



HART DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

Minutes of a Meeting of the Association held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at 7.30 pm At The Harlington, Fleet

PRESENT

Name		Position	Parish/Town Council
Jane Worlock	JW	Chairman	Hook
Paul Einchcomb	PE		Fleet
Bob Schofield	BS		Fleet
Meyrick Williams	MW		Winchfield
Marilyn Robson	MR		Elvetham Heath
Diana Harvey	DH		Hartley Wintney
Chris Cornwell	CC		Hartley Wintney
Alan Jones	AJ		Church Crookham
Julia Ambler	JA		Crookham Village
Simon Ambler	SA		Crookham Village
Anne Fillis	AF		Dogmersfield
Adam Bealey	AB		Rotherwick
Trish Monks	TM		Blackwater & Hawley
Jo Shaw	JS		Blackwater & Hawley
Shawn Dickens	SD		Eversley
Mark Jaggard	MJ	Executive Director - Place	HDC
Robert Pettigrew	RP	Engagement Manager	HALC
Martin Whittaker	MWh	Secretary	HDAPTC

		Action
23/1	Introduction and welcome	
23/2	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Odiham (clashes with council meeting)• Greywell• Crondall The presence of 11 out of 21 councils satisfied the quorum of 7.	
23/3	Minutes of the meetings held on 17 January The motion being proposed by MR and seconded by DH, the minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously as an accurate record.	

23/4	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>All actions reported as complete or on the agenda except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22/56 JW to circulate details of the quarterly Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are 2 local policing areas: Hart Rural North and South, but not clear whether Hart Rural South currently holds PACT meetings. The monthly update is released through the Hampshire Alert system. The police wish to encourage PCs and Neighbourhood Watch to attend the meetings. The North group is meeting 9 May at 1900, hosted on MS Teams from Yateley police station. JW will contact the organiser, get details, and ask what plans there may be for parishes falling outside the North. • 22/56 Cllr David Neighbour to organise an s.106 information session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJ will pick up the action. • 22/56a JW to ask at next HALC meeting for clarity on how people who have yet to pay HALC fees are treated in the constitutional changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JW will provide a summary of HALC’s response ○ In response to a question, JW stated that councils don’t need to be a member of NALC, as can get advice from HALC. They can’t be a member of NALC without joining HALC. 	<p>Worlock</p> <p>Worlock</p> <p>Jaggard</p> <p>Worlock</p>
23/5	<p>Hart District Council report – MJ</p> <p>MJ’s report is included as an Appendix to these minutes.</p> <p>Questions and Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW: Could you confirm that highways are no longer HDC’s responsibility but road name plates are? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJ: Yes. ○ [post meeting note: road <u>name plates</u>, eg “Harlington Way”, are HDC’s responsibility but road <u>signage</u> is Highways’.] • SA: new people in planning: will one of them strengthen Enforcement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJ: Yes. Victoria Goldberg will be heading up this team. • SD: the PC sent a list of 30 outstanding enforcement cases in Eversley to HDC but received no reply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJ: email me and I’ll update you on these cases. Can’t always give an update for legal reasons until an enforcement decision has been made. But note that enforcement teams are reactive to issues raised rather than proactive. • JW: might it be possible to have a planning enforcement event for councils? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MJ: will look into it. 	<p>Dickens/ Jaggard</p> <p>Jaggard</p>
23/6	<p>Parish Questions for Hart District Council</p> <p>Questions asked before the meeting:</p> <p>See Appendix 2 to these minutes.</p> <p>Questions asked at the meeting:</p> <p>None.</p>	
23/7	<p>Appointment of 3 HDAPTC members of the Hart Standards Committee</p> <p>Current members Trish Monks, David Argent, 1 vacancy</p>	

