



Farnham Board - meeting notes

15th September 2023



Minutes

Date and Time:	15 th September 2023, 10:00-11:30
Venue:	Hybrid Meeting - Farnham Town Council Offices
Chair:	Cllr Tim Oliver
In attendance:	Cllr Catherine Powell, Cllr Andy MacLeod, Cllr Paul Follows, Cllr Peter Clark, Cllr David Beaman, Cllr Michaela Martin, SCC - Elaine Martin, David Stempffer, Katie Ludvigsen Mohammed Ali, Ben Funning, Felicity Amin. WBC - Tom Horwood FTC - Iain Lynch Atkins - Chris Greenwood Rich Franklin Neil Mclure Richard Nelson (on behalf of Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP)
Apologies:	Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Dawn Hudd, Cllr Matt Furniss, Abi Lewis, Katie Stewart

	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Board</p>
2	<p>Actions and minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>The board agreed the minutes from the last meeting and there were no actions to discuss.</p>
3	<p>Short and Medium-Term Interventions update</p> <p>Wayfinding: Elaine presented the progress that has been made in Farnham to-date, explaining the team have been working closely with South West Rail and Network Rail and now have permission to go on to their land so will be installing the last two totems at the station at the end of September. Totems have been manufactured ready for the Brightwells development but as their works are not complete the final two will go in as part of the Town Centre Scheme.</p> <p>20mph Limit Upper Hale Road – Revised traffic regulation consultation for changing physical measures commenced on 17th Aug and concluded on 14th Sep – design team is now reviewing feedback. In response to the feedback from the previous speed limit order, a revised consultation will take place extending the limit to Wings Rd junction right through to Wood Rd.</p> <p>20mph town centre and Weydon Lane – Ringway have programmed to start on 5th Oct, with some night works taking place for lining but this should be minimal.</p> <p>Borelli Park & Stride – this is a riverside shared cycle/ pedestrian path from South Street to the Riverside car park and forms part of the medium-term interventions and is a priority East/West link. Preliminary design has commenced and this scheme could require a planning application and cycle track order. SCC has provided a formal response to Waverley on the width of the bridge and shared the cycleway connecting Brightwells and Borelli Walk. Andy Mclure added it is important to get Crest on-board too. The Chair confirmed there were some</p>

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	<p>conversations happening with Crest on the width of the bridge, alongside the need for an amended planning application.</p> <p>Water Lane roundabout – The detailed design has now been completed with Surrey Highways team. Engagement work has been carried out with disability groups in the area and a stage 2 safety audit has been carried out. The team will be reviewing feedback ready for construction.</p>
4	<p>Town Centre update</p> <p>Elaine stated that a recent meeting took place with Waverley Executive Group to give them a brief insight into the Farnham Infrastructure Programme and the Town Centre Improvements Scheme. SCC Strategic Infrastructure Programme Board in September approved the released of capital funding to commence the detailed design.</p> <p>The business case for town centre scheme is currently being prepared and due to be issued to Surrey’s Infrastructure Board on the 19th September.</p> <p>A positive meeting with the Surrey Coalition of Disabled Persons took place on 20th July. Feedback from this engagement has been shared with Atkins (SCC consultant) to inform the detailed design.</p> <p>Elaine thanked the Board for helping with the business questionnaire and those who took the time to fill it in. The information has been shared with Atkins to inform the detailed design and input into the parking review that will be carried out soon.</p> <p>The bid for the Waverley Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application is being prepared and due to be submitted on 16th Oct for funding. Iain Lynch added that at a Full Council meeting the night before, they had welcomed the investment in the town proposals and are happy to offer financial contributions once we hear back on the CIL application.</p> <p>Cllr Clark thanked Elaine and her team for coming into Farnham to meet with the Executive Group</p>
5	<p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) update</p> <p>Since the Board last met, the LCWIPs were endorsed and given final sign off by Surrey’s Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure & Growth, and this is now being taken forward by a Transport Policy Team.</p> <p>Elaine passed to Cllr Powell who has had some localised meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Powell explained that three SCC Cllrs held two consultation meetings in July in North Farnham which had good participation from a wide-range of stakeholders. Walking and cycling routes were reviewed, along with routes which people felt would make a real difference if they were available/upgraded, but also taking into account the constraints that exist (e.g. space, ecology, archaeology etc.).</p> <p>The meetings have so far shown a huge variety in walking/cycling routes people currently use. We were trying to ask people to choose a route that would make a real difference to people today. Participants came up with a few routes that the group aligned around, with the key factor being where routes combined walking and cycling. The route everyone agreed on being the most important was along Weybourne Rd and the need to improve the walking/cycling routes along it. Cllr Powell then went through the other 5 routes which were discussed (see slides).</p>

