

Notes of the joint meeting between resident associations and companies held in  
Fairfield Community Hall, Kipling Crescent, Fairfield on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at 7.00 pm

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## **Present**

**Fairfield Parish Council (FPC)** – Councillors Chris Bidwell (Chairman), Barrie Dack and Penny Daffarn.

**Fairfield Park Resident Association (FPRA)** – Nick Reynolds and Steve Carrington

**Directors of Fairfield Hall Management Company (FHMC)** – Jenny Coles

**Fairfield Hall Hub (FHH)** Deborah Bangs

**Directors of Middlemarch Residents Company (MRC)** – Gino Rosa

## **Meeting chaired by**

Chris Bidwell

## **Notes taken by**

Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

## **1 Apologies**

1.1 Apologies received from Councillors Nathan Hanks, Sharon Jones and Tom Milliken (FPC), Colin Chatfield (FHMC), Peter Nash (FPRA) and Geoff Smith (MRC).

## **2 Update on actions from meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

2.1 Dog Fouling – New signage is now in place. Stickers will also be placed on litter bins and dog bins in due course.

2.2 Provision of lighting on the footpath across the Cricket Ground – FPC has confirmed that these are the same as the ones in West Drive and are to the same standard. The second light from Kipling Crescent is not working and FPC will report this to Falco. **Action: FPC**

2.3 Flytipping – FHMC agreed to ask Encore to write to Bannatyne's about the Flytipping in the overflow carpark. **Action: FHMC**

2.4 Works to Western Bridleway – Work has been completed.

2.5 Christmas tree Disposal – Most residents complied with this and MBS collected all trees that CBC did not collect on the scheduled date. Unfortunately, CBC returned on a later date to collect trees and collected them all from the collection point leaving MBS with no trees to make compost.

2.6 Extra parking spaces in Kipling Crescent – FPC was denied permission from the landowner to use part of their land to create some extra parking spaces as a Section 38 was about to be issued and the developer did not want to delay the process. Once the Section 38 is in place FPC will ask for permission again.

2.7 No through road signs – 'Do Not Follow SAT NAV' signs to be installed underneath two existing 30mph entry signs prior to the Dickens Boulevard roundabout and a 'U Turn' sign with the words 'no route to Arlesey' placed under the existing directional sign for the School and Community Hall in Dickens Boulevard. This is logical because if anyone ignores or misses the 'Do Not Follow SAT NAV' signs they can see the 'U Turn' sign and then they have the opportunity to use the Dickens Boulevard roundabout to exit the development without getting too far in and then facing more trouble turning around and getting back out. If these prove to be successful, FPC will ask CBC for permission for extra signage near Eliot Way and Kingsley Avenue.

### **3 Update on Letchworth Sewage Treatment Works**

- 3.1 The smell is an ongoing problem. Ward Councillor Dixon, Councillors Bidwell and Dack, Peter Nash and Nick Reynolds (FPRA) did an unannounced site visit this week and was shown the whole site. As had been suspected, a second source for the smell was located whilst on site and Councillor Dixon is speaking to CBC regarding this. FPC has also written to Anglian Water CEO. The Rt Hon Alistair Burt, MP is aware of the problem and is supporting CBC and FPC. FPC will continue to publish regular updates on the website and via newsletters.

### **4 Update from Fairfield Hall**

- 4.1 Pot Holes off Eliot Way – These are still on CBC's list of outstanding items with PJ Livesey as the road wasn't laid properly.
- 4.2 Refuse handling at the hall – Bins have replaced the compactor and everything is working well.
- 4.3 Completion Certificates – FHMC is still having regular meetings with CBC but CBC will not issue certificates until the developers have resolved the outstanding issues. FHMC will continue to ask CBC for updates.