	JW proposed Trish Monks and David Argent to continue in this role, and Julia Ambler for the vacancy. BS seconded, and this was unanimously agreed. MWh will confirm this to Daryl Phillips.	Whittaker
23/8	<p>Chairman's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election – most parishes uncontested, and virtually all have vacancies. • AGM in July. Nomination forms will be issued in good time • The changes to HALC articles of association were not approved, and it is not clear when this matter will be tabled again. <p>MW reported that Andrew Renshaw is retiring from Winchfield PC after 41 years. The meeting wished him well in his retirement.</p> <p>Robert Pettigrew, the new HALC Engagement Manager, introduced himself and outlined his role.</p>	Whittaker
23/9	Parish Reports	
1.	<p>Rotherwick – AB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman has resigned, so down to 4 councillors. • Spring litter pick was very successful. • Countryfile visited Lyde Green recently. 	
2.	<p>Crookham Village – SA</p> <p>(Written report received)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last month we reported that we had applied for a grant for Solar Panels on our community centre. This application to Hampshire CC has been successful and we are now about to award the contract. This is the first phase in our greening project, next we will be looking at replacing our ageing gas boilers with heat pumps. Throughout the project we have been incredibly lucky to have the assistance of two residents who are both experts in the field. • We have a new SANG in the Parish about to come on stream, this is associated with the new Watery Lane development. The planning condition stated that the SANG had to be fully open before first occupation. Despite this there are at least three houses occupied but Hart enforcement were quickly on the case. • Recruitment, we are currently recruiting for a part time deputy clerk. This has arisen due to increased workload caused mainly by the ongoing expansion of the population of our Parish. • Over 800 new dwellings with extant planning permission will be completed over the next few years. 	
3.	<p>Eversley – SD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Clerk is now in place and all looks good in Eversley. 	
4.	<p>Dogmersfield – AF</p> <p>(Written report received)</p> <p>Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections held in 2021 – all councillors were up for election • Council now very stable and collegiate – team has common goals and a focus on bettering Dogmersfield for all – Aspiration to keep churn and new ideas 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very small budget compared to other councils - £12k per annum of which roughly half goes on running the Council • No community assets to maintain • New Parish Clerk – Sam Rowe <p>Key areas of focus for DPC going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting Dogmersfield and the neighbourhood plan • Traffic • Environment <p>NDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively low levels of housing development in Dogmersfield but hugely impacted by developments on Hitches Lane • Two approvals outside of Neighbourhood plan – both rejected by both DPC and HDC but approved on appeal – one traveller site and one battery storage facility – logic for both being national policy overrides local opinion • A further battery storage facility currently at planning stage – this is situated In Dogmersfield but accessed from Crondall Road – we are expecting National Policy to force this through • Proposal for 50+ caravan site (pre-app) situated along Chalky Lane opposite the entrance to the Four Seasons – parishioners submitted over 50 objections despite Hart not accepting comments <p>Traffic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructive talks with Highways – new gates as you enter village and better road markings and signage throughout – Highways have been helpful but we remain frustrated that Dogmersfield continues to be a designated diversion route whenever other roads are closed • Parking in the centre of the village has worsened – currently in a debate with Highways regarding options – yellow lines seem to be the only solution <p>Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPC have funds – we have a community fund given to the Parish as compensation when the solar farm was constructed on our border • Have undertaken a significant tree planting project – 400+ trees planted and over 1,000 hedge plants • Investment in footpaths – replaced majority of stiles with wooden kissing gates, improved surfaces on two key footpaths on the village and built a boardwalk over waterlogged ground on another – now looking to improve signage throughout • Thames Water – sewage issues 	
5.	<p>Fleet – BS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Day on the Sunday of coronation, with variety of events and a firework display in the evening • Annual meeting last week – 150 people attended • There are continuing problems with GP surgeries • Farnborough College of Technology T3 students are being placed with the council as part of their course. 	
6.	<p>Blackwater and Hawley – TM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real issues with vandalism of the play park 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Hall had 20 panes of glass broken and £400 of booze, causing £20K of damage. • Bookings have the hall have recovered since COVID. Problems with the cemetery, people pushing the envelope of what is allowed. • Coronation – big screen to show it, community picnic the next day. 	
7.	<p>Winchfield – MW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Neighbourhood Development Plan is nearly ready • Completed consultation on rural exceptions sites. 	
8.	<p>Elvetham Heath – MR (Written report received)</p> <p>Great British Spring Clean As part of the Great British Spring Clean, we held a litter pick and cleaned the road signs throughout Elvetham Heath. The event fell on the same day as the Fleet Half Marathon but as Elvetham Heath is landlocked for part of the day because of the road closures we went ahead and had over 50 very enthusiastic people attending.</p> <p>Residents Evening Our annual resident’s evening will be on Wednesday 24th May.</p> <p>Turners Green Recreation Area Turners Green is a large open space which we are looking to develop with some sports and exercise equipment suitable for families but also to provide for the growing number of teenagers that live here. We have carried out a survey of our residents and we now have 3 companies working on plans which we intend to have on display at our residents evening so that people may comment.</p> <p>Market Our monthly Artisan Food & Drink Market is going from strength to strength with another two new stalls added at the beginning of April.</p> <p>Tennis Courts We have needed to do some repairs on the surface of our floodlit tennis & netball courts. Tree roots were causing an issue and breaking through the surface. This work has now been completed and the surface will be repainted in the near future.</p> <p>SID We have purchased a SID which will be moved to various locations on Elvetham Heath Way. We were all amazed when during the first 4 days that it was in place 21,000 vehicles had entered or exited at the eastern entrance to Elvetham Heath.</p> <p>Bird Boxes One of our woodland walks has undergone a bit of a makeover after it was used for the route of the water pipeline. To add to the interest along the walk we have had 10 birdboxes made by The Mens Shed and these are now with the Primary school for painting before being put in place.</p> <p>Phone Box Several years ago we purchased, for £1.00, the redundant phone box on Elvetham Heath. Over the years we have always planted it up for the summer. This year we now have flowers and we have started a community Herb Garden.</p>	