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	<p>A meeting has taken place in South Farnham (12.09.23) a further one still to be organised for the end of September– it was well attended but consensus on which route should be prioritised was not finalised. There was some consensus around common themes such as 20mph zones and concern on how to cross the A31 safely and addressing Hickley’s Corner was a key issue around that. Crossing points on Waverley Lane and Tilford Road were raised to help with children walking to school and concerns that the proposal for School Street on Menin Way would create more safety issues.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod congratulated Cllr Powell for all the work done and added a couple of local schools that were present at the South Farnham meeting had expressed that they had not been aware of the School Street proposals on Menin Way but they were very interested to be involved in the work.</p> <p>The Chair added thanks to the three councillors and the work they have done at getting public feedback and noted that from the feedback we should be able to get a prioritised list of routes and it sounded like we may be able to get to that point in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Neil McClure recapped timeline of events: the last workshop with Cllr Martin due end of this month, followed by a washup session to bring things together with a consensus of priorities. Internally we will do an internal review in terms of the overlay and mapping of routes that have been prioritised through these extra sessions. Expecting start of Oct for internal review, and would be useful to catch up with the three Cllrs for a review session to agree priority routes and next steps – end of Oct.</p> <p>Neil McClure will work with Cllr Powell to agree list of stakeholders to invite to that final event. In terms of budget, 100K allocated from Strategic Infrastructure Plan, based on feasibility stage 2 work we are now looking at around 3 cycle routes and 3 core walking zones/routes to be covered by that budget. Geographically, would be good to have a spread against the priorities. It’s through the Atkins commission that we’re expecting to go forward into stage 2 of feasibility of design development. Looking at November commencement of the work.</p>
6	<p>Farnham A31 Corridor update</p> <p>Elaine said no further update at the moment. DfT have informed Surrey that Treasury are currently considering the overall national wide roads finding position and as a result the A31 strategic outline business case is delayed until treasury complete their review.</p>
7	<p>Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses update</p> <p>Environmental and cost report has been drafted by Atkins and SCC are reviewing the next activities on these two projects.</p>
8	<p>Adjacent Projects update</p> <p>Wrecclesham Bridge: Network Rail have completed painting of the bridge to make it much more conspicuous.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Chairman of Network Rail (Lord Peter Hendy) who took a personal interest in having this work completed. Network Rail will be doing some maintenance work to the bridge too.</p> <p>A31 Speed Management Scheme - this has now been installed.</p>

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9	<p>Programme and Risk update</p> <p>Elaine updated on key milestones:</p> <p>20mph town centre scheme is scheduled to commence on 5th October.</p> <p>Wayfinding scheme installation of the totems at the station will be end of September</p> <p>Borelli Park and Stride – preliminary design commenced</p> <p>Town Centre Scheme - detail design commenced.</p> <p>Elaine presented the risks of the programme which include: funding availability programme wide (which is always a risk), and alignment with central Government policies on climate change etc., a lot of adjacent projects within FIP so the finances for the programme are constrained so we must make sure scope doesn't change.</p>
10	<p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>Cllr Beaman asked about the level of enforcement of the HGV and 20mph restrictions and what action is being taken.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all the volunteers of the HGV Farnham Watch Team who have done a tremendous job at identifying vehicles that on the face of it have breached restrictions. 901 HGVs have been recorded over the last 9-month period, 317 warnings were issued, 523 couldn't be followed up partly due to being overseas vehicles, 61 had permitted access. The observations were mainly between 8am – 12pm and a number of those were entering into the town for valid reasons, however it is clear from the work officers have done that there is not sufficient compliance. There are a series of things due to happen – better signage with conversations happening with Hampshire on this, there is a recognition that we need camera enforcement, so we are expecting the organisation who are responsible for on-street parking enforcement to have a camera car to come to Farnham on a regular basis to carry out enforcement. Officers are also looking at a more permanent camera enforcement solution (possibly fixed cameras). There are some challenges around enforcement and in terms of next steps, there needs to be a 6-week consultation around camera enforcement so that public consultation will start in October. There is also now contact with all local stakeholders (Hampshire, HGV Operators and Logistics UK) advising that there will be enforcement commencing soon.</p> <p>The Chair added that it's not possible to use speed cameras for enforcement due to possible GDPR complications but will feed this into the work in case the data can be used.</p> <p>Cllr Powell thanked members of the public and the volunteers for their help with HGV vehicles entering some of the Farnham Roads and the Chair for being supportive of the town on this issue.</p> <p>Cllr MacLeod added that there is a lot of public support for the 20mph zones.</p> <p>The Chair added that we know from other parts of the county where HGV bans have been brought in, that it does take a while for operators to abide by them.</p> <p>The Chair added the County's policy is to introduce 20mph zones where appropriate, particularly around schools.</p>

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11	<p data-bbox="229 226 300 253">AOB</p> <p data-bbox="229 286 1453 454">Cllr Powell raised that all local Cllrs are concerned about the phasing of the work around the town centre and would like some discussions prior to the detailed design, so we can look at when we close certain roads what will we do, and what will we do to mitigate the impact when we close roads/lanes and we need to do whatever we can to help residents. Cllr Powell would appreciate a date in the calendar to discuss this.</p> <p data-bbox="229 488 1437 555">Elaine agreed to have a meeting and asked if it could be set up in November so that she can engage the contractor, Members and our management team.</p> <p data-bbox="229 589 1417 656">Cllr Powell also wanted to raise awareness of the digital demand responsiveness transport system for Farnham and that it's worth publicising the use the system.</p> <p data-bbox="229 689 1453 757">Cllr Beaman mentioned the importance of the critical bus routes in the town. Elaine confirmed she has a meeting with the bus operators on the 11th Oct.</p> <p data-bbox="229 790 1453 891">The Chair added that Surrey Connect bus has now come to Farnham and details on how to access the service can be found on the SCC website. Creating better public transport is a key part of the county strategy and now have 4 electric buses.</p> <p data-bbox="229 925 1369 992">The Chair thanked Katie as this is her last meeting before she moves to a new role and wished her luck.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1081 1337 1126">The next meeting is 15th December 2023 and will be held at Farnham Town Council.</p>