### **5 Update from FPRA**

- 5.1 Urban Park – Everyone was shown two detailed plans of a design that had been produced by Silke Gruner at no cost to Fairfield. It is a simple design which will be easy to maintain at low costs. It includes wild flowers, a stage and an area that could be used as a market. The consultation will start soon. The initial cost is expected to be approximately £30k and FPRA will apply to FPC for a grant. FPRA will also ask FPC to enquire to CBC if the remaining public arts money could be used for the stage. Everyone agreed the design looked excellent.

### **6 Update on Land Transfer of land from Hotbed to FPC**

- 6.1 Hotbed is waiting for FHMC to advise the revised boundary proposals.

### **7 Update on works to the Orchards**

- 7.1 Colin Carpenter has started work to the orchards. Two workshops are planned for 12<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March for volunteers to do pruning with Bob Lever. Tools were going to be borrowed from Teasel but sadly they had a burglary recently and all tools were stolen. It is hoped that tools will be supplied by Bob Lever, Acorn and BRCC. The cider is doing well and there is approximately 250 bottles now. Once these are ready they will be distributed FOC at future events.

### **8 Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

- 8.1 The CBC consultation finished on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The plan and comments are now to be passed to an examiner.

### **9 Detailed plans for the new development**

- 9.1 FPC and Campbell Buchanan had an informal meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January where Campbell Buchanan produced pictures of the housing proposals and layout plans. The shop, doctors' surgery and pub/restaurant were all missing from the plans. FPC expressed huge concerns of providing an extra 400 houses without any additional facilities and was advised that Campbell Buchanan had tried to get someone for the shop but no one was interested in the location. FPC stated this was totally unacceptable and would cause more chaos at Tesco as this would be the only shop and the area could not cope with more vehicles. FPC has told CBC of these concerns so they are prepared when the application is submitted.

FPC encouraged everyone to look at the plans when they are submitted and make comments to CBC.

**10 Fairfield Lower School 5km Run Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

- 10.1 FPC has met with the PTA to discuss this run and although FPC thought it was a very good idea grave concern over the parking and safety aspects were expressed. The PTA will be talking to North Herts Running Club, St John's Ambulance (First Aid) and Tesco (Water). FPC also advised that permission will need to be sought from landowners and advised the PTA of who to contact. The PTA will check insurance policy to make sure there is adequate insurance for the event. The PTA will keep FPC updated.

**11 Illegal parking around Fairfield**

- 11.1 There are ongoing problems with people parking near junctions in particular commercial vehicles around Palmerston Way and Dickens Boulevard. FPC has sent photos to the Police and asked them to investigate. Traffic calming measures were discussed but the issue was who would enforce them. Currently PCSOs in Bedfordshire have not been given this power.

**12 Break-ins and Police**

- 12.1 There have been several break-ins recently which include general burglaries and ones where car keys are taken of high value cars. The Hall have had issues recently where two youths were caught stealing post. Unfortunately the police were unable to take action as there was no victim (difficult to know if you've had post stolen if it isn't something specific you are expecting). With the increase police and PCSOs in Bedfordshire it is hoped that the police presence will increase around Fairfield. The PCSO is attending the February parish council meeting so these issues will be mentioned.

**13 Street Lighting complaints**

- 13.1 Many street lights and bollards around Fairfield are not working. These have all been reported to CBC and are being monitored by FPC.

**14 Bins being left out at Palmerston Way**

- 14.1 Scanlans has written to residents reminding them to put bins away as per their covenants but this request has been ignored. Scanlans will be adding stickers to all offending bins next week and if these are ignored FPRA has asked that letters from solicitors are sent as this is continued blatant breach of the covenant.

**15 Any other business**

- 15.1 Deborah thanked FPC for displaying the artefacts and for paying for the community hall hire for the 'History of Fairfield Hall' talk by Lol Butterfield on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at 7.30 pm and invited everyone to attend.

**16 Date of next meeting**

- 16.1 The next meeting to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 at 7.00 pm unless it is considered necessary to have one before.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm