

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 Edition

Article 1 – Hello Spring

Councillor Bob Schofield looks to the year ahead.

Welcome to our spring newsletter. We are looking forward to the year ahead and new initiatives in 2024. We hope you like the new format of our newsletter. Town Talk has served us well, but it is time for a fresh presentation. We will also be freshening up our website to make it more accessible and make it easier to find the information you need. We will welcome your feedback.

Hopefully you all enjoyed the Coronation celebrations last year. It was fabulous to see the number of you who turned out. In an aim to maintain this sense of community we are hoping to trial a new event this year – a music festival on The Views. It is in the early stages of planning, and is subject to securing funding, but we hope it will appeal to all tastes and ages.

Fleet Town Council is always eager to hear from residents and we hope to hear from you over the course of this year. We have taken a monthly stall at Fleet Saturday Market, to chat to anyone who wishes to come along. On 18th March we will be holding our Annual Residents' Meeting which we trust will be informative and give you the opportunity to raise any issues of concern or interest. Even if it is a matter that we cannot deal with directly we will either point you in the right direction or take up the issue on your behalf with the appropriate authority.

We also hope you will join us for the launch of our Greening Fleet initiative on 9 March, at The Views. And finally, fellow Fleet Town Councillors have set out the primary values of the Council listed below:

- We conduct our business in an apolitical way.
- We operate collectively.
- We communicate effectively and listen.
- We care for the environment.
- We are financially responsible.
- We are inclusive, act with integrity and are transparent.

The projects we have lined up this year are a demonstration of our commitment to these values.

Best wishes, Bob Chairman, Fleet Town Council

Article 2 – Annual Residents’ Meeting

The Annual Residents’ Meeting will be held on the 18th March 2024, at 7pm, at The Harlington Fleet.

Fleet Town Council extends a warm invitation for you to attend this year’s Annual Residents’ Meeting, where the Council will share its plans, including our Vision for Fleet, aspirations for The Harlington and an update on Greening Fleet. As in previous years we have arranged for representatives from some of our community partners to attend, so residents can hear first-hand from these important organisations and ask questions.

We look forward to meeting the many regular attendees and seeing new faces too. If you are unable to attend, copies of the presentation will be available on our website, www.fleet-tc.gov.uk after the event.

Article 3 – Budget and Precept 2024/2025

Band D Precept is £123.92 per year or £2.38 per week.

Budget planning for the next financial year has been challenging due to the impact of high inflation and the financial pressure from contractual price increases, including maintenance, the cost of utilities and staffing.

Careful money management and ensuring the best value for residents, means we are able to continue offering our full range of services to meet our vision for the town, and plan for the future.

Consequently, at the Council meeting in January 2024, the Council agreed that the precept will increase for the coming year by 13 pence per week for a Band D household. This represents excellent value for money for the range of public services, leisure and recreation facilities we provide for our residents.

Please see a summary of our expenditure and income for next year below. The full budget can be viewed on the Council’s website.

Expenditure for 2024/2025 is listed below:

- Figure for Service Delivery is £1.17 million which includes staffing, IT, Harlington events, building costs and compliance.
- Figure for Harlington Development transformation project is £439,000.
- Figure for Parks and Open Spaces is £428,000 which includes grounds maintenance, play areas, cemetery, sports facilities, community buildings and tree works.
- Figure for Town Centre Support and Civic Activities is £69,000 which includes Christmas lights, floral displays, community and civic event support, eco-projects & public information.

- Figure for Community and Youth Support is £53,000 which includes grants to support community initiatives and supporting local services that benefit the youth, the vulnerable & the environment.

Income for 2024/2025 is listed below:

- £1.34million will come from the precept which equates to 62% of budget expenditure.
- £672,000 will come from Harlington sales, Council fees and charges.
- £77,000 will come from other sources.
- £70,000 will be used from reserves.

Article 4 – Fleet Town Council’s Vision for Fleet

Fleet Town Council’s Vision statement is: “A welcoming, sustainable, inclusive and environmentally ambitious town, looking to the future with a strong, healthy, active and diverse community, which responds positively to change.”

The Council agreed its Vision in October 2023 and will deliver this through the following listed items:

- Supporting our young people
- Providing ambitious opportunities for leisure, culture and wellbeing
- Promoting a safer environment for residents and businesses
- Developing engagement and information sharing
- Supporting our vulnerable and elderly
- Being environmentally conscious and promoting green initiatives
- Delivering strong governance effectiveness and improved facilities
- Generating wider social value for the town through partnerships

Article 5 – 5 ways to enjoy Fleet this spring

1. Take up tennis. Book a court or become a member at Calthorpe Park on www.calthorpeparktennis.com
2. Pack up a picnic and head to a park... and let your little ones enjoy the play equipment at Basingbourne, Calthorpe or Ancells Farm Park.
3. Love where you live and volunteer at our Action Day in May, or at Fleet’s new Repair Cafe.
4. Get next to nature by finding somewhere new and peaceful to walk in our green spaces: try the woods at Oakley Park or Basingbourne.
5. Keep an eye out for Fleet’s floral displays. Our town planters will soon be full of buds.

Article 6 – Greening Fleet

Fleet Town Council has embarked on an exciting new project, that aims to encourage and inspire the local community to come together to create a more sustainable town.

The Greening Fleet Launch event will be held on the 9th March at The Views from 10am to 1pm.

Councillor Kate Cottrell says “We’ve been working hard making plans for Greening Fleet, and now, to help everyone get involved we have planned a Launch Event on 9 March at The Views.

There will be interactive activities for the entire family as well as educational stands which will highlight our fabulous local green spaces and groups. We will have hints and tips to help you to accomplish your Challenge Cards which will contribute to our entire town’s CO2 saving and will set you on a path to lowering your bills.

