

Farnham Board Minutes

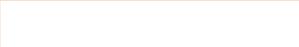
Date & Time:	25 March 2022, 10:00-11:30
Venue:	Farnham Town Council offices, Hybrid meeting
Chair:	Cllr Tim Oliver
In attendance:	Cllr Michaela Martin, Cllr Catherine Powell, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Paul Follows, Cllr Peter Clark, Cllr John Neale, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Simon Duke, Elaine Martin, Iain Lynch.
Observers:	Chris Greenwood, Alex Pye, Tom Horwood, Katie Ludvigsen, Lee Parker, Mohammed Ali, Ben Funning, Richard Nelson.
Apologies:	

	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Prior to introductions the Chair welcomed a group of students from UCA Farnham who were filming the meeting. Cllr Peter Clark introduced them and explained they are 2nd year students who are creating a film about how local government works.</p> <p>The Chair asked all attendees to introduce themselves.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from Last Board</p> <p>Cllr Clark highlighted a recent serious incident at Wrecclesham rail bridge which highlighted his point made at the previous meeting about the constant strikes which occur there. He requested that if work on the Wrecclesham bypass is not undertaken in the short term, then something needs to be addressed about the problems with this bridge, due to the risk it presents to residents.</p> <p>Cllr Michaela Martin added that the local school have concerns about the safety of their pupils along this route, especially as walking or cycling to school is being encouraged through Active Surrey plans. She feels that following the building at Coxbridge that there will be increased pupils walking this way and a solution should be found.</p> <p>Cllr John Neale mentioned the previous minutes need review as they are in still draft.</p> <p>Cllr Andy MacLeod commented that Farnham Town Council has discussed the Wrecclesham bridge previously and looked at technical options which might help with the issue. The Chair acknowledged that this was a considerable concern to the board and confirmed that he would discuss this with Katie Stewart, the Executive Director for Highways to look for a solution.</p> <p>Minutes from the previous meeting, subject to the amendments highlighted, were approved.</p> <p>Elaine Martin updated the Board on her action from the previous meeting relating to the bypass options. She read out a statement from the Farnham Infrastructure Team: <i>The Farnham Infrastructure Programme team, will be conducting future year traffic modelling of the Farnham area taking account of future growth, Town Centre and A31 Corridor projects.</i></p>



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	<p><i>The team will review the potential costs, benefits and impacts of the Wrecclesham Relief Road and Western Link Road as part of the overall future plan for the town whilst simultaneously identifying an alternative package of localised interventions for North Farnham, South Farnham and Wrecclesham that could enhance the quality of place and mitigate traffic and environmental impacts.</i></p> <p><i>The results of the two studies will be presented to the board for agreement on the next steps.</i></p>
3	<p>Short and Medium-Term Interventions update</p> <p>Elaine Martin gave an update on Project 1 stating that work has started on the design of signage for the A287/B3349 roundabout to address the re-routing of HGVs. Simon Duke commented that work is also underway around working with the police on a potential enforcement campaign. Cllr Catherine Powell added the community HGV watch scheme have written many letters to those companies who are ignoring the ban, and 6 specific companies have been highlighted as regularly at fault.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Powell to share the details with officers, who will take this up with the Police.</p> <p>Elaine Martin confirmed that Google Maps have now undertaken a partial update to reflect the declassification on the A325 through the town centre, but further liaison is required with them.</p> <p>For the Wayfinding strategy the development of cartography for the map-based products and the detailed sign placements has been undertaken, along with procurement and instruction of the supplier for the wayfinding signage.</p> <p>The consultation has been completed on the 20 mph zones and speed restrictions, and the feedback has been reviewed. Potential amendments to the boundary of the 2nd phase of the scheme are being reviewed, and engagement with partners is being undertaken relating to the signage in Castle Street. A Road Safety audit has been instructed and early engagement around installation is underway with the new termed contractor Ringway.</p> <p>Next steps work includes engagement with Hampshire County Council on the signage and installation for the A287/B3349 roundabout, as the site is across the boundary between Hampshire and Surrey.</p> <p>Further liaison is required with Google Maps around the removal of the A road category status.</p> <p>Review of the feedback from the cartography work and the wayfinding mapping products to be finalised. The Sign Placement checklist will be completed and developing the signposting and catchment for each product, with delivery then being undertaken on site.</p> <p>Jeremy Hunt MP discussed the signs on the M3 were not being changed and that it was just the signs on the roundabouts. He also asked for timings of these changes and that following the TRO/SLO consultation completion when these signs would start appearing. Elaine Martin confirmed that the amended signs for the roundabout had been designed and sent over Hampshire County Council for approval. It is hoped that Hampshire’s contractors will complete the installations, so the timeframe for this is out of Surrey’s control but it hoped this will happen within a couple of months. Engagement with contractors for the 20mph zones is underway with work hoping to start in May. Jeremy Hunt MP asked for clarification around a timeframe for when the 20mph zone might be in place, and Elaine Martin indicated that a good estimate would be around September/October time. He expressed his thanks to the team for the work that had been undertaken to get this work progressed to this point.</p> <p>Elaine Martin explained that there are potentially three phases to the 20mph speed limit and zone phasing within Farnham. The first phase is limited to the original proposal for early implementation with details on the gateway in Castle Street to be agreed with stakeholders,</p>

