

Present

Fairfield Parish Council (FPC) - Councillors BE Dack, VC Batten, C Bidwell and P Mitchinson
Fairfield Park Resident Association (FPRA) – Chris Titmus and Peter Nash
Fairfield Hall Residents Association (FHRA) – Linda Manktelow and Annette Smith
Fairfield Hall Directors (FHD) – Sharon Jones
Middlemarch Resident Company (MRC) – Gino Rosa

Apologies

Fairfield Parish Council (FPC) - Councillors P Daffarn, NP Hanks and G Smith
Fairfield Hall Residents Association (FHRA) – Leslie Pike
Fairfield Hall Directors (FHD) – Terry Glockler

Notes taken by

Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk).

1 Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1 Cllr Barrie Dack welcomed everyone and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Cllr Dack explained that the parish councillors present had no authority to make any decisions on behalf of FPC at this meeting but could take any suggestions to the next parish council meeting for a decision.

2 Agree whether to record minutes or notes

- 2.1 It was agreed to record notes.

3 Road signs

- 3.1 It was suggested to ask Central Bedfordshire Council to add a 'no through road' symbol next to Fairfield Park on the relevant white directional signs. **Action: FPC**
- 3.2 Central Bedfordshire Council need to cut back the trees that are obstructing the white directional sign before the roundabout when travelling from Stotfold. **Action: FPC**
- 3.3 Central Bedfordshire Council need to remove the Livesey signs. **Action: FPC**
- 3.4 It was suggested to ask Central Bedfordshire Council to change Stotfold to Fairfield on the appropriate directional signs and the welcome signs. **Action: FPC**

4 Inconsiderate actions of the builders involved in the school extension

- 4.1 It was reported that builders are driving too fast around Fairfield Park and have sometimes arrived at 6.30 am and parked up with the engine running. It was requested that FPC write to the contractors to ask for more consideration in a residential area. **Action: FPC**
- 4.2 Concern was expressed about the damage the dumper trucks were causing. It was confirmed that there is a 'make good' clause in the contactors.

5 Highway maintenance on adopted roads

- 5.1 Grass cutting – This is no longer the responsibility of Fairfield Redevelopments Ltd. Currently Fairfield Redevelopments Ltd arrange for it to be cut 40 times a year. Central Bedfordshire Council only cut the grass verges 16 times a year in other areas. FPC agreed to find out what Central Bedfordshire Council has agreed to do and what has been budgeted for. Everyone agreed that they wanted the adopted roads to be of the same standard as the unadopted roads. **Action: FPC**

5.2 Road gritting – Again no longer the responsibility of Fairfield Redevelopments Ltd who used to grit all roads as required. FPC to ask Central Bedfordshire Council what their grit policy is and if Dickens Boulevard and Bronte Avenue will be included in the list of roads to be gritted as both these roads are on the new bus route. **Action: FPC**

5.3 Tree maintenance – Trees alongside the adopted roads will need maintenance in the future. FPC to ask Central Bedfordshire Council if these will be maintained by them and if so how often. **Action: FPC**

6 **Dog and litter bins**

6.1 Dog bins – FPRA agreed to look into installing a dog bin on the corner of Russell Walk. FPC to speak to Central Bedfordshire Council about installing a dog bin on the edge of Kingsley Avenue and Icknield House. **Action: FPRA/FPC**

6.2 Litter bin – FPC to request CBC to install a litter bin by the bus stop with the shelter on Hitchin Road. **Action: FPC**

7 **Dangers from broken manhole covers**

7.1 FPC has asked Fairfield Cricket Club to repair these covers as it is believe they are on land that the cricket club is responsible for. FPC has also requested quotes to get the work done.

7.2 It was agreed that something should be done to prevent future damage to the covers. It was suggested investigating installing attractive rocks on the grass verge to stop lorries from reversing over the covers. These rocks would need to be high enough to hit the reverse bar of a lorry. **Action: FPC**

8 **Improvements to Fairfield Security**

8.1 Nuisance youths have been hanging around the urban park and have caused damage to residents' properties. There have been suggestions of drug use in the Urban Park and on the tennis courts. There has been incidents of stolen identities within the Hall. The police have been made aware of these incidents. The following suggestions were made on how security could be improved:-

- Neighbourhood Watch – Currently two areas in Fairfield Park. An article has been put in the latest edition of Fairfield Matters.
- Street Watch – This would require volunteers to patrol the streets in high visibility jackets. Volunteers would normally be expected to do two hours a month.
- Employing a security company to patrol Fairfield Park.
- CCTV – Would need to be installed by the owners of the land in question.
- FPC to enquire if Central Bedfordshire Council have a Community Safety Team who could give advice. **Action: FPC**

9 **Action being taken or to be taken by FPC to resolve many outstanding S106 issues.**

9.1 FPC has written to Livesey and Hotbed about outstanding issues.

- Livesey responded saying that the bulk of their Fairfield Park information was archived many years ago so would take them a while to respond. They did confirm that they had retained two parcels of land of Fairfield Park earmarked for possible future development.
- Hotbed had agreed to look into eight out of twelve pieces of land that FPC highlighted to them. The other four pieces Hotbed no longer own.

