet & Church Crookham Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19 April 2017, 7.30pm

****NEW VENUE****

Holy Trinity RC Church Hall
Bowenhurst Road
Church Crookham GU52 8JU
(the hall has a large car park)

Our guest speaker will be Sue Tilley from the Fleet Business Forum who will tell us what the Forum has been doing to make Fleet a vibrant place for businesses to thrive



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Chairman's Introduction

It is hard to believe that we are again coming round to AGM time and thus the pre-AGM newsletter.

Committee members have continued to beaver away at various tasks over the last few months and there are interesting articles contained in this newsletter related to this work. Key pieces of work include monitoring progress on the Local Plan, meeting our local MP, and keeping up to date with the redevelopment of the Harlington. Committee members have also continued to be involved in progress with the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan and I am sure you

will find these articles interesting and informative. It is also good to note the success of the new monthly artisan market in Hart Shopping Centre, to add to other markets in the area.

Please note that we have changed venue for this year's AGM — full details at the top of this page – and I look forward to welcoming you all to that meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new members Andrew McGill and Sandy Gray to the Society.

David Bentley

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.

Hart Local Plan update

This time last year, you may recall that your Society had undertaken a major promotion to encourage responses to the Hart Council consultation to determine future housing strategy. Here, Phill Gower provides an update.

Last year's Hart Council consultation to determine future housing strategy will feed into Hart Council's emerging Local Plan as to how and where new housing will meet the district's housing needs through to 2032.

Hart Council has a policy of utilising previously developed land (brownfield) first. The consultation asked how any shortfall in housing (not met by brownfield) should be focused and gave three options (or mix of):

1. Dispersal Strategy (scattering housing around Hart District)
2. Urban Extensions (predominantly to the west of Fleet and in the Hook area)
3. A New Settlement

Our view was (and is) that the New Settlement option is the only option that is capable of delivering essential infrastructure, such as schools, medical and transport improvements.

Whilst the Dispersal Strategy scatters the housing load around the district, we feel such a strategy is flawed as it is not possible to scatter essential infrastructure around the district – such as a secondary school or medical facilities.

Urban Extensions would focus new housing on sites at the west of Fleet – the worst possible location, being the opposite side of town to Fleet's railway station and motorway links. Urban Extensions would also seek to piggy back existing infrastructure, when we all know that the existing infrastructure is already at, or beyond, capacity.

We were therefore relieved that the response to the HDC consultation from Hart residents overwhelmingly supported the New Settlement option to satisfy housing need for Hart's Local Plan period to 2032. Indeed, 3,916 of the 4,480 responses (87%) said that urban extensions around Fleet, Church Crookham and Hook are not the best way to meet Hart's housing need, with 2,625 responses (59%) favouring the New Settlement option. Only 564 responses said building around the outside of the main settlement boundaries was the best option, and unsurprisingly these responses were concentrated around the Hartley Wintney and Winchfield area.

We should add that the Local Plan period runs from 2011 to 2032, meaning that delivery of the plan is running at least 7 years late. This situation is far from satisfactory as, without an approved Local Plan, housing continues to be determined in an unstructured manner using

generic policy washed down from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

So, what has happened since the consultation a year ago?

Firstly, the brownfield site that was Pyestock (now known as Hartland Park) has come forward for housing (to replace its current planning permission for a warehouse/distribution centre). As a brownfield site, the land ranks highly for residential re-development and an application for up to 1500 dwellings is anticipated to be submitted imminently, having undergone three rounds of public consultation.

Secondly, the housing needs for the wider area that includes Rushmoor and Surrey Heath has been updated. Whilst campaigners against the New Settlement option felt that the updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment Area (SHMAA) report would show a drastic reduction in housing need, rather unsurprisingly, the report showed housing need was slightly above that previously predicted. To make matters worse Surrey Heath Borough Council has recently notified Hart Council that it is unlikely to meet its housing quota. At the recent Hart Cabinet meeting, it was suggested the shortfall could be as many as 1700. Hart Council is legally obliged to at least consider assisting meeting this potential shortfall. Unfortunately much of Surrey Heath is protected because it is within the London Greenbelt, which trumps Hart's available housing areas, even though they may be greenfield (such as Murrell Green and Winchfield).