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	<p>along with a review of Upper Hale as a result of feedback from Cllr Powell to ensure the proposed will not exacerbate the current speeding issue. Phase 2 will address the wider feedback from the original consultation and will include a review of the A287, one of the medium-term interventions. Phase 3 will examine the 20mph concept of Farnham Town as a whole, and this may take place in parallel with Phase 2.</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on the progress of the Medium-Term Interventions; initially they have reduced the initial list of 106 proposals, to group the proposals into either adjacent projects within the Farnham Infrastructure Programme (FIP), this provided a residual list of 38 schemes to be considered. Following consultation with SCC/WBC & FTC officers and members t, he top 11 residual schemes have been agreed to take forward to feasibility to develop further. The top 3 schemes have existing developers funding already available, and a Project Manager has been recruited to deliver this work. The list of 11 schemes was shared with the board. The Chair asked for agreement that the shared list included the items expected to be seen by attendees. Cllr Powell was unsure that the list shown included items previously agreed and will check. Iain Lynch queried number 7, the bridleway link, which had caused some local concern with its inclusion on the list. The Chair highlighted the importance of an agreed list from everyone.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Powell to raise any concerns with the list with Elaine Martin.</p>
4	<p>Town Centre and LCWIP update</p> <p>The Chair clarified the acronym LCWIP stands for Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on the LCWIP work since the last meeting. A longlist of cycle routes and walking zones has been created. This work sits alongside the Waverley LCWIP currently being developed and engagement has been undertaken with Farnham and Waverley officers and members. A shortlisting process has been carried out and the next steps are to review this shortlist, check alignment with the Waverley LCWIP, and to carry out further stakeholder engagement. The 3 Medium-Term interventions already underway earlier than planned also form part of this LCWIP work.</p> <p>Elaine Martin showed a map of the finalised shortlisted cycling routes, and the shortlist of the core walking zones. Cllr Neale asked for time for the Town Council to consider any feedback on the maps shared. Cllr Powell queried one of the cycle routes displayed and highlighted an area not included in the walking routes which was currently being discussed with the road safety team to enable children to walk to school safely. Cllr Clark commented that it was important to ensure that walkers felt equally encouraged as cyclists as part of the LCWIP work. The Chair agreed and highlighted the recent highway code hierarchy changes which need to be reflected in upcoming works. Simon Duke confirmed that funding has just been received to deliver a pilot project at Boxgrove roundabout in Guildford to provide cycling and walking routes both as part of roundabout layout and into the town centre.</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on progress for the recent Town Centre work which includes the recent collection of movement surveys which focus on non-motorised traffic data and topographical surveys, sifting and finalising a shortlist of options from a longlist. Engagement has taken place already and will continue with relevant partners and preliminary design work is being carried out for final options, so that plans are ready for public consultation. A visual timeline of the Town Centre was shared, showing that current work is in Stage 3 (preliminary design) of the overall process and that is being undertaken concurrently with other projects within FIP.</p> <p>Chris Greenwood shared some more detailed plans around the areas of work on the shortlist, which can be regarded as separate, or as phases to make the best value of investment.</p>

