



# Reports from outside bodies

January 2017

# YELAbus AGM

## **Held at The Gallery, The Tythings on 29 November**

Jane Biscombe, Cllrs Gill Hennell and Tony Spencer representing YTC.

There were twelve people present at the AGM. Minutes from the previous year were accepted and there were no matters arising. Chairman Andy Whitaker's report was written before his stroke and presented by Vice Chairman Wilf Hardy. HCC's new model for Community Transport means that although YELAbus is on a sound financial footing and have secured core funding, including £6000 from HCC for this year, but cannot rely on HCC for core funding for running costs in future years or for financing new buses. A recent Trustees Operation Review identifies that more community promotion and fundraising would be required, alongside charity funding for website provision. Following the Operations Manager's Report, a question from the floor concerning the next new bus was answered that although a new bus is not required at present, the next one will have to be able to accommodate four wheelchairs and probably cost in the region of £75,000.

The Annual Accounts were approved.

Of the eleven existing Trustees, ten were reelected and Beryl James, Secretary since the YELAbus was formed, is standing down.

# Green Infrastructure Workshop

## **Held at The Harlington Centre on 30 November 2016**

YTC represented by Cllrs Adrian Collett and Tony Spencer

The aim of the workshop was to guide future investment in Hart's green infrastructure, included in the Local Plan, engaging stakeholders in identifying and prioritising opportunities and to determine the best ways of delivering green infrastructure from future developments. National policy says that local plans plan positively for creating, protecting, enhancing and managing biodiversity and green infrastructure in both the urban and rural landscapes.

Among the heritage of Hart's green spaces, were selected items of note. Fleet Pond is the largest freshwater lake in Hampshire. There are a number of historic parks and gardens, including Bramshill Park, Elvetham Hall and Dogmersfield Park. Lowland heath and ancient woodland and new green spaces provided as compensation for new housing.

The 10 themes of Green Infrastructure are: Landscape, heritage and sense of place, Biodiversity, Woodlands, Water resources, Access and recreation, Infrastructure, Inequality, Health and well-being, Sustainability and Delivery.

As Yateley has significant water resources, Cllrs Collett and Spencer were assigned to the workshop group considering water resources, along with a representative of the conservation group for Fleet Pond and a co-author of the Hart report on the Basingstoke Canal. We discussed water courses, flood plains and the need for a Hart-wide culvert survey, as it is clear that a lot of clean rainwater which should be directed to watercourses is actually being fed directly into the sewerage system, probably due to lack of planning supervision in the early developments which took place before Hart even existed.

A report based on the results of the various workshops will be issued in January.

# Yateley Village Hall Committee

## **Yateley Village Hall Management Committee Meeting on 2 December 2016**

YTC represented by Cllrs Chris Barnes and Tony Spencer

The new Chairman welcomed members and expressed his thanks to all outgoing officers for their contribution over their period of service.

Increase in hire charge to be addressed, as other Hall charges in the immediate area have been looked at and we need to keep in line. New hire charges in place at beginning of January.

Tasks in hand for this year: Cllr Barnes will look at Governance, which used to be addressed by Andy Whitaker; Water butts will be installed; a CCTV monitor to be installed behind the bar; chairs to be checked for damage and a key safe installed in the office. Other tasks in hand were to clear and check viability of the sheds, remove bench seating from the lounge and repaint the walls, possibly replace the carpet in the bar lounge and replace the screed and vinyl floor behind the bar.

# Police Liaison Committee

## **Held at Yateley Police Station on 5 January 2017**

Attended by

PCSO Benjamin Ingleson

PCSO Kellie Graham

Cllr Gill Hennell

Alison Blanchard

Cllr Tony Spencer

Lost property now goes to Aldershot Police Station

Problem with youths in Beaulieu gardens where there are two benches on a green. A hole has been dug there as a firepit; wood for a fire and a spade removed. One of the neighbours have been affected by eggs thrown at their fence. The winter group of 6 or 7 youths are boys age 14-15 and main incentive to be there at night is that they can indulge in underage smoking. Youth shelter was discussed.

