

## Notes from Faversham Future Forum 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Present:** Cllr Geoff Wade (GW) Cllr Trevor Abram (TA), Frances Beaumont (FB), Cllr Shiel Campbell (SC), Janice Ely (JE), Harold Goodwin (HG), Alastair Gould (AG), Cllr Antony Hook (A), Tim Ingram (TI), Debbie Lawther (DL), Robert Morrison (RM), Chris Oswald-Jones (COJ), Jenny Reeves (JR), Amanda Russell (AR) Janet Turner (JT) and Tim Stoner (TS)

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

Apologies: Jack Bright, Gulliver Immink, Julian Saunders and Chris Wright

### 1. Notes from Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The notes from the meeting that took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 were agreed. All matters arising all included as agenda items.
- 1.2 AH: The Kent County Council Consultation on Waste Management is ongoing (deadline for submitting comments 01/10/18) and the costs (of disposing of private building materials) will be included in the report. Attendees are encouraged to submit their individual comments.
- 1.3 COJ: Confirmed that the Public Realm Group was investigating the provision of ramps on the Preston Footbridge, Long Footbridge and the underpass at station.

### 2. East Kent Recycling

- 2.1 RM: The latest application was submitted in September, no date for a meeting to discuss it had been announced. Further, an application of this size should have its own meeting.

RM: UPROARE are investigating the effects of concrete dust on health and the possible link to Silicosis disease, previously associated with miners. As well as present residents, 300+ new properties will be built in close proximity to the site, increasing the number of people potentially to be effected considerably.

AH: The fact that there is no date for the meeting to discuss the latest application could be a positive.

JR: Questioned if there is nothing that can be done at the local level regarding the planning process. The site continues to operate whilst submitting and withdrawing applications. The problems concerning traffic and air quality already exist.

GW: Confirmed that larger applications submitted to KCC can take longer to be decided on.

HG: Questioned is there is any evidence that the site is working beyond its present permissions.

RM: Confirmed that the South End of the site is used for screening and that retrospective permission was requested in 2017. The Environment Agency has indicated that funds are not available to prosecute.

HG: Considered the possibility of Crowd Funding to raise the required sum (£30,000 estimated cost) for a private prosecution. MPs should be asked why the Environment Agency has not acted. Members of UPROARE have contributed financially to the campaign, but the site affects the whole of Faversham and not just local residents.

SC: Others groups should be asked to contribute before taking steps down the crowdfunding route.

**ACTION: HG and RM to write to MP's Helen Whately and Gordon Henderson asking why the Environment Agency hasn't acted.**

COJ: Officers from the Environment Agency are concerned about the operations EKR, but no budget is in place to prosecute.

**ACTION: AH will investigate at County Hall why there is a delay with this application**

RM: When lorry watch is in operation the pattern of journeys is altered. It is regrettable that lorry watch cannot be incognito.

### 3. Cleve Hill Solar Park

3.1 SC: Reported that she had attended the meeting at the Alexander Centre concerning Cleve Hill, where the transport plan for the construction phase were announced. This phase is scheduled for 2 ¼ years and will account for 80 HGV vehicle movements a day initially reducing to 40 LGV. They estimate that the roads can handle this increased traffic without the needs for road management alterations. Their only concession is that they will avoid school drop off/pickup times.

GW: Reiterated the need to know the planning process and to be ready to comment at the appropriate time.

HG: Expressed reservations about the consultation process. The Faversham Society had written to the Planning Inspectorate who had said the application should go through the Borough Council. When the next phase of consultation commences the town as a whole needs to object strongly, including the Town Council.

JT: Work has already started clearing the site around London Array. The villages need support from the town to oppose this application.

SC: The developers seem very confident that Cleve Hill will go ahead.

BM: If developed Cleve Hill will have a relatively short live and afterwards the site will be considered brown field and potentially go to residential usage.

JR: Whitstable as a town had consolidated objections to phase one, a model which Faversham may wish to try to copy at phase two.

HG: This application will have a major impact on the town.

**ACTION: A group should be formed specifically to oppose to this application, uniting parishes and the Town Council.**

#### 4. Housing Developments

- 4.1 HG: 15/101/18 Public Meeting in St Mary of Charity which representatives from Duchy of Cornwall and Princess Foundation will be attending, as many as possible are urged to attend and question the representatives in public. A further meeting with the Duchy is planned for February 2019.

GW: Discussions with representatives from the Duchy in workshops have led to individual groups ploughing ahead.

TS: Asked for it to be noted that he is advising the Duchy on the design.

HG: SBC will imminently announce which other sites have been put forward for garden villages.

GW: SBC will announce which of the sites put forward for consideration have been chosen after May 2019.

