

Notes of the joint meeting between resident associations and companies held in
Fairfield Community Hall, Kipling Crescent, Fairfield on Thursday 19th November 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present

Fairfield Parish Council (FPC) - Councillors Barrie Dack, Viv Batten, Chris Bidwell and Phil Mitchinson

Fairfield Park Resident Association (FPRA) – Chris Titmus and Peter Nash

Fairfield Hall Residents Association (FHRA) – Les Pike and Jenny Coles

Director of Fairfield Hall Management Company (FHMC) – Linda Manktelow

Middlemarch Residents Company (MRC) – David Ball

Notes taken by

Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

1 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Penny Daffarn, Councillor Nathan Hanks, Councillor Geoff Smith and Sharon Jones (Director of Fairfield Hall Management Company).

2 Update on road signs

2.1 Fairfield signs – CBC has installed

Two new 'Fairfield' signs on Hitchin Road.

Signs to Community Hall and School on Dickens Boulevard.

Warning children crossing signs near the School.

Fairfield signs under the directional signs on the A507.

2.2 Directional signs – CBC will be supplying a new directional sign but no date for installation has been given yet. The parish clerk to chase up. **Action: KH**

2.3 Yellow developer signs - Hertfordshire Highway have spoken with their enforcement team who have confirmed the yellow developer signs on Hitchin Road near Thornes and Wilbury Cemetery have been added to a list of 'yellow developer' signs to be removed around the County. Due to the number of signs and the logistics of removing these HH cannot commit to an exact date at this stage, but will endeavour to have them removed as soon as possible. The parish clerk to chase up. **Action: KH**

3 Update on Highways maintenance on adopted roads

3.1 Vegetation alongside the Hitchin Road – The vegetation alongside the footpath between Fairfield and Stotfold on Hitchin Road has been cleared. CBC has also agreed to use a shovel to clear the earth / weeds / etc. back and reclaim full width of footpath/cycle track.

3.2 Grass verge cutting – CBC has advised that FPC is able to 'opt-out' of CBC's highway grass cutting and instead run its own service using a contribution from CBC. Measurements of the respective verges are currently being taken so CBC can calculate the contribution. CBC has declined to back date any payments despite FPC requesting to opt out a year ago which FPC feel is morally wrong.

3.3 Road gritting – FPC is drafting a Winter Maintenance Plan so CBC will give permission for salt gritting to be done by FPC on adopted roads.

4 Update on FPC trying to resolve the many outstanding 106 issues.

4.1 CBC has called a meeting on 28th November with the Rt Hon Alistair Burt, MP chairing the meeting. Both FPC and FHMC Directors are unhappy with the proposed agenda as only one hour has been allocated and it is only proposed to discuss 106 issues and not the outstanding Building Control certificates, which was the issue initially raised. It is unclear if PJ Livesey or Hot bed will be attending.

5 Orchards

- 5.1 FPC served notice on Hotbed and PJ Livesey to carry out works. PJ Livesey has refused for work to take place. Although Hotbed has not replied, so have neither accepted nor objected to proposed works. FPC is requesting quotations to professionally prune trees so they start former proper crowns but can't do anything until permission from landowners is received.
- 5.2 The public meeting to form a 'Friends of the Orchard Group' was very successful with over 60 people attending. A group of volunteers will be removing the Ivy from the trees in East Orchard and part of West Orchard on Sunday. A further meeting will be arranged in January when Liz Anderson, CBC Ecologist will be invited to give an introduction as to the value of the orchards for biodiversity and why they are County Wildlife Sites.

6 Update on current situation over 'Public Arts Money'

- 6.1 FPC has had two meetings with CBC and the criteria had changed by the second meeting. After looking at several suggestions it was agreed to do work in the Urban Park as this was a blank canvas so met the criteria better than the other options. The consultation period has started and CBC has chosen an artist to work with. Residents will have the opportunity to make suggestions before a proposal is drawn.