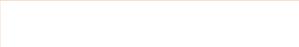


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	<p>1) Castle Street & Downing Street. Here the proposals aim to significantly enhance and uplift the quality of the public realm on both Castle Street and Downing Street with both streets will still have vehicular traffic.</p> <p>2) The Borough improvements & gyratory removal. This option builds of the previous one and looking at improving the public route on some other roads in the town, in particular The Borough. To achieve the improvements to The Borough some of current one-way streets are proposed to be made two-way. Later phases to this work could include pedestrianised or bus-only routes within the town centre.</p> <p>Cllr Clark queried whether as part of option 2 a set of traffic lights would be installed at the junction of Downing Steet & The Borough. Chris Greenwood confirmed that options for this junction were being considered including traffic lights.</p> <p>Jeremy Hunt MP commended the progress and supported these two proposals as initial phases of improvements. He asked for timescales for when plans might be ready to start engagement with residents directly about the potential changes. Elaine Martin confirmed that early engagement sessions are planned with partners and local businesses. Public consultation is planned for late June/early July, so residents should start receiving information in June. Jeremy Hunt MP asked that any communications to residents captured that the board and local interested parties are fully behind the proposals, to give confidence to residents that this is a locally driven plan. He also asked whether it would be possible to move to a single level surface of the pavement as part of this work. Chris Greenwood stated that plans of this nature were not widely supported at the moment, due to the potential safety issues.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod supported the proposals and the Chair thanked Cllr MacLeod for his work in getting the plans to this point. Cllr Neale added his supports to the proposals and the potential pedestrianisation of the town centre in the future. He felt that there will be support for these proposals from the Town Council but that a face-to-face discussion with them would be needed to enable them to give their views and to answer any questions. The Chair commended the collaborative working so far with the Town Council, and hopes they feel they have been engaged with throughout he process. He confirmed that further engagement would take place with them so that by the time of public consultation all stakeholders were fully in support of the proposals. Cllr Powell also felt the residents she represents would support and understand the proposals, and that the modelling work would be very important to show residents the benefits of these proposals, particularly in terms of air quality. Cllr Martin supported the proposals and feels town retailers will also support them too.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their support and the work done on the proposals so far. He asked whether the proposals included any amendments to the crossing points at the top of Downing Street which might open up the junction. Chris Greenwood confirmed that when looking at the designs for junctions they look at trying to integrate quality pedestrian crossings, from all directions as far as possible.</p>
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5	<p>Farnham A31 Corridor update</p> <p>Elaine Martin provided an update on work undertaken in this area, including engagement with Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for the South East (TFSE) following the submission last year of the Strategic Outline Business Case(SOBC) , DfT have recently requested to accelerate the programmed construction. Work is being undertaken to ensure that any works planned are aligned with the Station Masterplan aspirations. Future plans include reviewing the modelling and planning for some of the time-critical activities and preparing for consultation. It is hoped that the outcome of the DfT bid will be known by the next meeting of the board.</p> <p>Iain Lynch asked when the time frame was for some of this information to be able to be shared publicly. The Chair responded that it was important to start public engagement, but</p>
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	<p>that some things needed to be clarified before this could happen and details would be forthcoming about this at a later date.</p>
6	<p>Overview of progress</p> <p>Elaine Martin confirmed the areas of work which had been completed since the last meeting. Cllr Neale commented that he would like to see some information on the North and South Farnham Studies and this work links with the town centre work and the Town Council would like to know more. The Chair noted this request. Jeremy Hunt MP added his support to comments made earlier about Wrecclesham Bridge and hoped that a solution could be found to build upon the signage already installed.</p> <p>Elaine updated the board on the current key risks and issues.</p>
7	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Ben Funning gave an overview of recent engagement which has been undertaken and upcoming plans.</p> <p>Cllr Neale requested a session with the Town Council councillors as soon as possible, (which is currently being arranged with Elaine Martin and Ben Funning). Cllr Neale is also interested in an engagement session with key businesses, which is arranged but with a few details to still be finalised. Cllr Powell suggested that Waverley Borough Councillors who do not sit on the Farnham Town Council were invited to any upcoming meetings with the Town Council for them to be engaged in the plans. She also highlighted that the board should utilise Cllr Martin's contacts, knowledge, and experience as a retailer within the town. The Chair agreed that any relevant upcoming meeting invitations be extended to the relevant Waverley Borough Councillors.</p> <p>ACTION: All relevant Waverley Borough Councillors to be invited to the planned meeting with Farnham Town Council</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod highlighted that it was important to keep the public engaged, Local Resident's Forums. The Chair agreed with this but highlighted that it would need to be a clear approach, taking place after the planned meeting with the Town Council.</p> <p>Ben Funning raised that the previous consultations around Farnham has taken place during lockdowns, so had been very digitally driven, however the upcoming consultation would be able to take place face-to-face in addition to virtual sessions.</p>
8	<p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>No questions have been received.</p>
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>Cllr Clark asked for the proposed designs slides be shared with the group, which Elaine Martin agreed. The Chair requested that these slides did not get shared more widely as they were not yet finalised or agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: Elaine Martine to share the requested slides with the group.</p>



	Item
	<p>The Chair concluded the meeting by acknowledging that the project has now reached a point where residents will start seeing the changes occur and that further public endorsement of the plans will continue. He thanks everyone for their work to the group to get to this point and thanked the student from UCA for attending the meeting.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting will be 17 June 2022.</p>