GW: The Town Council will continue to negotiate to get connectivity for roads to alleviate the problems on the A2. Discussions have been held with the Operations Director of the residential development at Perry Court to save guard a corridor of land across the site for a road at a future date. The Town Council passed a resolution on 10/09/18 that they would explore a 25m corridor of land being safeguarded on the commercial portion of the Perry Court Site with the developer HDD. The developers of Preston Fields would need to be involved. The designation of this corridor of land is separate to the planning process.

AH: Has been informed that the bypass will only be built if there is major development and S106, but it is sensible to bank the land.

SC: Could garden villages be an agenda item for the next meeting of FFF.

#### 5. 20's Plenty, Roads and Congestion

- 5.1 AH: The last meeting with KCC had been constructive, with efforts to get KCC to relax routes.

AR: Confirmed that the campaign was two fold, firstly achieving the 20 speed limit in Faversham and secondly influencing KCC guidelines. KALC are trying to do the same and address the issue of enforcement so local authorities have the power to enforce not the police.

AR: Newington PC are pushing for 20's plenty which KCC say is not possible because of A road, but there are examples of schemes with A roads around the county.

AR: Once the exact details of the scheme are known, public consultation will take place, but it is believed there is support in the town. Phil Jones Associates helped with the JTB and will help design the scheme.

TS: There is some misinformation claiming that there are more omissions at 20 than 30. This is not true, people are quoting evidence at out of context as it suits. The World Health Organisation supports 20mph limits.

AR: Once the evidence is clearly explained it is normally accepted by sceptics.

TS: There is evidence that 20's plenty schemes work better in larger areas, which is why they are proposing the whole of Faversham is covered. The reasoning being that the more people that live in the zone the more people will respect/appreciate the benefits of the scheme.

If there whole of town is covered there are 15/16 access points, if only a small part of town there are 10 access points. It is therefore more cost effective to do a larger area. The scales of economy improve further if Oare is included with 18/19 access points.

JR: Community First Responders don't have blue lights, what will be the impact on them.

AH: Evidence that the benefits of less accidents outlays the delay to first responders. The reduced speed limit will not add much to individual journeys when the effects of less stopping and starting are factored in.

HG: Representatives different organisations attend FFF, which will be useful for public consultation.

AR: There is no timeline in place yet.

TS: The group is making process and moving forward and would like to have the opportunity to present to Town Council again.

HG: Chris Wright had asked that the FFF Guidelines Group be sent to Town Council with the motion that they are taken forward to Kent County Council

**ACTION: FFF Guidelines Group to be presented to Town Council**

## 6. Air Quality

6.1 COJ confirmed that air quality measuring was continuing in town and he had started sending data to 'the cloud'.

There is a monitoring station on A2 opposite the Maison Dieu and one outside the Maison Dieu, The data will be analysed by the University of Kent and reported to Faversham Society.

TS: The methodology of data makes it sharable with SBC who are also measuring air quality.

TI: Knows of one planning application in Newington which was refused because of air quality concerns.

JR: Added that an application had also been turned down in Hadlow, so precedence elsewhere in the county.

GW: David Simmons had commented at the last FFF meeting that Ospringe is highlighting the scale of the problem. There is a need for community efforts and concerns to inform and influence action as we go forward.

TI: It is absurd that all the proposed developments around Faversham have been considered independently without the cumulative effect being taken into account. Is it possible to re track? Dubious decisions have been made.

COJ: The air quality measuring exercise being undertaken is not a development orientated investigation, but it will build a Faversham picture.

HG: Chris Wright had discussed air quality management with Cllr Whiting (SBC), who's ward is on the A2. He considered there was a case for management all along the A2.

TS: With air quality management in mind the implementation of a 20 restriction on the A2 should be considered an 'upgrade' not a 'downgrade' of the road.

## 7. Bus Report

- 7.1 JR: Informed the meeting that Survey Monkey had been used to complete a survey about bus use during the period 27/05/18 and 12/06/18. 93 respondents had answered the eight questions. The findings of the report are available.

In summary we need to encourage people to look at public transport as a viable option. However people will only use buses if there an personal rather environmental advantage. There ways to make bus use more attractive such as discount schemes and leave cars at home days.

We need to encourage the use of buses before they are cut. We need to have discussions with developers about bus provision, it was noted that the Duchy had been responsive to bus provision in some of its previous schemes.

**ACTION: GW to talk to the Town Clerk about bus schemes and for the item to be on agenda for 26/11/18**

AH: Most bus routes in Kent are run by private companies. May need to take the findings of the report the bus companies.

GW: Bus stops in London show estimated times for bus arrivals which takes the uncertainty out of using buses.

COJ: Confirmed that Stage coach has an app that gives the arrival data.

## 8. Community Land Trust

8.1 HG: A scoping day will be held on 20/10/18. Let him know directly if you wish to attend.

## 9. A.O.B

9.1 HG : Informed the meeting of two events being organised by the Faversham Society and urged people to attend:

1) Is there potential for a new maritime museum at TS Hazard

2) The importance of Ordnance Wharf

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The next meeting of FFF will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.