- 9.2 Fairfield Park is the first area in Central Bedfordshire with Section 106 agreement and mistakes were made. Maintenance agreements are virtually non-existent and there are still areas under dispute. FPC has spoken to Ward Member Councillor Brian Saunders. FPC to demand a meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council Officers and Councillors to pursue the next stages. **Action: FPC**

10 Action so far to obtain land for leisure activities

- 10.1 Allotments – FPC has written to Linden Homes, the owners of a small part of land in the parish of Arlesey but adjacent to Fairfield Park, to ask if they would consider selling or leasing part of this land to FPC for allotments. FPC has pointed out that the land in question sits outside the current development envelope in force until 2026.
- 10.2 Sports field – FPC acknowledge that it needs to be proactive and look for a sports field especially when considering the census figures on children under 10 years old. FPC has written to Letchworth Heritage regarding some land adjacent to the Two Chimneys Public House. However, Letchworth Heritage advised this land would not be suitable to use as a sports field due to the rabbit problem and are currently in discussions with someone who wants to put a plant nursery on it. FPC is pursuing other possible locations.
- 10.3 Skate board park – This will take at least three years to develop and by then the youths who have requested it will be too old to use it.

11 Strategic policy planning

- 11.1 It was acknowledged that the residents' expectation of the new parish council would be high. FPC was asked if it intended to have a plan and how it would prioritise what residents ask for.

FPC advised it has looked at Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans. The Neighbour Plan is a legal document and will cost more and take longer to produce. Whilst the Local Plan carries no legal status, the consultation with residents is the same process so FPC has agreed to start a Local Plan initially. A steering group would need to be set up and there would need to be a detailed questionnaire to residents covering parking, traffic, open spaces, facilities, activities etc.

12 Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

- 12.1 Currently in limbo. FPC is keeping up-to-date with developments.

13 Map and Sat Nav issues

- 13.1 Sat Nav currently has inaccurate maps of Fairfield Park so delivery vans, emergency vehicles and people unfamiliar with the area are being directed down 'no through roads'. FPC is asking the ordinance survey to get these maps amended.
- 13.2 FPC is looking to install a map board at the entrances to Fairfield Park. Exact locations are still be agreed but near Tesco is one suggestion location.
- 13.3 FPC is considering also printing some maps and having them available free of charge in the Community Hall.

14 Consultation with relevant Fairfield bodies on strategic issues

- 14.1 It was agreed to have quarterly meetings between resident companies and associated bodies.

15 Progression on the installation of high speed broadband to parts of the park

- Central Bedfordshire Council has budgeted £1.2 million for superfast broadband and also received a grant. Infinity is not yet available at all in Fairfield Park.
- Fairfield Park has three BT cabinets and only one box (21) is being upgraded.

16 Parking

16.1 Fifteen Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council recently visited Fairfield Park to investigate the parking problems and see what went wrong. David Bowie, Central Bedfordshire Council, has asked FPC to draw up a plan of suggested parking ignoring if the roads are adopted or not. Central Bedfordshire Council has agreed to look at the suggestions and price up any realistic ideas. Main problems are:-

- Tesco
- Dickens Boulevard
- Bronte Avenue
- Outside the school

Central Bedfordshire are already threatening to stop the new shoppers' bus due to the parking problems.

Some suggestions on solutions are:-

- Making Kipling Crescent one way. Question would be which way. Also, consideration would need to be given to the lorry that makes a food delivery to the school as currently it can't turn round anywhere so has to reverse back.
- Making a parking area at the end of Kipling Crescent to accommodate fifteen extra cars.
- Removal of trees in Dickens Boulevard to widen the road and put in a layby.
- Double yellow lines but it was acknowledged these would look unattractive.
- Parking permits.
- Tesco restricting parking to an hour

It was agreed for each organisation to discuss possible solutions in more detail themselves and feedback suggestions to FPC will then put together a detailed plan to Central Bedfordshire Council. Councillor Nathan Hanks (a transport consultant) has been monitoring this problem and has offered to put together a proper plan. **Action: ALL**

17 Faulty Street Lamps

17.1 Faulty street lamps can be reported to Central Bedfordshire Council via their website.

18 Date of Next Meeting

18.1 The next joint meeting will be January 2014.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.