Thirdly, Hart District has continued to under-deliver 'affordable housing' in the district. Hart Council's target is that 40% of new homes are affordable (that is to say social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing). A contributing factor in the shortfall of affordable housing is the loophole that means that office conversions (eg in Ancells Business Park and Hook) are exempt from providing affordable housing or any other contribution towards essential infrastructure. All of these new dwellings (some 400 in total to date) are allowed without need for planning permission under a relaxation of permitted development rights.

Additionally, developers of brownfield sites often successfully argue that the cost of regeneration of the site impedes the financial viability; this consequently often means that concessions are made to limiting the site's financial contribution towards essential infrastructure. The considerable

Table 1: Housing strategy for the draft Local Plan	
Hart requirement objectively assessed housing need 2011–2032	8,022
Flexibility	
a) Affordable housing rental uplift	512
b) Rural exception site delivery	50
c) Starter homes/shared ownership	276
d) Market housing	1,181
Total Hart requirement 2011–2032	10,041
Completions 2011–2016	(1,830)
Minimum remaining need	8,247
Commitments (up to 31 January 2017) – permission granted, yet to be built	(3,385)
Windfalls	(260)
Total remaining need to meet	4,566

Table 2: Housing strategy sites in the draft Local Plan	
Hartland Park (Pyestock)	1,500
Fleet brownfield	220
Hook brownfield	86
Sun Park, Guillemont	320
Murrell Green (New Settlement)	1,800
Hook Neighbourhood Plan	90
Cross Farm, Crookham Village	100
Eversley	124
Yateley	88
Odiham Neighbourhood Plan	119
South Warnborough	34
Long Sutton	10
Crandall	66
Heckfield	83
TOTAL	4640

decontamination cost of cleaning up Hartland Park, for instance, could mean that the developer presents a strong case limiting its contribution towards schools, education or transport provision because it has spent so much money on decontamination. We pressed representatives of St Edwards Homes on this subject at the recent Hartland Park exhibition, and they assured us that the development would meet Hart's affordable housing criteria (ie 40%). We'll see what materialises...

The resulting problem is that the need for affordable units remains, and Hart has recently acknowledged this and in its draft housing strategy has had to allow for an uplift in the overall housing numbers in order to supply the shortfall of affordable housing units.

After the lengthy delays reported in our last newsletter, finally, in February, Hart Council agreed a housing strategy for the Local Plan to go to public consultation towards the end of March. The strategy includes a New Settlement at Murrell Green, which also includes the vital inclusion of a site for a new secondary school.

The summary of the strategy to go to consultation is shown in Table 1. It is proposed to be met by the sites shown in Table 2.

Whilst we may all be suffering from consultation fatigue, the forthcoming consultation due out in March is probably the most important consultation in the Local Plan process and **we urge members to respond to it.**

In particular, we observe that a new settlement is the only viable solution that provides sufficient critical mass to deliver a

much needed secondary school, and other essential infrastructure. We are disappointed that the inclusion of Hartland Park risks a major development with a strong likelihood of under-delivering essential infrastructure whilst diluting the viability of a New Settlement which would be capable of delivering a strategic solution to Hart's housing need and providing all the essential infrastructure provision that a new community settlement would bring.

