

**FAVERSHAM FUTURE FORUM** held in The Guildhall Faversham on Monday, 23 January 2017

**Present:** The Mayor, S Campbell and Councillors Flower and Belsom

**Also present:** Town Clerk and 14 members of the public.

The Mayor, Cllr Campbell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their interest.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Introductions were made and areas of interest noted.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Simmons, Kay and Abram. Also Tim Stonor, Harold Goodwin, Brian Wintle-Smith, Anna Bales, Brenda Chester.

## **3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes from the previous meeting were noted.

## **4. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

The access points to the proposed Preston Fields development were discussed. Concerns were raised of the proximity to the access point of an established business on the A2, which was not shown on the developer's drawing. Discussion took place over different sitings of the entrance, which included generally reducing the speed on the A2 by introducing pelican crossings. The possibility of using the existing access road of the business was mooted, which could then fork off into the proposed development.

It was agreed that a footpath was required on the south side of the A2 to allow school children to walk to Abbey School direct from the development. Other points raised included whether there should be restrictions turning into the entrance on the A251, such as no right turn and keeping the option of an entrance into Salters Lane available.

A potential bus route through the development was also considered, some developers are known to pay for bus services for a period of time. It was noted that there was no cycling route through Preston, particularly no access over the footbridge.

The forum questioned whether they would be able to comment on the development or meet with the developers.

## **5. TRAFFIC/TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

The idea of a bypass was considered, it was agreed that it was unlikely that a route to Junction 6 would be possible due to developments such as Perry Court. It was also felt that it was unlikely to get agreement for an additional junction, say on the Faversham Road near Newnham.

There was a definite preference to traffic lights at the junction of A2/A251, or a roundabout at the entrance to The Mall with a road linking behind the fire station.

It was agreed that there was a lot of traffic passing through Faversham and there was no joined up thinking. There was concern for air quality, particularly at Ospringe and that fact that further development at Brenley Corner would be required to pay for the road improvements.

Generally walking and cycling should be encouraged by good signposting, making back alleys dual use. 'Boris' type bikes may be an answer, or even electric cars available for daily hire. 20's Plenty could be a cost effective alternative for improvements.

Lack of car spaces within the town was noted; however park and ride, or a hopper bus service would be preferred over a multi-storey car park.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Items not discussed at this meeting will be brought forward to the agenda following agenda.

#### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 27 February 2017, 7-9pm, The Guildhall.