	<p>Replanting Roadside Verges</p> <p>The very cold weather has taken a toll on some of our roadside shrubbery and some of the plants have also come to the end of their lives. All the relevant areas have been cleared of the sad plants and we are now starting a programme of replacing them. We have 33 miles of roadside verges on Elvetham Heath that we look after under our Licence to Cultivate so our two full time groundsmen are going to be very busy.</p> <p>Concert on The Green</p> <p>Saturday 15th July is the date of our free open-air concert. We have 4 great bands booked, there will be plenty of food and drink stalls or bring your own. Last year we had over 2500 people. It is a great day for our residents, and we are very happy for others to join us.</p> <p>TPO</p> <p>Tomorrow an application goes before Hart Planning for a TPO for the area previously known as The Park & Ride which last year was subject to an application for a Lidl store and drive through coffee shop. This application was withdrawn.</p>	
9.	<p>Hook – JW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New A30 roundabout – Griffin Way road opening delayed beyond the promised date of 13 April • Sainsbury supermarket will open 16 May • Illegal car meets of up to 300 people have been taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the road closures • There will be a party in Hartletts Park for the coronation • Now 2 polling stations: Hook East and Hook West • Planning and Infrastructure officer is leaving, but the previous officer is coming back. 	
10.	<p>Church Crookham - AJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esso pipeline works are causing disruption, which will last for 3 months • Sensory garden work is now under way • Basketball court is to be resurfaced, with updates to football field and athletic track. 	
11.	<p>Hartley Wintney – DH</p> <p>(Written report received)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council is busy with preparations for the events to take place to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May. The plans include a large screen on the green opposite the church to broadcast the ceremony, and decoration and community clean-up of the whole village to make HW look festive for the occasion. It is hoped that the retailers will do their part with ‘royal’ window dressing and that there will be many street parties as have taken place on previous occasions. • In other news, we now have the go-ahead to clear the ponds outside the Waggon and Horses, on the corner of Dilly Lane and at Causeway Farm. This is the result of many months of discussions with Hart as a result of which the Parish Council will take responsibility for the maintenance of the commons and ponds in the village. Unfortunately the timing of the agreement means that we now have to wait until the autumn as the breeding season is now upon us. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have recently, in cooperation with HDC and Hastoe Housing Association commissioned a Housing Needs Assessment Survey. This provides detailed information on the need for housing in the area, the type of housing and where the residents would like to see any future development. It also provides information as to the demographic of the population. This document is useful in terms of any future planning applications and is now a required document for the Neighbourhood Plan which is due for review in the near future. 	
12.	<p>Odiham (Written report received from the Clerk and summarised by MWh at the meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are busy preparing to hold a Coronation Street Party on Odiham High St with an expected attendance of 1,400, plus a non-ticketed community picnic at a nearby open space to run at the same time. Both events will be part of the national “Big Lunch”. We are also planning to promote an online poster advertising other events happening over the Coronation weekend. We ran a very successful thermal imaging project as part of the second phase of The Greening campaign. Using 2 cameras from The Greening Campaign and one from Hart District Council, volunteers took thermal imaging of over 150 local properties. The Council has just adopted the second business plan for The Bridewell Community Hub which will cover work for the next 12-18 months. We have recently arranged for Citizens Advice Hart to trial an outreach programme and are currently working on hiring agreements to open up the building to more hirers from 1st June. The next stage will be trialling hot desking in the unused upstairs space. The project recently won an HCC Leader’s grant. Meetings have recently taken place with the developer of a Neighbourhood Plan development site which will secure £14,000 of developers’ contributions to the Council and the transfer of 0.25 hectares of land for the purpose of pre-school use. There won’t be any parish elections in Odiham in May - all 10 seats, covering 3 wards, are uncontested and are filled – 8 current councillors and 2 new. 	
23/10	<p>Crandall (Written report received from the Clerk and summarised by MWh at the meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council is once again up to full capacity following the co-option of Cllr Williams. Following parishioner feedback, a youth shelter has been erected in Hook Meadow using s106 money from the Cala Homes development on Redlands Lane. We have been working with consultants reviewing the existing Conservation Area and supporting documentation. This work is now almost complete, with a formal consultation with parishioners being kicked-off at the APM on 15th May. Two new SIDs were purchased last year and are proving very successful. Following a recent traffic incident outside the school, one has been positioned on Croft Lane and is reminding drivers to reduce their speed in the area. CPC, together with the village Speedwatch team are liaising with 	

	<p>HCC to reduce the speed at the junction of St Cross Road with Croft Lane which has been identified as a particular issue during the school run.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report detailing all potholes within the village has been sent to HCC Roads and Cllr Glen. • The Parish Council is supporting a parishioner-led initiative to unearth the pill box on Hook Meadow. Earthworks have begun, with wildflowers to be planted once completed. 	
23/11	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	
23/12	<p>Date and venue for next meeting:</p> <p>Dates for the next period, every 3 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/7/23 AGM, Zebon Community Centre (www.zeboncentre.org/contact/) • 17/10/23, Blackwater & Hawley Town Council (TBC) <p>Please contact the Secretary or Chairman if you are able to host future meetings.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 2138.</p>	

Martin Whittaker, Secretary, HartDAPTC@gmail.com



Hart District Council update

Date: 18 April 2023

Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Our Corporate Plan for 2023 to 2027 was approved at the full Council meeting in February 2023. Our Corporate Plan has three focus areas:

Planet – make all areas directly under the control of the Council carbon neutral by 2035 and make Hart a carbon neutral district by 2040.

People – fair treatment for all, help for those in need, and a sustainable economy that makes Hart a great place to live, work and enjoy.

Place - deliver warmer, better homes in sustainable locations that people can afford to live in.

This will be underpinned by providing a **resilient and financially sound Council**.

www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Corporate%20Plan%202023%20to%202027%20APPROVED_0.pdf

New website

The Council's new website was launched on 27 March 2023. The project is the start of a wider programme aimed at modernising the Council's online services. The new corporate website is one of our primary customer-facing channels, offering convenient access and encouraging self-service.

It has been completely re-designed with fresh new content and provides an entry point to residents, partners and stakeholders who can get information and transact online easily and quickly.

If you haven't had a chance to take a look yet, please visit the new website at hart.gov.uk and send any feedback through to us on communications@hart.gov.uk.

Resident newsletter

We're launching a new online newsletter to provide an additional channel for residents to stay in touch with news and events. We will publish every two months to residents who have signed up to the service via the new website.

Climate Change

Since the last HDAPTC meeting:

- Solar Panel were installed in March 2023 on the Civic Offices and are now generating power.
- Electric vehicles charging points were also installed in March 2023 in the Civic Offices car park.
- Working on final details relating to the provision of electric vehicle charging points in our public car parks. Hope to be rolling out soon. The relevant Parish or Town Councils will be updated when there is more news.
- Countryside now have an electric van. Parking will hopefully receive one this week. Both replacing diesel vehicles.
- Thermal imaging cameras - purchased and trial running Feb/March 2023.
- LED lighting in car parks - procurement exercise underway - will be completed in coming months.
- We have appointed a new Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- Part of the wider Green Grid project
- Joint commission between Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council
- Workshops pre-Christmas
- Consultation to start w/c 12 June 2023 for 10 weeks

Planning (Development Management) staff

Leavers: Maxine Lewis and Peter Lee

New starters:

- Victoria Goldberg: Team Leader - 15 May
- Katherine Fitzherbert-Green: Team Leader - 30 May
- Pippa Moore: Team Leader - 4 July
- Paul Cross: Senior Tree Officer – 17 April
- Beth Griffin: Assistant Conservation Officer 24 April

Planning (Development Management) evening sessions

Next session is suggested for the week commencing 24 July 2023

All new starters will have begun, and got the 'feet under the table', and its week after planning committee.