7 Grant application re former Marketing Suite at the Hall

- 7.1 FPC received a grant application from FHMC / FHRA but despite being asked for three quotations only an estimate was received so FPC deferred any decision until three quotations were received and further discussions with PJ Livesey has taken place. FHMC / FPRA have also been invited to supply three quotations from stone masons for the proposed stones.

8 Action so far to obtain land for

- 8.1 Allotments and recreation land – FPC is still waiting for CBC to look at what land is available.

9 Update of work at the school

- 9.1 Hardy Way still has a broken tree and damaged grass verges. The parish clerk to chase up the works foreman to ask that the area is made good, litter is cleared up from the path that runs along the sportsfield and SDC/Bovis signs are removed. **Action: KH**

10 Update on Parish Plan & Neighbourhood Plan

- 10.1 The questionnaire was distributed 25th / 26th October and the deadline for responses is 28th November. To date 151 responses have been made on line and 219 hard copies have been handed in. FPRA and FHMC have emailed their distribution lists to remind residents to complete the questionnaires. There will also be an additional leaflet drop at the weekend reminding all residents to complete it.

11 Update on actions taken to try and resolve parking problems

- 11.1 FPC is waiting to see the results from the PP questionnaire before making any decisions.
- 11.2 Councillors Dack and Mitchinson were involved in the National Road Safety Week with Fairfield Lower School today (19th November).
- 11.3 New signs are to be installed in Tesco car park stating that parking is restricted to one hour for customers only.

12 Current situation over the land at the former pig testing site

- 12.1 Campbell Buchanan submitted two applications to CBC. Both include the demolition of all existing buildings and dwellings and a 70 bedroom care home. One application includes mixed use development comprising 1400sqm B1 offices, children's nursery and 96 dwellings. Whereas the other application is for 116 dwellings. Applications can be viewed on the CBC website. FPC will be sending its views to CBC but all individuals are welcome to send their own personal views to CBC if they wish. Deadline for responses is 1st December.

13 Reducing the speed limit between A507 and Thornes Garden Centre

- 13.1 This was considered a very good idea especially now there is a planning application at the former Pig Testing Site. However, FPC has agreed to wait until the results of the PP questionnaire are known before agreeing any action.

14 Chapel

- 14.1 FPC is trying to meet with the owner to discuss his future plans. Councillor Dack reported that he had spoken to three interested parties, one of whom had spoken to the owner who advised that another planning application was about to be submitted to CBC.

15 Land adjacent to Bowls Club

- 15.1 The land has been rotavated. The winner and runners up of the recent competition for the community garden design have been announced. Elements from each of the designs are going to be worked into a working drawing. Councillor Dack to ask the Scheme Co-ordinator to inform the Bowls Club of the results of the competition. **Action: BD**

16 Green Waste

- 16.1 In the past FPRA has discussed a green waste area and the Directors of the Hall are also thinking about having one. It was discussed if there should be one area for Fairfield or several small areas. There was concern about if it would be used. As there is a question in the PP questionnaire it was agreed to wait until the results are issued before any future discussions.

17 Any Other Business

- 17.1 Following the recent sewerage episode, Chris Titmus asked if FPC could contact Anglian Water and request signs are put on the railings advising what the site number is and who to call in the case of an emergency. **Action: KH**
- 17.2 Concern was expressed about the epidemic of advertising around Fairfield. FPC is currently investigating the bylaws on advertising.
- 17.3 David Ball expressed concern about the speed of the traffic along Eliot Way. As the majority of the offenders are members of the Gym, it was agreed for FPC, FHMC, FHRA and MRC to write to Bannatyne's to request they remind their members that it is a residential area and to drive with due care. It was also suggested to ask members to only park in the Bannatyne's car parks as some members are parking in private residential areas. **Action: KH/FHMC/FHRA/MRC**
- 17.4 Councillor Dack reported that the two post boxes in Fairfield had gone down to being collected only once a day and although the one Eliot Way was a 4.00 pm, the one in Dickens Boulevard was at 9.00 am.

18 Date of Next Meeting

- 18.1 The next joint meeting will be February 2015 unless it is considered necessary to have one before.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm