

Farnham Board Minutes

Date & Time:	16 December 2022, 10:00-11:30
Venue:	Zoom
Chair:	Cllr Tim Oliver
In attendance:	Cllr Michaela Martin, Cllr Catherine Powell, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Paul Follows, Cllr Peter Clark, Cllr David Beaman, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Elaine Martin, Dawn Hudd, Abi Lewis, David Stempfer
Observers:	Chris Greenwood, Alex Pye, , , Iain Lynch, Yasmin Ahmed,
Apologies:	

	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone explaining that this is now a hybrid meeting due to the issues with the trains and weather. He also noted that whilst the meeting is being webcasted but is not a public meeting.</p> <p>He expressed how grateful he was to the residents for the input into various consultations and noted the keenness from a number of people to pedestrianise the town centre.</p>
2	<p>Actions and minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p>
3	<p>Short and Medium-Term Interventions update</p> <p>Elaine Martin updated on this item firstly presenting on the wayfinding strategy. She noted that the maps and artwork for the totems have been manufactured and are now being installed on site. Legal agreement for maintenance of these items has been drafted and will be sent to the Town Council for review after this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Catherine Powell raised that she is still getting significant feedback from HGV operators about signage and flagged that the online reporting facility is not yet available.</p> <p>Elaine then moved on talk about designs meetings that have been undertaken for 20mph zones with the police, safety teams and local members. She then gave an update on Hale Trail and Scholars green way stating that pedestrian and cycle surveys as well as ecology surveys had been carried out in Farnham Park. The team has been discussing this with Waverley Borough Council who will be taking the schemes forward as landowners.</p> <p>Cllr Powell raised that there is a persistent point of conflict that has not been addressed between pedestrians and cyclists that still urgently needs to be reviewed. She also noted that meetings with Friends of Farnham Park had been cancelled and would like them to be re-established.</p> <p>ACTION: Representatives for Waverley at this board meeting to take forward Cllr Powell's comments in their brief.</p>

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	<p>Elaine then presented the Town Centre update mentioning that the team had previously carried out feasibility design, modelling and has also produced the consultation material ready for public exhibitions. Four in person events have taken place in the town while others have taken place virtually and the audience so far has been of a diverse age range.</p> <p>Abigail Linyard-Tough gave a brief overview of the responses to the consultation. 54% of those who responded to the consultation on Commonplace (506) were supportive of option A giving a variety of reasons which included it would create a nicer environment, reduce traffic and would be more pedestrian friendly. Of those who were not supportive, common feedback was that it would not be effective enough to tackle poor air quality and congestion and would increase danger to cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>For option B, 60% of the 506 respondents on Commonplace were supportive for reasons such as feeling it would vastly improve the pedestrian experience, remove congestion and improve air quality. The 27% who were not supportive gave feedback that they thought it would increase pollution and increase/displace congestion in other areas which they found unacceptable. They also mentioned that they were found that the lack of segregated cycle paths would be an issue.</p> <p>Based on this report, the recommendations from the consultation include proceeding with the proposals for Castle and Downing Street and The Borough (although subject to traffic modelling), investigating potential active travel routes and further works on additional and varied topics.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Clarke thanked Abigail and her team for a great report and mentioned that while it would have been good to have more than 500 respondents recognised that this was not for a lack of trying. As a councillor he mentioned that he found the report to be very helpful.</p> <p>Jeremy Hunt MP also thank the team and signalled his strong support for the recommendations.</p> <p>Cllr David Beaman raised the point that Farnham as a Town Council does not agree that the Upper Heart Link should not be undertaken as part of these works. Elaine explained that the team have recommended that this should be separate from the Town Centre works for many reasons highlighted in the report. Cllr Powell suggested that a separate meeting is held to discuss this.</p> <p>Cllr Andy Macleod mentioned that the Upper Heart Link would function as a connection and reduce traffic and should not be taken off the table for the future and should also be separated from the Town Centre works so it does not become an obstacle.</p> <p>Cllr Beaman did clarify that he did just want this link to remain on the table as opposed to pause any of the ongoing work.</p> <p>ACTION: David Stempfer agreed to have a separate meeting to work through the details and the pros and cons of the scheme.</p>
4	<p>Town Centre update</p> <p>Alex Pye from Atkins presented the hybrid option for the Town Centre based on the Consultation outcome. The consultation is broadly looking at recommending proceeding on works along West Street, Castle Street, Downing Street and the Borough and will further consider options for Victoria Road, Union Road, Woolmead, South Street and Bear Lane where requests for different options or issues have been made.</p> <p>Cllr Macleod suggested having two-way traffic on Union Road to allow people to reach the A31 to reduce traffic.</p>

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	<p>Cllr Powell raised that while she is fully supportive of works, she is concerned about the narrowing of the Borough and that the traffic modelling does not consider local developments in the north of the town. Cllr Michaela Martin echoed this.</p> <p>The Chair encouraged members to email Elaine Martin if they had further comments they would like to make on this item.</p>
5	<p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan</p> <p>Elaine Martin started by giving a short overview of the engagement that has taken place to develop the core walking zones and cycle routes. After a Q&A session with Councillors, the team has produced a shortlist of design proposals which have been circulated. Elaine then passed on to Neil McClure to talk about the funding programme.</p> <p>The Department for Transport (DfT) active travel tranche four is imminent and is the main source of funding although there are other potential funding streams that that could be used for some routes like the Surrey Infrastructure Plan (SIP).</p> <p>Cllr Powell expressed her disappointment that there was no mention of inclusive mobility guidance in the document and encouraged the team to look at the pedestrian provision in the next update to this board. (Post meeting note - – please note that the LCWIP document references the Inclusive Mobility Guidance on pages 98, 107 and 108)</p>
6	<p>Farnham A31 Corridor update</p> <p>Elaine gave a very brief update on the consultation along with the Q&A session on the modelling with members that has been completed and the team is moving swiftly to demonstrate to DfT that we are committed to improvements. On this basis, a preliminary environmental options assessment report has been completed and the business case is being developed. The team has also responded to a number of policy documents on active travel, national bus setting strategy, gear change policy, etc.</p> <p>The team are still waiting for the formal bid outcome of the Strategic Outline Business Case from DfT.</p>
7	<p>Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses update</p> <p>Work has started on initial cost and environmental feasibility. A paper will be coming to the next board meeting on the outcome of this.</p>
8	<p>Adjacent Projects update</p> <p>The Highway Safety Team have managed to negotiate with Network Rail who have taken on the responsibility for delivery of painting the bridge so that it is more conspicuous. The team is also looking at a feasibility study of the medium- and long-term options available for the bridge. This will be brought to the next board meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Michaela Martin encouraged the team to continue to speak to Network Rail to get longer term measures in place.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Clark thought it would be useful to have a conversation with Hampshire Council about getting signage for the A3 to encourage HGV drivers to make use of a different route along the M25.</p>
9	<p>Programme and Risk update</p> <p>There was no update on this item.</p>

Item	
10	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Cllr Beaman commented that he would encourage further engagement between SCC and the town councillors and officers to better inform the design process with local knowledge.</p>
11	<p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>There was no update on this item.</p>
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>Jeremy Hunt MP thanked the Chair and team for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the programme and members from all political parties for working together to get to this stage.</p> <p>The Chair thank board members and wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.</p> <p>The next meeting is 24 March 2023 and will be held at Farnham Town Council.</p>