



Reports from outside bodies

September 2016

Rural Housing

Held at The Pelican, Pamber Heath, Tadley 11 July 2016

Although we don't actually have a Housing representative for Yateley Town Council, as I had represented the Council at a Hart Housing Forum Meeting in May, I was also invited to a presentation of Rural Housing held by Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) in conjunction with Hampshire Village Homes.

HARAH were founded in 2005 and in the last 10 years have built 400 homes across 39 Hampshire parishes. These are small schemes and address local people's housing needs. One of their scheme was recently completed in Eversley.

The size of these schemes are usually small, around 10 or 11 houses, and each unit is built to a high standard of finish, so they are very economical to run. There are a number of different options for occupants, of part purchase and part rent, depending on what government schemes are available, and preferences are given to applications from local people. These schemes ensure that rural communities have a constant stock of affordable housing. So far 1400 people have been able to live in their own locality, where otherwise they would be forced by rising house prices to move away.

Rural housing issues, where the mix of housing stock availability and prices which are beyond local people's means, are very similar to the more urbanised areas like Yateley. Here we also have developers who want to build new houses which are more suited to new people moving in from areas of high housing costs to the east, rather than local people who are often forced to move to larger towns with a larger range of more affordable houses to choose from. This has the effect of breaking up communities, with those moving away losing the benefit and support of established friendships, neighbours and families they grew up with.

Unfortunately, the Rural Housing Schemes are currently restricted to parishes with populations up to 3000 people.

Police Liaison Meeting

Held at Yateley Town Council Offices on 12 July 2016

Attended by PCSO Rory Newland, Cllr Tony Spencer and Alison Blanchard

There was very little in the way of incidents to report this month, with some concern expressed over bullying by youths of 16/17 around the Goose Green area in particular and the dangerous and potentially lethal use of catapults by youth/youths unknown in the Hardy Avenue area.

HDALC Meeting

Held at Hawley Memorial Hall on 12 July 2016

Attended by Cllrs Tony Spencer and John Keane

The main feature of this meeting was a presentation by John Coughlan, Chief Executive at HCC and Cllr Rob Humby about the projected devolution of Hampshire & the loW, as a single entity and the rival bids which aim to split the county into a number of authorities, and the role of parish and town councils following devolution.

Apparently the optimum size of a devolved authority is between 300-700k and Hampshire and loW equates to 1.3m. Deloites are the consultants HCC used for their bid.

The government are insisting that these new devolved authorities have an elected mayor, which Hampshire and loW have stated they do not want. The HCC view of an elected Mayor as leader of the combined authority is a centralism move and the antithesis of localism. The Treasury have indicated that if there is no viable scheme on the table in the current parliament, the Treasury will impose their own scheme on the region. The other proposed combined authorities have indicated that they would comply with this Mayoral requirement.

HCC are conducting a series of meetings with local parishes and towns to brief and get parishes' views.

The other unitary authority schemes affecting Hart are the Heart of Hampshire and the Solent bid. Price Waterhouse are putting together a bid for the Heart of Hampshire scheme.

Hart DC gave us an update on the Local Plan: the draft plan is due from East Hants in early September, for HDC councillors to consider, with the Consultation Plan ready by the end of October. It was also noted that £55,000 was spent on the Moulsham Lane Appeal.

Yateley Young Designers Exhibition

Held at Yateley School on 12 July 2016

I believe all councillors were invited to the official opening of the Yateley Young Designers' Exhibition. Unfortunately I had a previous engagement, but was able to have a look around the exhibition the following morning.

I am always impressed by the high standard and range of entries, in textiles, photography, graphic and CAD design on show, and the exhibition was certainly well worth a visit.

YELAbus Meetings

Held at Yateley Town Council Offices on 19 July and 18 August 2016

As YTC's Transport Spokesman, I was invited to sit in on the 19 July meeting and elected by the committee to represent YTC at the 18 August Meeting.

Wilf Hardy first undertook and then presented a draft review of YELAbus operations, for comments from members in time for the September meeting.

Drivers' code of conduct was sent out to all drivers by Andy Whittaker, but was awaiting confirmation that all have received. Wheelchair practice is included in Midas training, all drivers have to be Midas trained.

Although we have a Cancellation policy, there doesn't appear to be a Hirer contract. I submitted a draft for circulation and have had in a number of comments will enable a final draft to be submitted for the September meeting.

Wilf and Andy reported on the CT meeting with HCC, noting that the classification of Yelabus as a "group hirer" rather than "dial a ride" is arbitrarily unfair and affects both grant funding and scheduled replacement of vehicles. HCC seem unshakable on this point at present, so there is a need to fight for it, in particular through our local county councillors and Kevin Ings.

First aid training under way for all the drivers.

John was using an outside voluntary source create a website and multiple emails, but appears to have reached a point where the work is stalled by a skills shortage.

Pop Up Silent Cinema

Held at Yateley Town Council Office on 20 July 2016

In the Deputy Town Clerk's absence, the Town Clerk and I met with Andrew Morris of Drifting Dreamers, and we agreed to an initial trial run on Yateley Green of silent cinema in September. Once the necessary screening licence could be obtained from Hart and the projectionist booked, YTC would advertise the event. Large local potential for silent cinema, including silent disco, dressing up competitions, etc several times through the year, judging by the support that such events, GOTG and Victory Picnic indicate. Actual films shown are determined by popularity poll on social media, which also helps advertise the event.

Because the film is shown outside, you need dark evenings, so midsummer shows are unlikely and open air cinema in winter is unlikely to be successful but that still leaves the potential of spring, early summer and autumn.

The show on the blow up screen can be seen by anyone passing, but to get the full stereoscopic experience, ticket holders are supplied with wireless headphones, secured for a returnable deposit, with tickets priced at about £10 each. Because of the headphones, the venue doesn't need fencing, and if there's a possible disco afterwards, there will be no problem with noise. Tickets would probably be limited to 400-500 people, and the theatre-goers would have to bring their own seats and refreshments, although vendors could be given opportunities to supply refreshments.

Once a date has been determined, Jane would see if the scouts and the kebab van could provide refreshments, with the Lions assisting with parking arrangements.

Yateley Village Hall

Held at Yateley Village Hall on 22 July 2016

For some time the Hall has been cleaned by members of the committee and it was felt that now the finances were on an even keel, it was time we advertised for a cleaner to do approximately 14 hours a week.

It was agreed to restore sending monthly accounts to committee members and YTC. A new Treasurer is needed but LB would continue until one is found.

The quote for repainting all external woodwork was accepted, including replacement of a rotten windowsill.

Pokémon Lure Party

Held on Yateley Green on 28 July 2016

The Town and Deputy Town Clerk organised a Pokémon Lure Party on the Green for a couple of hours, with competitions and refreshments for Under 12s. A number of families and teenagers turned up to take part in the latest computer game craze, which actually encourages youngsters to get out with mobile devices and explore their localities.

It was so successful, it was agreed to arrange another before the end of the school holidays, on 30 August.