

## Farnham Infrastructure Programme

### Farnham Board Meeting

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

**DATE:** 22 JANUARY 2021

**DOC NO:** 4D476001-SCC-PRG-PAP-000016 REV 1.0

**REPORT OF:** JOHN NEALE & ANDY MACLEOD

**LEAD OFFICER:** IAIN LYNCH

**SUBJECT:** LOCAL LIAISON FORUM UPDATE

#### SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To note the outcome of the recent Local Liaison Forum (LLF) meetings.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Welcomes the engagement of the community through the Local Liaison Forum meetings;
2. Notes that further tailored engagement sessions are planned with businesses and local schools in particular; and
3. Notes that new LLF dates will be circulated as part of the consultation on the Optimised Infrastructure Plan.

#### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that the Farnham Board (Sponsoring Group) is aware of the outcomes of the recent LLFs and is supportive their continuation, as recommended.

#### DETAILS:

1. A total of eight LLFs have taken place to consult with a range of stakeholders on key themes to inform the development of the vision and overall Programme and feed into the Optimised Infrastructure Plan (OIP). These include:

- **Residents' Associations:** Held on 21 October 2020, the meeting was attended by 21 members of the public and 10 representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists.
- **Businesses:** Held on 2 November 2020, the webinar was attended by 14 members of the public and 12 representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. The event was held with unfortunate timing, taking place on the Monday after the Prime Minister announced a new national lockdown, and as a result attendance was lower than anticipated with apologies received from businesses which were dealing with consequent challenges. The date also coincided with another day of gridlock of the town as a result of A31 works on the Shepherd and Flock roundabout, and this matter ended up dominating discussion in the first part of the meeting. It was agreed a further meeting with business would be held.
- **Community:** Held on 25 November 2020, the webinar was attended by 76 members of the public and six councillors as panellists. Discussions at the meeting focused on issues relating to the town centre and outer area, getting around by walking, cycling or bus and using the car less, and attracting visitors to a vibrant town with cultural, community and retail facilities.
- **Town centre:** Held on 9 December 2020, the webinar was attended by 85 members of the public and six representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. The programme team showed a presentation slides of potential schemes in the town centre which were well-received by attendees and prompted/enabled discussion. Key issues arising included HGV restrictions, congestion, town centre car parking spaces, pedestrianisation, pavement widening and improvements, and creating more opportunities for walking and cycling.
- **A31 and Hickley's Corner:** Held on 6 January 2021, the webinar was attended by 63 members of the public and seven representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. The meeting focused on issues relating to the A31, the railway and Hickley's Corner, the A287 and Firgrove Hill bridge, Weydon Lane/bypass junction, active travel and bus connectivity, the Shepherd and Flock roundabout and a western bypass.
- **Upper Hale:** Held on 6 January 2021, the webinar was attended by 180 members of the public and seven representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Catherine Powell from the recently launched North Farnham Voice gave a presentation which summarised the views of residents from Upper Hale on key challenges. This enabled a discussion around the impact of large housing developments, traffic and poor air quality, lack of pedestrian and cycling provision, and narrow pavements and roads particularly as they impacted on young people and schools. Issues relating to lack of maintenance and overgrown hedges which impacted on footways were considered to be quick wins that could be progressed. Connections that avoided traffic going through the centre of Farnham including a connection to Central Car Park were also raised.
- **Wrecclesham:** Held on 7 January 2021, the meeting was attended by 34 members of the public and six representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Cllr Paula Dunsmore, Farnham Town Council, gave a presentation about the past, present and future infrastructure issues in Wrecclesham. Discussions focused on reducing congestion, a 20mph zone, speed cameras and

enforcement, HGVs and the railway bridge. Overall, many were in favour of a western bypass.

- **Young people:** Held on 14 January 2021, the meeting was attended by 55 members of the public and four representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Eight schools from public and private sectors were known to be in attendance as well as some youth workers/professionals who worked with young people. The closure of schools due to the national lockdown limited attendance from some schools and invitations have been extended to engage with school councils and young people directly in the next phases of the community engagement. Three young people gave a summary of their experiences and ideas of improvements to infrastructure which it was recognised gave a different perspective to some of the issues being raised.
2. The notes, Q&A matters raised and recordings of the LLFs are available at [www.farnham.gov.uk/LLF](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/LLF).
  3. A further briefing was held for councillors of all tiers on 17 December 2020 to keep them updated on progress and providing an opportunity for their input.
  4. Overall, the LLFs have been a valuable way of positively engaging with the wider community and giving a voice to a wide range of matters which have been incorporated into the emerging Optimised Infrastructure Plan. There has been general support for the Programme and no dissent from the main issues set out in the consultation documents or webinar discussions. There was an interest in looking into the detailed themes in more detail and the LLFs have helped stimulate interest in the Programme.
  5. Further LLFs are planned in February and March to consult on the OIP and provide an opportunity for ongoing engagement with the wider Farnham Community on the Farnham Infrastructure Programme. Specific follow-up meetings are to be arranged with the business community and schools to build on the initial meetings with these groups and young people in particular.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

6. There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

7. The Board and Forum have no Statutory powers and as such any decisions requiring approval by the responsible Authorities Constitution, in this case Surrey County Council, will have an individual risk assessment.

#### **FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

8. The cost of the works will be identified within the Surrey County Council Report.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY**

9. As proposals are developed that require necessary Surrey County Council approval, individual S151 approvals will be sought.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER**

10. Neither of the Boards nor the LLF have any Executive Powers. Any decisions made would require Surrey County Council to follow its own legal advice and its approval procedures.

**EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY**

11. There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

12. There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

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