In the short term, without the protection of a Local Plan, developers are queueing up with planning applications and appeals. The bulk of these (several hundred dwellings) are currently focused on West Fleet (the area least desired by respondents in the previous consultation) These include proposed developments at Grove Farm, Pale Lane (Elvetham Chase), and Cross Farm. In our opinion all of these attempt to piggyback the already strained infrastructure of Fleet, and are located furthest from motorway links and schools. Whilst the progress of the Local Plan has been blighted by delays and setbacks, our best guess at the moment is as follows:

- **March/April 2017:** Draft Plan to go out for statutory consultation (minimum 6 weeks)
- **Summer 2017:** Consultation responses analysed
- **Autumn 2017:** Draft Plan refined for submission
- **Early 2018:** Local Plan scrutinised and adopted (although you may recall we were at this stage back in the summer of 2012!)

Phill Gower

Fleet Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Fleet & Church Crookham Society was delighted when Fleet Town Council took up the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 to start determining a Neighbourhood Plan. Dave Bentley and Phill Gower from the Society's committee have attended a number of meetings and participated in workstreams. Here Cllr Alan Oliver provides us with an update.

In the past, only principal planning authorities such as Hart District Council were allowed to make development 'Plans'. The Localism Act of 2011 empowered Parish and Town Councils to produce development plans (Neighbourhood Plans) for themselves, dealing with planning matters of concern, such as where new houses might be built, how many and what type. Fundamentally an NP provides direction and input to future Hart planning decisions when adopted. Adoption will be by a referendum of all residents in Fleet following successful examination by a Planning Inspector.

In late 2015 Fleet Town Council formed a Neighbourhood Planning (NP) team with other interested parties such as retailers, the Fleet & Church Crookham Society and Fleet Future, to develop an NP for Fleet Parish. The team are currently drafting the policies prior to issuing a document for public consultation. As with all plans, they need to be backed by an evidence base. The delay in Hart's Local Plan timetable has meant some of the evidence base the Fleet NP team would like to use has also been delayed and hence we do not expect to issue a draft for consultation until the second half of 2017. The planning application for change of use of Hartland Park from commercial to residential development has also increased the scale of housing development within Fleet from 200–300 to 1,700–1,800 and the range of issues that now need to be considered.

Neighbourhood Plans must work within broader policies, at both a national and a local level. The NP must meet the following basic conditions:

1. It must have regard to national planning policy.
2. It must conform with the strategic local plan policies (Hart Local Plan).
3. It must be compatible with EU obligations (for example Strategic Environment Assessments).

Therefore, an initial decision was taken not to select sites but to define what were acceptable developments on brownfield (previously developed) land selected within the emerging Hart Local Plan. Fleet has no greenfield sites under consideration in Hart's Local Plan. Developments in Grove Farm and Pale Lane are in adjoining parishes and therefore cannot be considered in Fleet's NP, however much they impact Fleet!



Protection of retail space is one of the themes in the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan deals with the built environment, it cannot change the mix of retail shops in the town centre, mandate bus services or extra GP surgeries, or tackle anti-social behaviour. What it can do is control how our built environment protects and enhances the characteristics and features of Fleet which we all want to preserve.

Our NP is dealing with three main themes:

- **Built environment** – design standards for new developments and extensions that preserve or enhance the characteristics of the area they are in eg North Fleet Conservation Area, Pondtail; protection of locally listed buildings.
- **The town centre** – designation of development opportunities and protection of retail space to support a diverse and vibrant town centre.
- **Green infrastructure** – preservation and enhancement of the green character of Fleet, its parks, waterways and Fleet Pond. Extension of sustainable links to increase accessibility of green infrastructure to residents and visitors.

The NP builds on the work and resident consultations run by Fleet Future, so we are confident we are dealing with issues that are of concern to many of us. We cannot stop development in Fleet through the Town NP but we can make sure it will progress in a way that does not destroy Fleet's unique character.

Cllr Alan Oliver
Fleet Town Council

Look Out! Look Out! Heritage About!

In general, we don't think of Fleet and Church Crookham as having a wonderful historical legacy, or a style and architecture that is somehow different.

Although that may be generally true, when you take the time to actually look around you, it's surprising how many attractive features you begin to notice – whether that be a piece of fancy brickwork, the gable of a shop on Fleet Road, and so on.

Over the years there have been various initiatives to identify these 'characterful' assets. But these have tended to focus on specific sub-sets: we have a 'local listing' of interesting buildings from the old Fleet Urban District Council; we have the Conservation Area of North Fleet; we have more recent listings like Assets of Community Value; and so on and so forth.

But there is no single unifying listing of all those things we value in Fleet and Church Crookham – whether that is a lovely old building, striking new architecture, a community centre, a playing field, valuable green space.

We have decided that this needs to change, and we have embarked on a project to bring together these disparate listings, to validate them (some, we know, have been lost already eg Fleet Mill), and to identify other valuable 'assets' that are not included on any of the existing lists – and there seem to be quite a few of these. Some of this work will feed into the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan (see opposite).

We've also had lots of help and input from the Fleet and Church Crookham Local History Group, and although a good portion of work can be desk-based, there is no substitute for getting out there and having a good look round on the streets .

And that is where you come in. We plan to 'get out there' and survey as many streets as we can. But we may miss things. So, if you see a particular 'thing' that you think we should seek to preserve or enhance, please let us know. This is especially important if it is something 'tucked away' down a quiet road that might easily go unnoticed.

So please ... get out there and get looking.

All suggestions welcome to patric.downes@gmail.com

Patric Downes

Fleet Trains – 50 Years Ago

Between the years 1951 and 1971, the writer kept a personal diary describing the events which were playing a part in his life. He came to live in Fleet and to commute daily to London in 1964 when the trains were all steam-driven. In a diary entry dated 11 February 1967, the writer described the first days of the new electric train service to London.

On Monday 2 January, a new era dawned on the Fleet to London railway. The long-awaited electrification scheme began to bear a little fruit in the form of an electric train to London, each day, each way. It was quite a surprise to see the sparks and flashes flying down the line as the first Fleet to London electric train came along the track. The new train has also brought us a little welcome punctuality and a week or two later, it became possible to run this train four minutes later in the morning and to get home again in the evening four minutes earlier.

51 minutes for my train each way is some way towards what we hope to have later this year when the whole train service changes over to electric trains. Meanwhile if I don't catch my usual trains, I am still obliged to

travel up and down on the old steam driven trains, except for the 6.09 pm from London which is the new rolling stock driven by diesel electric and the most comfortable of the lot, if not the fastest.

John Pearson



Fleet's New Artisan Market

Mary Portas's report on the future of our high streets in 2011 recognised the challenges facing our town centres and the need for them to adapt beyond just shops to lively, dynamic, exciting and social places that give a sense of belonging and trust to a community. A new monthly market in Fleet is drawing people into the town centre and showcasing local crafts.

Hart of Craft Artisan Market is a new and exciting event held at the Hart Shopping Centre in the centre of Fleet, making it a perfect venue for customers and sellers alike. It is held on every fourth Saturday of each month between 10am and 5pm.

The market quickly became a reality when Cissy, a local craft person and stallholder, approached Hart Shopping Centre to find out if it would be possible to hold such an event on its premises. The answer was an immediate "yes", and with their assistance, the first smaller market was held in November 2016 to great response from sellers and customers alike. Each market since then has seen an increase in sellers and we are now able to accommodate over 40 stalls throughout the mall.

We have created a lovely atmosphere in the shopping centre, and people who have visited the first three markets have all commented on that.

Cissy Bulley, who organises the event from a stall holder perspective said, "I never dreamt that from a little idea, such a marvellous event would take shape so quickly. I am thrilled at the quality of stalls that I have been able to bring together. It's certainly been worth all the hard work!"

