

Present

Fairfield Parish Council (FPC) - Councillors BE Dack, VC Batten, C Bidwell, P Daffarn and P Mitchinson

Fairfield Park Resident Association (FPRA) – Chris Titmus and Peter Nash

Fairfield Hall Residents Association (FHRA) – Leslie Pike and Linda Manktelow

Fairfield Hall Directors (FHD) – Sharon Jones

Notes taken by

Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

1 Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Cllr Barrie Dack welcomed everyone and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2 Road signs

2.1 CBC has agreed to

- Add two new welcome signs saying 'Fairfield'
- Add 'Fairfield' to the directional signs on A507.
- Look to differentiate between the Fairfield entrances and is considering adding Fairfield North and Fairfield South to the directional signs at Eliot Way and Dickens Boulevard.

FPC has agreed to pay half of all costs.

2.2 Yellow signs on Hitchin Road are still to be removed. FPC to chase up CBC and HCC.
Action: FPC

2.3 A directional sign is still missing on Hitchin Road after being knocked down by a vehicle. FPC to chase up CBC. **Action: FPC**

2.4 Hedges need trimming as restricting the views of two directional sign. One hedge is the responsibility of CBC and one is the responsibility of FRL. FPC to speak to CBC and FPRA to speak to FRL. **Action: FPC/ FPRA**

3 Inconsiderate actions of the builders involved in the school extension

3.1 Concern was expressed about the damage to the grass. It was confirmed that there is a 'make good' clause in the contactors.

3.2 It was reported that builders have been working on Sundays and making a noise. FPC to ask contractors what has been agreed about working on Sundays and to ask for more consideration in a residential area. **Action: FPC**

4 Highway maintenance on adopted roads

4.1 Grass cutting – CBC need to calculate how much CBC would contribute to FPC for cutting the grass verges alongside adopted roads.

4.2 Tree maintenance - FPC waiting for CBC to grant permission to FPC to maintain the trees.

4.3 Road Gritting – CBC will perform an assessment on gritting Dickens Boulevard and then will meet with FPC to discuss administration for local gritting.

5 Dog and litter bins

5.1 Dog bins – CBC has installed a new dog bin alongside the cricket pitch and FPC are paying for it to be emptied weekly.

- 5.2 Litter bin – CBC had installed two new litter bins - one by the bus stop with the shelter on Hitchin Road and one by the bus shelter on Dickens Boulevard. CBC will be emptying both these bins.

6 Broken manhole covers

- 6.1 FPC has repaired the broken manhole cover on the cricket pitch.
- 6.2 CBC has installed a temporary cover on the broken manhole cover on Eliot Way and has ordered a replacement cover.

7 Improvements to Fairfield Security

- 7.1 FPC has looked into installing CCTV but has decided against proceeding as costs are too expensive and there are restrictions under the 'Data Protection Act' and the 'European Human Rights Section 8 – A Right to Privacy'.
- 7.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Inspector advised FPC that they are trying to find ways to improve response time and increase Police presence. They are recruiting 80 new officers, investing in IT and are working with neighbouring forces to centralise the control room and improve cross border liaison.

8 Outstanding S106 issues.

- 8.1 CBC is now taking the matter very seriously and has issued FPC with an interim report with proposed actions for CBC and FPC. As this report has not been discussed by FPC yet it was inappropriate for FPC to discuss this with other organisations until the actions had been agreed.

9 Orchards

- 9.1 These are included in the outstanding S106 issue. One is owned by PJ Livesey and one is owned by Hotbed. Both orchards have County Wildlife Site Status.
- 9.2 Questions were asked about compulsory purchasing the land but this cannot be looked into until CBC has established what the land has been designated for. If it has been designated as open space then FPC could include plans for it in a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. Otherwise compulsory purchase may have to be looked into.

10 Action so far to obtain land for leisure activities

- 10.1 FPC has been unsuccessful in obtaining any land for leisure activities so will be speaking to Councillor Nigel Young (Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development) to request CBC provide some land for recreation and allotments within the parish Fairfield.

11 Parish Plan

- 11.1 A steering committee has been formed. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) has given advice and has agreed to oversee the process. FPC has approved the 'Constitution for the Parish Plan Steering Committee' and the 'Timetable of Events'. In summary a flyer will be distributed with Fairfield Matters the beginning of March asking residents to say their likes and dislikes. This will be followed by two open meetings in the Community Hall (Sunday 23rd March and Thursday 3rd April). A questionnaire will be created based on the resulted of the flyer and open meetings and will be distributed in June. The results and action plan will hopefully be published in September 2014.

12 Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

- 12.1 CBC has started the consultation again. As Site 76, Land South of Fairfield has not changed FPC has asked CBC if it needs to resubmit previous document and if residents need to resend letters and is waiting for a response. It was suggested that FPC resubmit document and encourage residents to resend letters.

- 12.2 As CBC has stated that all objections made by FPC could be overcome, FPC is looking to add an addendum with estimated costs to achieve this.

13 Map and Sat Nav issues

- 13.1 CBC has advised Ordnance Survey of the inaccuracies of the maps.
13.2 Tele Atlas and Navtec have been notified of the changes and are updating their maps.

14 Installation of high speed broadband to parts of the park

- 14.1 BT has advised that there is no opportunity to forward fund cabs through private funding which are already phased in the BDUK roll out. Boxes 21 and 23 are expected to be upgraded at the end of 2015.
14.2 Virgin Media has advised that the costs involved to extend their network to Fairfield are prohibitively expensive so they are unable to offer their service

15 Parking

- 15.1 A steering committee has been formed and Councillor Hanks is drafting a proposal following the brainstorming session at the first meeting of the committee.
15.2 People are still driving on the pavement of Dickens Boulevard. FPC to request CBC install bollards to prevent this from happening. **Action: FPC**

16 Land at old pig testing site

- 16.1 Campbell Buchanan has purchase this land and has requested a meeting with FPC to discuss draft proposals for this land.

17 Chapel

- 17.1 The owner of the chapel has advised that he is keen to get the property occupied but recent government legislation has disrupted his original plans and forced him to reconsider. He will be contacting the planning authority again shortly as he has spent a lot of money on the church over the last three years and is keen to get the planners on board sooner rather than later.

18 Date of Next Meeting

- 18.1 The next joint meeting will be June 2014 unless it is considered necessary to have one before.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.