

## Farnham Infrastructure Programme

### Farnham Board Meeting

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

**DATE:** 19 MARCH 2021

**DOC NO:** 4D476001-FTC-PRG-PAP-000001

**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; and
2. Notes that further tailored engagement sessions were planned with businesses and a Facebook Live event took place to reach out to different audiences.

#### DETAILS:

1. A further three LLFs and a Facebook Live LLF have taken place in March to consult with a range of stakeholders support and promote participation in the consultation on the Optimised Infrastructure Plan (OIP). These include:
  - **Thursday 4 March 2021:** The LLF webinar was attended by 96 members of the public and 10 representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Discussions focused on issues relating to giving the public access to survey/traffic data, central car parks, programme funding opportunities, speeding traffic, town-wide 20mph zones, joined up cycle network, improved cross-border bus services, pedestrianisation and impact of new housing development in the area.

- **Monday 8 March 2021:** The LLF webinar was attended by 77 members of the public and 10 representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Discussions focused on issues relating to school buses, importance of involving the UCA and the student population, giving the public access to survey/traffic data, programme timescales, the need for a Wrecclesham Bypass and its potential location and impact on the environment, and the impact of the railway station on town centre congestion.
  - **Wednesday 10 March 2021 Facebook Live:** A Zoom meeting was live streamed to Farnham Town Council's Facebook page, attended by 10 representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. It was promoted as a joint event with Surrey County Council (SCC). The presentation focused on key elements of the consultation boards created for the virtual consultation exhibition. Members of the public submitted questions both in advance and during the meeting which the panel live answered. Answers were also provided to the comments on Facebook.
  - **Wednesday 10 March 2021 Businesses:** The LLF webinar was attended by 17 businesses/members of the public and ten representatives of the Board or councillors as panellists. Discussion focused on the need for alternative travel routes (walking and cycling) as a priority, programme timescales, pedestrianisation, the economy of Farnham and post-Covid opportunities and threats, mobility and accessibility, car parking, giving the public access to survey/traffic data, accommodation above shops, landlords and modernisation of retail units, the railway station and use of Station Approach, and deliveries in the town centre.
2. Regarding the Facebook Live LLF, while the meeting was live, there were 94 comments, it reached 660 people, there were 235 engagements, and 8 shares. Within 24 hours it had reached 2,347 people, been shared nine times (including by Farnham Herald) and had been viewed 893 times.
  3. Regarding the Business LLF, the even was widely promoted to the business community using all communications channels and discussion at the meeting indicated that more may participate as infrastructure solutions are identified and progressed.
  4. 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)
  5. 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 to encourage feedback and involvement in the OIP consultation. 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 proposals in more detail and the LLFs have helped stimulate interest in the Programme.
  6. The Zoom webinar platform has enabled the Programme to engage with the public. The system has been set up to ask registrants their consent to receiving future FIP communications; send reminder notifications before the webinars to encourage participation and interest in the webinars; and send an email to attendees, and registrants who did not attend, after the webinar with a link to [www.farnham.gov.uk/llf](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/llf) where the LLF presentation slides, recordings and notes are available, as well as the full consultation details.

**CONSULTATION:**

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

**RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

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

**FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

9. The cost of the works will be identified within the SCC Report.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY**

10. As proposals are developed that require necessary SCC approval, individual S151 approvals will be sought.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER**

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

**EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY**

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

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

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

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

14. Additional LLFs will be organised to support the forward development of the Programme, following the post-election period.

-----  
**Contact Officer:**

Iain Lynch

Farnham Town Clerk

[town.clerk@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@farnham.gov.uk)

01252 712667

This page is intentionally left blank