You can find a wide variety of crafts for sale at Hart of Craft, including Mummy Makes Fudge,

Walking on The Waves (sea glass and beach-themed gifts), Doodlerocks (handmade jewellery), Enchanting Glass Designs, Rustic Gifts, Pickle Bear, Cake Makers, Candle Makers, Melody Sills Ceramics, Robert Howe Woodwork, Blossomfields Natural Soap and many many more local sellers.

In the future, we hope to run craft exhibitions/ workshops as part of the experience, and we are hoping to attract local art students, to give them an opportunity to display and sell their items. In the meantime, Cissy is always looking for new and unusual crafts to keep the market fresh and appealing.

For further information, please contact Cissy at hartofcraft@hotmail.com or 07790 068610. Find us on Facebook by searching Hart Of Craft or contact Hart Shopping Centre direct.

The date for the next market is Saturday 25 March. Hope to see you there!



Two of the regular stallholders at the Hart of Craft Artisan Market

Other local markets

There is a **weekly Saturday market** in **Gurkha Square** in Fleet from 08.00 to 15.00. Regular stallholders sell fruit & vegetables, meat, bread, pastries and cakes, plants and cut flowers

The **monthly market** at the Key, **Elvetham Heath** sells food from local producers as well as gifts and crafts. It is on the **second Saturday** of every month from 10.00 to 13.30.

Photos from Cissy Bulley and Liz Usher

Fleet Future Update

You may remember the formation of Fleet Future in 2012 – a community group of volunteers who came together to produce an evidence-based plan to set the community's strategic direction for the future. Our then co-chairmen, Phill Gower & Gillian Wain, were involved in some of the initial meetings for the group, and over the years have met up with key players in Fleet Future's group. It seemed timely to see how this group, which closely matches our own aims and objectives, has been getting along.

After 3 years of community involvement, Fleet Future's mission has been successfully delivered and I wanted to summarise the achievements of this small team of local volunteers.

Formed in 2012, our initial focus was to consult Fleet people and develop a plan based on their feedback. This resulted in the 2013 Fleet Town Plan (see www.fleetfuture.com) with 17 recommendations. Many of these have been implemented, eg:

More town centre events – we helped initiate the successful Fleet Fashion Show & Fleet Food Festival (www.fleetfoodfestival.co.uk). Fleet Film Club also resulted from our discussions and is now run by a "spin off" group (www.fleetfilm.co.uk).

Better information about Fleet footpaths and cycle ways – working with local experts, the Fleet Community Map project was delivered by the team and provides online information on these (www.fleetcommunitymap.co.uk).

Business-led team to work on plans to revitalise town centre – this important recommendation resulted in the formation of Fleet Business Forum (www.fleetbusinessforum.com). Run by local businesses, it is promoting a Business Improvement District (BID) for Fleet. If successful, the BID will lead to investment of £750,000 in town centre improvement projects.

[Learn more at our AGM – Ed]

The development of a Fleet "brand" – the initial phase of this project has been completed and a "market identity" developed for Fleet which is now used in the BID publicity material (see image above).

Improved information and signage in the town centre – this project has been taken up by the Business Forum and forms part of the proposed BID business plan.

Land centred on civic offices & Harlington to be developed for community benefit – Fleet Town Council already has plans to improve The Harlington. Members of Fleet Future, through our close involvement in the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan project, have also



developed a broader concept for a "community quarter" embracing leisure, entertainment, community and cultural activities.

Car parking – by invitation, we joined the District Council's "task and finish" group reviewing car parking across Hart. As a result, new parking charges were rolled out and a pay-on-exit system agreed for one of the major town centre car parks.

Improvements to public transport in Fleet – having won a grant from the government's "First Steps" programme to look at community transport, Fleet Future brought together representatives from Town and District Councils, Communicare and Buses in Fleet to develop proposals for those without their own transport. Working with the Transport in Hart community group, we are now looking at the wider provision of transport in Fleet.

