

Notes from Faversham Future Forum 26th November 2018

Present: Cllr Geoff Wade (GW), Yunus Aswat (YA), Frances Beaumont (FB), Cllr Claire Belsom (CB), Cllr Shiel Campbell (SC), Paul Cumberland (PC), Janice Ely (JE), Roger Ely (RE) Cllr Peter Flower (PF), Harold Goodwin (HG), Alastair Gould (AG), Cllr Antony Hook (AH), Chris Oswald-Jones (COJ), Ben J Martin (BJM), Viv Moore (VM), Hannah Perkin (HP), Ian Read (IR), Jenny Reeves(JR), Amanda Russell (AR), Tim Stoner (TS), Janet Turner (JT). Tim Valentine(TV), Chris Wright (CW),

In attendance: Miss Adrienne Begent(AB) -Deputy Town Clerk, FTC

Apologies: Trevor Abram, Gulliver Immink, Debbie Lawther, Finlay McDonald, Maria Newman, Julian Saunders

1. Notes from Meeting on 24th September 2018 and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The notes from the meeting that took place on 24th September were agreed.
- 1.2 HG: Confirmed that he had written to Helen Whately MP, asking why the Environment Agency hasn't acted over concerns regarding the operation at East Kent Recycling.
- 1.3 AH: Confirmed that Kent County Council was still waiting for further documentation to be submitted by EKP before the application was considered for the site at Oare. He had not received details of what the documents referred to. There was speculation that EKP were going to submit an application for their Aylsham site, which had recently had an application refused for housing.

2. East Kent Recycling

- 2.1 No update was given.

3. Cleve Hill Solar Park

- 3.1 HG: Informed the meeting that GREAT were running a meeting on 9th December in the Guildhall. This would be widely advertised. The process of registering interest in the application would be highlighted at the meeting,

CB: Confirmed that the Town Council would be forming a working group to consider the proposal. She will be liaising with GREAT

JT: Extremely worried about the traffic movement during construction. There will be 80 large lorries in and out each day for 2 1/2 years.

80% of solar farms are successful at application.

Imperative that the Town Council responds to the application at the appropriate time.

HG: Kent Wildlife, Swale Green Party, Faversham Society and GREAT submitted comments at the previous consultation stage. It is important that these organisations and the Town Council collaborate before the next stage of consultation.

JR: This development effects Canterbury as well. The City Council intends to object.

HG: FTC, KCC, and SBC, need be realistic about the scale of this application and the fight ahead. They should be prepared to appoint Counsel to fight it.

AH: The Town Council needs to seek professional advice. SBC and KCC are statutory consultees. 6 months ago Kent County Council didn't know how they would react to the application.

ACTION: AH will ask KCC to confirm their stance on the application

4. Housing Developments

CW: Gladman attended a Town Council meeting and showed their proposal. They have not engaged with residents of Faversham.

AH: Gladman held a public meeting in Sheldwich which was well attended. The details of the proposal were vague.

JT: Swale Borough Council are under pressure to fulfil housing targets. Garden Villages may be a means to do so.

BJM: The proposals are using pre Perry Court data. The proposal at North Street lacks social housing. Gladman have a reputation for targeting District Councils in disarray.

COJ: There will be elections in 2019. The membership of Borough and Town Council may change significantly.

HG: The Town Council should be organising public meetings and making a stance.

JR: At the Duchy meeting people were vocally unhappy. When they heard about the North Street proposal they were even more unhappy. Gladman purposely kept the proposal secret and have been disengaged with members of the public. They are vague on detail.

CW: Gladman are well connected. Mathew Taylor is advising Government on garden villages.

PC: If the North Street proposal goes ahead the population of Faversham will be doubled. Need to turn M2 into old A2.

HG: The Town Council needs to show leadership.

CW: The timetable for the garden villages is January for responses and June for Swale Borough Council to comment.

ACTION: AB to ask Swale Borough Council for confirmation of timetable.

SC: This group should respond rather than the Town Council.

GW: The Town Council will need to take a stance that champions public opinion; a community led approach that provides a long term land supply for development of a healthy and vibrant town going forward.

COJ: There needs to be collaboration with parish councils.

JT: We need to fight to protect our agriculture land. In North Street this has been farmed by Benstead Family historically. The Gladman proposal will have a large impact. The Duchy don't like controversy, we should be welcoming them.

HG: Asks GW what should be happening regarding North Street?

GW: Gladman should be coming and speaking to the town.

HG: Gladman aren't developers, they are agents who apply for planning permission and then sell it on. North Street should be refused, it is on prime agricultural land and the proposal has poor infrastructure. We need to stop this proposal getting in the local plan.