Subjects could cover a variety of matters - but including meeting the new team. Any suggestions for topics would be welcome - please email:

stephanie.baker@hart.gov.uk

I believe Section 106 planning obligations came up previously, and is on the list for a future event.

Planning trees

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and works to TPO trees
- Works to trees in Conservation Areas
- Paul Cross started 17 April 2023 (yesterday)
- Apologise for the delay – we are working through the backlog, hope to have cleared the back log by end July.

Return of the Traffic Management Agency to Hampshire County Council

On the 31 March 2023 the Traffic Management Agency returned to Hampshire County Council.

This relates to some parking matters, and to infrastructure / traffic management matters. In summary:

Parking. Hart District Council remains responsible for the car parks owned by Hart District Council.

On street parking controls and enforcement is now the responsibility of Hampshire County Council.

Table & chairs / pavement licenses – Hart District Council

Broken / replacement road name signs – Hart District Council

Flooding / drainage matters – HCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Environment Agency is responsible. Hart District Council has a more limited role, especially focusing on a few schemes, coordination across authorities, and Fleet Pond (reservoir)

Road closure – utilities etc. – Hampshire County Council

Road closures – sporting events – Hampshire County Council

Road closures – events held under the Town Police Clauses Act, eg:

- Fleet Carnival
- Odiham Flavourfest
- Remembrance Parades – Fleet, Church Crookham, Yateley and Odiham
- Forces Day Parade Odiham
- Fleet Christmas Event
- Hartley Wintney Christmas event
- Odiham Carols in the Bury
- Odiham Extravaganza
- St Peters Nativity
- Yateley Christmas Market

- Hart District Council

Road works – Hampshire County Council

Salting and gritting – Hampshire County Council on highway land. Hart District Council on Hart land – e.g. our car parks.

Brown tourist signs - Hampshire County Council

Reminder: Elections and Voter ID

This year's Elections take place on 4 May 2023.

Key dates for the upcoming elections are as follows, including registering to vote and postal vote applications:

- *last day to register to vote was midnight 17 April 2023*
- *last day to apply for a postal vote, or change your absent voting arrangements was 5pm on 18 April 2023*
- receipt of proxy applications: 5pm on 25 April 2023
- last day to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate: 5pm on 25 April 2023
- publication of notice of poll and situation of polling stations: district and parish elections 25 April 2023
- appointment of poll and count agents: 26 April 2023
- first day to issue replacement lost postal ballot papers: 27 April 2023
- receipt of emergency proxy vote applications: 5pm 4 May 2023
- polling day: 7am until 10pm 4 May 2023
- Parish candidate Election Expenses to be returned: 2nd June 2023 (including Nil returns)

For more information, please see the [Voting and Elections section](#) of our website.

Anyone who is intending to vote in person at the elections will be required to produce photo ID such as a passport, driving licence, etc (the list is specified on the

Government's web site: <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>).
Otherwise, you'll have to show a 'Voter Authority Certificate'.

You can apply on-line through a government portal for a 'Voter Authority Certificate' if:

- you do not have accepted photo ID,
- you no longer look like the photo on your ID,
- the name on your photo ID is different to your name on the electoral register.

If the name on your photo ID is different, you can [register to vote](#) again or take a document with you to vote that proves that you have changed your name.

Tell us about your Coronation events

Events are taking place across the district to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May. If you are hosting a public event and you'd like to get the word out, please send it through to us at communications@hart.gov.uk to have it added to the [Coronation section of our website](#)

Homes for Ukraine

The Hart District Council (HDC) Homes for Ukraine initiative commenced in March 2022 due to the recent events in Europe and ongoing conflict. We started with a team of 2 people who have been employed on a full time basis, whose primary focus was to support both the 'local' hosts who volunteered to offer a temporarily home as well as the displaced Ukrainian families who arrived in the local area; this support can be varied and ranges from helping individuals find suitable employment, offering advice on the array of welfare issues, and even assist with all aspects of personal financial management and benefits.

Private renting assistance.