Empty office blocks in Fleet Road – finally, there was concern about the empty office blocks. McCarthy Stone have now built the large retirement block on the Fleet Road/Kings Road junction, the adjacent block has been acquired for housing but, sadly, the final two office blocks are in overseas ownership with no immediate redevelopment plans.

Having completed our mission, or passed the baton, we are going into hibernation mode. We will meet occasionally but have no immediate plans for regular activity. Thanks to everyone for their support during the past few years. We wish our town and its community every success in the future.

Michael Butcher
Chair, Fleet Future



Photo from Fleet Future

FCCS meets Constituency MP Ranil Jayawardena

Civic Voice encourages civic societies to meet and engage with their MP to discuss government policy of interest to civic societies. Phill Gower, Gillian Wain and John Pearson met our MP, Ranil Jayawardena, over a drink one Saturday lunchtime in January. Below is an account of our meeting and the outcomes.

Our meeting began by a short introduction from us about the Society, how long we had been established, how many members we have and some of our current activities. We send Mr Jayawardena every issue of our newsletter and so he knew something about us, and he had also clearly done some research of his own and asked a few questions about us and about Civic Voice.

Planning policy

The main thrust of our meeting was our concerns on planning policy.

Mr Jayawardena's views on planning in Hart are well publicised on his website (www.tellranil.com) and the discussions that we had were in the context that it is inappropriate for him to comment on the Local Plan and where houses should go.

Phill raised our concerns that piecemeal brownfield development does not provide the 'blank canvas' opportunity to provide infrastructure-led development that bigger development sites do, and particularly that office conversions fail to attract any infrastructure funding. Mr Jayawardena repeated his assertions (on his website) that he believes Hart's local housing demand can be met using brownfield sites. We talked a lot about transport, education and health facilities being at full capacity for Fleet & Church Crookham residents and how the results of piecemeal development will only add to that.

Our feeling was that whilst Mr Jayawardena 'talked the talk' as far as infrastructure goes he did not seem to understand the burden that piecemeal development puts on Fleet & Church Crookham in the way that a new settlement would not.

Another concern we raised was that office conversion developments, such as those on Ancells Business Park, typically comprise only 1- and 2-bedroom flats which do not deliver balanced mixed communities. For us, a community should aim to bring together everybody, from young families, to single people, to older people and everyone in between. We were disappointed that Mr Jayawardena did not see this as a particular problem, as he felt that building an element of less desirable housing was a mechanism for providing more affordable housing.



Photo from Steve Forster

From L: Ranil Jayawardena, Phill, Gillian and John

Another focus was on the need for 'affordable' housing and Mr Jayawardena's view that the best way to reduce the price of housing and allow more people to get on the housing ladder is to build sufficient housing to drive price down. We feel strongly that building new homes should never be at the expense of building mixed, attractive communities that have longevity and are something to be proud of; we were disappointed that Mr Jayawardena seemed to think the two notions are mutually exclusive.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies

We then went on to tell Mr Jayawardena about the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Civic Societies. The purpose of this group is to:

- Discuss issues related to civic society and the civic movement;
- Realise these issues on the parliamentary agenda; and
- Provide a forum for an exchange of views between stakeholders with an interest in making places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive.

The group was established in 2011, and our previous MP James Arbuthnot was a member. The group has been recently relaunched and we asked Mr Jayawardena if he would consider joining the group.

In fact, he needed little persuading and immediately agreed to join. The group is holding a number of debates on topics including the role of neighbourhood planning in meeting housing need and protecting

conservation areas and we hope that by his involvement, Mr Jayawardena will understand more readily the impact of national policies at the local level.

Next steps

We enjoyed meeting Mr Jayawardena and were encouraged that he asked us to stay in touch.

We hope that, through his involvement with the All-Party Parliamentary Group, and having met us, that we can continue our dialogue on planning policy and how it relates to the work of our Society.

Gillian Wain

Cody Sports & Social Club

Cody Sports & Social Club (Cody SSC) is keen to invite new active members to enjoy its range of sports facilities, football & cricket pitches, petanque, tennis, archery, and bowls amongst others. Located on Old Iveley Road, just off the Norris Hill, Iveley Road & Fleet Road roundabout, the club boasts a comfortable clubhouse with snooker, pool, darts, carpet bowls, bowling alley, and licensed bar. The club holds frequent family-orientated events, games nights, quizzes etc.

Cody SSC is a private members club, which means that you have to be a member or a bona fide guest to use the club facilities. Membership is £30 per annum for individual or family membership (two adults & children up to the age of 18 years). The club is here to support the community and that includes those who work locally, not just local residents. As a not-for-profit organisation all money raised goes back to benefit the members; there are no shareholders or other administrative burdens that large organisations or chains have. The Club supports many local youth teams and charities in the community; supporting Cody SSC also supports



the local community.

The clubhouse also has two function rooms are available for private hire, presentations, meetings, parties etc and a catering kitchen.

For more details, visit the club's website www.codyssc.org.uk or Facebook page, or phone 01252 543009.

Tam Jones
Honorary Secretary

FCCS and CAMRA celebrate success!

In early 2016, we successfully applied to have three local pubs (The Fox and Hounds, The Oat Sheaf and The Old Emporium) listed as Assets of Community Value (ACV), giving them both some protection against being closed on sale, but also making a public statement that those pubs make a positive contribution to our communities.

Due to our success, we were approached by the local branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), and asked if we would work with them to seek ACV status for other pubs within our area.

We were delighted with this approach, and working together, we have successfully obtained ACV status for the Prince of Wales in Reading Road South.

The Prince of Wales is a well-known and long-established business in Fleet. What is perhaps less well-known is the significant amounts of money it raises to support local charities; young persons' sports teams; lunch clubs for the elderly; and most recently installing a defibrillator on the outside of the pub to be available for use 24/7.

It has been rewarding to work with CAMRA and we hope to report on further successful applications in the coming months.

Patric Downes

Civic Voice News

One of Civic Voice's membership benefits is a National Trust pass (worth up to £14) for members of civic societies to enjoy. The current passes last until 31 May 2017.

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

Civic Voice
60 Duke Street
Liverpool L1 5AA



Fleet & Church Crookham Society Activities November 2016–February 2017

- 10 November **Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting.** Society represented by Jenny Radley. The Airspace Change Proposal has been undergoing consultation in the Gatwick area. Jenny asked TAG, the airport operators, to investigate a report of increase in reverse thrust noise as aircraft land on the runway.
- 12 November **Hartland Park exhibition.** Members of the committee attended this exhibition to review plans on the residential development of the site. We raised concerns over the proposed density of the housing and infrastructure funding.
- 13 November **Remembrance Parade.** Society Chairman Dave Bentley laid a wreath at Fleet's war memorial.
- 16 November **NE Hampshire CPRE Planning Committee** attended by Colin Gray
- 23 November **Fleet Festivities.** Committee members support with marshalling at this popular event.
- 30 November **Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy seminar.** Colin Gray joined the workshop on drainage and flood risk.
- 5 December **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where a new application for 700 dwellings at Elvetham Chase (Pale Lane, West Fleet) was tabled despite being contrary to the housing consultation earlier in the year.
- 12 December **Elvetham Chase (Pale Lane) development.** Society submits objections to outline application for the development of up to 700 residential dwellings on the grounds that application is both premature (to the Local Plan consultation, then due in a few weeks) and in the worst possible location with insufficient infrastructure.
- 14 December **Fleet News coverage of the Society's objections to Elvetham Chase (Pale Lane) development.**
- 13 December **Committee meeting.** Members of the committee volunteer to assist in putting together a list of buildings valued for their heritage aspect for the Fleet Parish Neighbourhood Plan (see page 5).
- 19 December **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where substantial applications at Elvetham Chase and proposed redevelopment at Hartland Park (Pyestock) dominated proceedings.
- 20 December **NE Hampshire CPRE Planning Committee** attended by Colin Gray
- 20 December **Prince of Wales on Reading Road South listed as Asset of Community Value,** following an application by the Society (thanks to Patric Downes) jointly with CAMRA (see page 9 and photo, right).