Other items discussed:

Councilors may hear reports of a "homeless man" in Hearsay Gardens; police aware and gentleman is not actually homeless.

Someone is feeding foxes around the Green, over 300 cans of dog food were found with just the tops removed.

Community litterpick in the spring

Silver Fox Farm, where horses are kept, reports of some damage

Dog on dog attack on common, resulting in the death of a pet dog,

Next meeting at YTC, 11am 16 February 2017.

# Hart Citizens Advice Meeting

## **Held at Yateley CAB Office, on 7 December 2016**

Cllr Spencer representing YTC as an observer, with no voting rights.

Myra Billings, a former chairman of of the Bureau and a member of the Trustees and former management committee for over 20 years, has resigned from the Trustees.

Roger Durdle was elected as Vice-Chair, and Julie Bradley was elected as a Trustee.

Since the resignation of the CEO, Michelle has been covering her duties until a new CEO is appointed.

Heathlands will be moving in shortly to use part of the 1st floor offices until they can find a permanent office, following the closure of their Rushmoor office.

# YELAbus Management Committee Meeting

## **Held at The Gallery, The Tythings on 10 January 2017**

Jane Biscombe, Cllrs Gill Hennell and Tony Spencer representing YTC.

In the absence of Andy Whitaker and John Ellis, Gill Hennell took the chair.

Making a benchmark of our charges against other community transport providers was discussed and decided to carry this out in 6 months' time. Strategy for marketing would be examined next meeting. Look at Constitution to determine continuing with annual subscription charge for "members".

Financial matters arising due to Andy Whitaker's indisposition has meant a change to certain aspects of cash handling, producing profit and loss account, approve payments, and VAT quarterly returns. Investment account for savings to be investigated for better returns and ease of transfer/withdrawal and application for grants from the Freemasons.

Accident procedure agreed. Hire agreements for hirers using their own drivers to be redrafted for next meeting.

Maintenance issues of VW bus with supplier for resolution.

# Hart District Association of Local Councils

## **Held at Rotherwick Village Hall on 10 January 2017**

Attended by Cllrs Keane and Spencer

New Secretary Melanie Pride was introduced

Daryl Phillios did not attend but supplied a written update to strategic position on the Local Plan agreed on 26 October 2016 and updated by the Local Plan Steering Group in December, which is recommending an adjustment to Option 3a, including possible small settlement, urban extensions, distribution of new homes across the district and a new secondary school. Also, Option 3d is also being reconsidered for the draft Local Plan which should be ready to submit to the Council at the end of January.

Tricia Hughes, Joint chief executive reported on recent events at Hart DC. Everyone Active will take over the new leisure centre on 31 March 2017. This is the biggest single project by Hart DC, The Council tax reduction scheme considered last Thursday but not considered taking forward. A Local Authority Lottery for Hart is being considered to raise money for local worthy charities. This would be an online lottery with a £25,000 top prize, and likely to be similar to other schemes in Portsmouth and Rushmoor. This year there will be a re-tender of the waste contract., although this is not likely to involve any major changes. The waste contract when awarded could possibly link with Basingstoke and Deane re sharing contract for refuse collection and may require new routings especially around the borders.

A question was asked about Recycling with better sorting, especially of certain plastics which Hart are unable to recycle that other local authorities happily accept (e.g. in Surrey). This is a Project Integra issue which is tied in with HCC.

She undertook to look into Class D banding, as it is noticed in small rural settings that figures do not reflect what is evident on the ground. The assessor is understood to be using the same methodology as previous years and checked line by line.

The likely delay in Local Plan is 5 or 6 weeks. There were questions on affordable housing and SCLAA sites, all villages are being besieged by them, and that that they are bring deleted and reinstated from the Local Plan without the parishes being advised and this needs addressing urgently. Housing bill due 16 January. The Local Plan has to be completed by April 2018 but do not know if that is a submitted plan or an approved plan as it could take 6 months to approve plan, which is out of our hands. We need to know exact schedules and the Districts know exactly where they stand. She assured councillors that the Parish Links are routinely sent out once a month.