PF: North Street should be a separate town and not an extension of Faversham.

BJM: In January Swale Borough Council will consider the garden village proposal. It is hard to fight for Duchy and not North Street. Swale at this stage are considering the idea.

TV: Communities will Railway Stations may benefit from the proposal, but are they in Swale. The location should be considered on a regional level.

5. Community Land Trust

HG: The group has had training and first meeting will be held on 6th December. The same facilitator will be present. The next stage is to from legal boundaries of what the CLT will do, this should have long term definitions. Affordable housing is the priority.

PC: What is the definition of affordable housing?

HG: As cheap as possible with rent as cheap as possible. Not defining at this stage.

6. Water supply and waste water management

GW: Concerns regarding movement of waste to the site via Abbeyfields have been raised.

BJM: Most approved developments have sewage, which could be extended to parts of Faversham which do not.

COJ: Pipes to sewage works are at full capacity.

GW: Water supply and disposal companies are coming to Faversham Town Council on 10th December, to address concerns.

FB: There is regular flooding, are the new developments using permeable surfaces.

COJ: This is about waste water management and attenuation

7. 20's Plenty, Road Safety and Public Health

AR: The Consultant Phil Jones had been shown around town and looked at the roads which were considered most controversial for becoming 20's plenty.

Psychological calming methods would be used rather than physical to implement 20 speed limit.

Need to reconnect with Helen Whately, who will be asked to discuss the A2 footbridge with KCC Cllr Mike Whiting.

There had been a positive meeting with KALC.

AH: Kent County Council Highways are not keen to engage but efforts are being made to try and get them on board.

COJ: AH has set aside money to improve Whitstable Road pedestrian crossing.

AH: Confirmed that £15,000 of his allowance had been set aside for Whitstable Road. He was pushing for the start date, as the work had already been delayed.

TS: The Phil Jones report is excellent, it supports a town wide rollout of the 20 speed limit. Phil Jones will brief Paul Brand at Kent County Council. The importance of air quality as part of the campaign should not be underestimated.

AR: The group is working closely with Kent County Council, illustrating how 20's plenty works with existing policies.

COJ: Air quality is complimentary to 20's plenty.

JR: Have you submitted to KECC for town wide rollout?

AR: Confirmed the group hadn't.

JR: Questioned how will new developments be included?

AR: The guidelines for Kent County Council that CW had be working will promote 20's plenty. The ethos will be by design not signage. The scheme needs to work in the existing town and then be extended to the developments.

PC: Numbers for future housing should be approved in the local plan.

TS: There will be default to 20 if the speed limit is town wide, The group have access to Ordnance Survey maps for Faversham.

8. Air Quality/Pollution

CW: Preliminary report on air quality research conducted on behalf of the Faversham Society in their newsletter. The data from Water Lane is still be analysed but initial results indicate:

- 1) Slow traffic equals reduced pollution
- 2) At the end of sessions when there was generally less traffic (moving faster) there was more pollution.
- 3) Lorries are not the worst offenders.

AH: Helen Whately should be asked what the best strategy for clean air was.

AH: Any strategy should promote school walking buses.

AR: Local schools and buses have option to opt in.

9. Buses

GW: The next deadline for the Community Transport Scheme is early December and we don't have a scheme. It is imperative that work is put in now to evidence need to ensure next time the grant window is opened we are in a position to submit a coherent application. Keen to work with JR to formulate a proposal.

JR: Need a strategy . At the moment buses are delayed forcing people into their cars, there b adding to the congestion and therefore the problem.

ACTION: JR and GW to work together and report back at next meeting.

10. Heritage Hub

CW: Three elements to the scheme

- 1) The Town Council now occupies the offices
- 2) The Town Council is working with FS to relocate the Doddington Library.
- 3) Use of backroom still to be determined.

The bunting project in the front room had been a great success.

HG: The HLF had not been successful. Now working with Christchurch University, to create an interactive history of Faversham with overhead and floor projections. This

potentially could also map new developments, 20s plenty, Cleve Hill and Duchy proposal.

11. Kent County Council Planning Guidelines for Developers

CW: Concerned that applications coming forward did not sit well with existing residents. The Guidelines are not being followed and not considered sharp enough. The Guidelines have been further polished.

JR: The revised guidelines are concise.

PC: There are no requirements for local jobs.

VM: Suggest that 1. Schemes approved or in the pipeline should be changed to Schemes approved or under consideration.

AH: we need to keep a record of bus reliability. Stage Coach and Arriva are publicly subsidised and should be accountable when their contracts are next considered.

ACTION Amended Planning Guidelines to be sent to Full Council for consideration.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of FFF will be held on Monday 28th January 2019 at 7pm.