- 7 January **FCCS meeting with constituency MP Ranil Jayawardena.** Society represented by Phill Gower, John Pearson and Gillian Wain (see page 8).
- 9 January **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where Hartland Park (Pyestock) again featured – this time to consider a temporary proposal for the site to be used as a film set.
- 17 January **NE Hampshire CPRE Planning Committee** attended by Colin Gray
- 18 January **Fleet News coverage of the Prince of Wales** on Reading Road South becoming an Asset of Community Value.
- 19 January **FCCS mentioned in Hampshire Life magazine,** citing our recent objections to the Elvetham Chase development.
- 19 January **NE Hampshire CPRE Executive Committee** attended by Colin Gray.
- 23 January **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower where multiple applications for redevelopment at disused office buildings at 115–123 Fleet Road were discussed.
- 26 January **Ian Harvey, Director of Civic Voice, speaks at the Yateley Society.** Society represented by John Pearson and Gillian Wain.
- 30 January **Fleet Neighbourhood Plan meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower. The society tabled a draft listing of assets of community value that it had been working on in recent months (see page 5).
- 31 January **Committee meeting.** The committee decided not to renew membership of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) because of continuing unease about CPRE policies and the impact on Fleet & Church Crookham of the concentration on brownfield development without adequate provision of infrastructure.
- 4 February **Hartland Park exhibition.** Members of the committee attended this exhibition to review more detailed plans for the first phase of residential development. We raised concerns over the height of the buildings and the amount of infrastructure that will be able to be funded given the decontamination needs of the site (which was previously home to the National Gas Turbine Establishment – see photo, right).
- 7 February **Meeting with FACE-It and Hook Action Against Overdevelopment** Society represented by Phill Gower to discuss common ground and future approach to Local Plan consultation.
- 9 February **Hart District Council Cabinet meeting to discuss the draft Local Plan consultation.** Society represented by Phill Gower & John Pearson.
- 13 February **Fleet Town Council Planning Committee meeting.** Society represented by Phill Gower – yet more office conversions with zero infrastructure funding, this time at 2 Fleetwood Park (Ancells Farm).
- 21 February **NE Hampshire CPRE Planning Committee** attended by Colin Gray.
- 25 February **Harlington re-development.** Exhibition attended by several committee members to see the three options for refurbishment or redevelopment (brochure pictured right).
- 27 February **Hart Voluntary Sector Forum.** Society represented by Colin Gray. Presentations included Everyone Active and the new Hart Leisure Centre; Hart Countryside Services, including support for bio-diversity projects; and Hampshire County Council's Connect to Support website.
- 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.



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Sun 19 March	Fleet Half Marathon – road closures in force throughout the morning
Wed 19 April	Fleet & Church Crookham Society AGM. 7.30pm. Holy Trinity RC Church Hall, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham GU52 8JU
Sun 30 April	Falkners Arms Family Fun Day on raising money for Parity for Disability
Mon 1 May	Fleet Lions Motorcycle Rally, The Key, Elvetham Heath
Sun 28 May	Fleet Food Festival, The Views
Sun 4 June	Fleet Pond Wildlife Day, 10.30–15.30. A wide range of wildlife and countryside organisations with displays of their work plus bug hunting, pond dipping, fishing training, bird watching and more. Entry free.
Thu 29 June– Sun 2 July	Fleet Carnival
Thu 6 July	FACC meeting. 2pm at Rushmoor Borough Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough GU14 7JU
Sun 23 July	Elvetham Heath Nature Fest at The Key. Lots of information and games for young people on nature themes.

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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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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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