- We have 203 guest's total.
- Since last year we have financially assisted 33 families into private renting (there's more to do).

Team composition

We have a dedicated team who support our Ukrainian Community in HDC.

Services offered

- We provided one to one support,
- We have a team member who can assist in translation,
- We support families when searching for private accommodation / viewings,
- We liaise with local charities (eg Hart Voluntary Action),
- Support all hosts providing full guidance on the 'next steps',
- Liaise with Children's Services where applicable,

- We attend lettings / viewings in person with our guests (where applicable),
- Assist guest in the completion of all documentation (expenditure forms / utility bills etc),
- We liaise with all landlords to see the process complete.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

At the last meeting the Leader and Chief Executive provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

The Council has started drafting detailed project and cost plans for all of the approved projects, which Cabinet will consider in the Summer.

The Here for Hart Forum (including Parish and Town Councils) will be involved in the project planning phase for some of the **Community and Place** workstream. The Council will be in contact shortly with more details on this.

Questions

Q1: Meyrick Williams (WI):

- a) When will HDC be consulting on upgrading the current TAN on parking to become a SPD and part of the Local Plan?
- b) Could he provide an update on the 3 Planning enforcement issues that are current in Winchfield?

Q1a response:

Hart District Council is moving forward with the work on the Cycle and Car Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It is proposed to consult of the document from Friday 12 May 2023 for a period of 6 weeks.

At the same time the Council is proposing to consult on a further SPD on Viability Assessments in relation to planning decisions. That would also be consulted on for 6 weeks from Friday 12 May 2023.

This is also the same period when the new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan will be consulted upon.

Q1b response:

As a general point, in all enforcement activity it is important that the Council adopts the legal concept that the guilt of an accused person cannot be presumed and that they must be assumed to be innocent until proven otherwise. All enforcement investigations will be kept confidential.

I know that it can be very frustrating for Parish and Town Councils who wish to be informed what is happening in relation to an alleged breach of planning control, only to be informed that the Council is investigating it.

There are a number of investigations and actions - some we can report on, and some we cant as they are still under investigation. I have suggested to Mr Williams that we have a separate Teams call to discuss the detail.

Q2: Trish Monks (BH)

What are HDC doing to provide Traveller Transit sites? Town & Parish Councils are suffering the practical & financial burden of there being insufficient places for travellers to stop. More transit sites will give less excuse for illegal encampments and strengthen the powers of the police in moving them on.

Q2 response:

A transit site is defined as a site where occupiers have agreements to station a mobile home only for periods up to three or four months, so they are designed for longer term stays. There are a few in Hart district.

Transit provision is not the same as short-term 'stopping place' provision.

The matter which is raised relates to the lack of short term 'stopping' places. It is the absence of this form of provision which gives rise to the incursions on the sites identified by Ms Monks. It is here that travellers who cannot find temporary space then pitch up on any open land they can find.

This is not a Hart district issue - it's a much wider issues because gypsies and travellers don't follow administrative boundaries but simply move around an area looking for temporary site wherever they can be found. These travellers often have no link to the local area. They are simply passing through after attending an event in the locality such as a wedding or funeral.

If transit or temporary stopping sites are identified, they need to be in the right place to meet the needs of gypsies and travellers. They must be in places where they want to pitch up. The sites require significant investment in infrastructure, need water, toilets, waste disposal facilities which in turn requires a site management arrangement to be put in place. This will come at some cost to the community.

We are happy to work with Parish and Town Councils and the community to look to address the problem but without Parish or local community support experience shows that there is very little prospect of success.

The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2020) identified a need for traveller accommodation (in terms of permanent provision/pitches) but did not indicate a need for a new transit site in Hart district (in addition to four existing 'private' transit pitches).

You will be aware that the Council ran a call for sites to meet the need for permanent pitches, but no potentially suitable sites came forward.

There may be some joint working across Hampshire to bring forward a more coordinate approach to meet the needs of gypsies and travellers. However, in our area, we need to look more to our neighbours outside of Hampshire. We need to look at what provision is to be made along the Blackwater Valley otherwise if we simply look at Hampshire needs, we would not address the reality of the situation with our neighbours in Berkshire and Surrey where they too have significant unmet need which overflows cross boundary borders.

Neighbourhood Plans are an ideal vehicle to help identify local sites for sites, transit sites and short-term stopping place provision. To date, none of the NP in Hart have sought to address the issue.