

NOTES for the FAVERSHAM FUTURE FORUM held in The Guildhall Faversham on Monday 30 October 2017

Present: The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell, Debbie Lawther, Janet Turner, Chris Oswald-Jones, Cllr Antony Hook, Cllr Trevor Abram, Dr Alistair Gould, Sarah Harvey, Lawrie McMahon, Gill Wagstaff, Sue Akhurst, Harold Goodwin, Chris Wright, Simon Weston, Jenny Reeves, Simon McLachlan, Jack Bright, Louise Bareham

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Flower, Cllr Nigel Kay, Cllr Ted Wilcox, Cllr David Simmons, Margaret Abram, Linda and Bob Morrison, Findlay Macdonald, Clive Foreman

2. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the 333 bus now travels from Sittingbourne to Canterbury via Faversham.

20's Plenty Update provided by AH: 16 speeds surveys had been carried out, although the progress has been disappointing. The first surveys had been undertaken early September, but had not been completed within the week as anticipated. It was also clear that there were anomalies in some of the results received. However, the initial headline figures did seem to prove the average speed is less than 24mph, which is the speed KCC's policy requires to ensure that only signage changes are required, rather than traffic calming.

Speedwatch Update provided by COJ: Agreed that following ad hoc Speedwatch checks evidence supported 20's Plenty, as there were few drivers travelling over 30mph. He noted that more volunteers were required.

3. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS

Perry Court: A public consultation is planned at Abbey School and details will be released by the developers soon.

Graveney Road: SBC had not accepted the submission as the proposed room sizes were too small.

Standard House: Concerns were raised that the application did not comply with the NHP and that FTC was not picking up on this. The cat slide extension was considered to be of no vintage however had been in place since the 1920s. HG raised concerns about access, who owned the land at Belvedere Road and whether Abbey Street would become one way. He thought the town should be taking a view on it now. JT noted that the NHP said this should not happen. HG felt the need to fight all cases before it became unstoppable.

COJ also thought that there was likelihood the development of 10 houses would join access to Belvedere Road and we should pre-empt rather than wait. HG noted that there had been an outline plan for a roundabout at Quay Lane and questioned whether there had been little activity at this site due to the planning blight. General concerns were raised about access to emergency services and whether the FRS may be in favour of opening up access to Belvedere Road.

It was asked if FTC write expressing concerns of access through to Belvedere Road happening without proper consultation. It was agreed that the letter should come from FFF cc'd to FTC.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

HG noted that the Faversham Society had requested FTC consider a NHP and were disappointed that this had not been progressed. James Freeman had confirmed that there would not be additional housing as a consequence of a NHP. SBC were consulting on their Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

5. NEW LOCAL PLAN

SBC had started work on the next LP, which will include a traffic management plan. Social housing was required, as affordable was not actually affordable. HG noted that the Faversham Society would be hosting an event in January to consider the infrastructure, healthcare, school and how to influence decisions. It was agreed that a radical solution was required. CW thought a NHP strategy and coherent models were easier to defend. All groups and councils needed to be pulling in the same direction. It was agreed that liaison with other parishes should take place and it was questioned whether Ospringe should be included within a NHP for Faversham.

6. EAST KENT RECYCLING PLANNING APPLICATION

Robert Morrison was leading on the campaign and had an extensive list of objections for the application. FTC had lodged an objection and others were asked to do the same. AH considered the application did not increase the number of waste sorting sites and that it was not a recycling site. AH was also opposing the application and said he had not seen any evidence of KCC Officers driving the project. Roger Wilkins had no commercial relationship with EKR, however in 2014 KCC did provide them with an interest free loan to expand the site. The money has subsequently been repaid. The EA has issued enforcement notices but were refusing to prosecute due to resources. It was agreed that media should be contacted and that FTC should take a more prominent position on this. Sending a delegation to KCC was also raised and AH will advise.

7. LORRY WATCH SCHEME

CW was not worried about satnav issues, but EKR site would increase lorry traffic by 8%. Increased fumes would be an issue for the town. CW felt a traffic model for the town was needed. Data was available on lorry movement on the A2 and A251, but not on the Western Link. He advised that the 20's Plenty surveys include lorry movement and thought it would be helpful to have one undertaken on the Western Link. JT would be interested in a Lorry Watch for West Street. COJ agreed that a survey on the Western Link would be worth financing. LB advised that handheld air quality kits were not available and that previous equipment which had been shown did not collect the correct information. AG asked whether SBC, as the statutory authority responsible for air quality had been involved with any court cases.

8. HEART OF THE TOWN

HG advised the meeting of the Faversham Society's meeting on the Heart of the Town taking place on Monday 27 November at 7pm.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SC noted that FTC was undertaking a town centre user survey as part of bench marking and a record 900+ responses had been received.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 December, 7pm, The Guildhall