Furthermore, you will be able to find out how and when to get involved in this year’s events which you can pick and choose at your will.

We would love for you, your friends and family to be involved in our local town, in our environment, and in Greening Fleet, and we hope to see you there. Together everyone achieves more!

For more information see our website: www.fleet-tc.gov.uk or email info@fleet-tc.gov.uk.”

Article 6a - Rise to the Challenge

We’re inviting everyone to take part in the Greening Fleet project - and with the Challenge Card it’s so easy. You will have received your Challenge Card with this newsletter.

We are asking Fleet residents to commit to three of the challenges listed on the card, then display the card in your street-facing window to show the town you’ve joined in the challenge. We will be out counting cards 14th to 19th April, and we really hope to see yours!

Article 7 – Greener Heat for The Harlington

Fleet Town Council has worked in close partnership with Hart District Council on their application for a grant to install an Air Source Heat Pump at The Harlington. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme has been set up by the Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to enable the public sector to reduce carbon, as well as making buildings more comfortable and cheaper to heat. We await the outcome of the application, due early March 2024.

Article 8 – Fleet’s Own Repair Café

Fleet is getting its very own Repair Café, offering a space for the community to bring in items for repair instead of discarding them. Facilitated and supported by Fleet Town Council, the first Repair Café session is on Saturday 6th April at 10am at The Harlington, Fleet.

A huge thank you to the numerous volunteers and Cllr Kate Cottrell, whose combined efforts have made this project possible. Look out on social media and the Town Council website for future Café dates.

Article 8a - Impact Hart

Are you interested in finding out how you can help fight climate change locally? Visit Impact Hart, a new website specifically aimed at Hart's local community to help tackle climate change and other key environmental topics. Visit www.impacthart.co.uk.

Article 9 – Thinking back to Fleet Council Highlights in 2023

Article 9a - Crowning glory for Fleet

The Coronation was surely the jewel in the crown of Fleet’s community events in 2023, with a hugely attended high-street parade, car show and fair at Calthorpe Park. There was a real party atmosphere as the town gathered for bands and entertainment all weekend, topped off with beacon lighting and spectacular fireworks.

Article 9b - Blooming Lovely

We hope you enjoyed Fleet’s bee-friendly floral displays in 2023. Designed to add a glorious touch of colour and nature to the Fleet shopping experience, the 100 hanging baskets and 26 street planters are planted in June and maintained until October by Fleet Town Council’s specialist contractor.

Article 9c - A cracking Christmas Lunch

For the eighth year running, Fleet Town Council held a free Christmas Day Lunch for those in Fleet, Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham who would otherwise have

spent Christmas Day alone. Once again, the event was a huge success and around 60 people, both guests and volunteers, participated on the day.

Huge thanks to the volunteers that helped on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - it was very much appreciated!

Thank you to those who made it possible by donating money, time or services - The Harlington, CH Cleaning Services, Elvetham Heath Parish Council, Church Crookham Parish Council and several members of the public. A special thank you to Elvetham Heath Parish Council for allowing us to use the Community Centre for the Christmas Eve food preparations.

Article 9d - Christmas High-lights

Of all the projects Fleet Town Council manage throughout the year, the Fleet Christmas lights and tree in Gurkha Square must be one of our favourites, adding a festive sparkle to the town centre. Fleet's Christmas tree provided the perfect backdrop to the choirs singing in Gurkha Square as part of Fleet Town Council's contribution to Fleet Christmas Festival on 22 November. We were so pleased to receive lovely feedback from residents about this year's Christmas lights.

Article 9e - Remembrance Sunday

It is always an honour to play a part in Fleet's Act of Remembrance each November, and 2023 was no exception. After the parade, and wreath laying by local dignitaries and groups in Gurkha Square, we were happy to welcome around 300 people who came to The Harlington, where we served refreshments.

Article 10 – The Harlington Update

Councillor Bob Schofield says " We are keeping our fingers crossed that 2024 is the year that Fleet Town Council secures a long-term lease over The Harlington, meaning we can start essential renovation work to the building and, importantly, increase its flexibility of use. The first priority is to bring it up to present day building standards with new mechanical and electrical systems and adding insulation to reduce its carbon footprint.

As a new Harlington building is now financially out of reach, we will do what we can to significantly improve the current building and your experience of using it."

Article 11 – Edenbrook Play Areas revamped

Fleet Town Council is renovating the two play areas we are responsible for in Edenbrook, and we would love to get your input to make sure we're providing what the community really wants.

The link to the survey is below however should you need an accessible version please call us on 01252 625246 or email info@fleet-tc.gov.uk.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yrfwRWbuYkCuli2Uv9L2g5DupKtHJ-pBp16q6HO5Q9VUMFBNWU5ZMks5QVM5UUISQTRaWThKRExGVy4u>

Article 12 – Action Day

Spring into action and join us at our Fleet Town Council Action Day on the 18th May.

To support our local community and keep Fleet looking its best, we are inviting local residents to volunteer at our annual Action Day. Meeting outside The Harlington at 9.30am, activities will include painting railings, refurbishing benches, and litter-picking. For details call 01252 625246 or email info@fleet-tc.gov.uk.

Article 13 – Looking forward to exciting events and initiatives in 2024

Fleet's first music festival.

Cllr Sue Tilley says " We are in the early stages of planning something completely new for 2024 – Music On The Views – Fleet's first ever music festival!

Subject to securing funding, Music on the Views will take place on The Views on Sunday, 25th August 2024, and we're hoping it will be a fabulous one-day family event of music and entertainment.

A small, local volunteer group has joined together, in partnership with Fleet Town Council, to plan and promote the event, so look out for more information in the coming months and keep everything crossed we can secure sufficient funding for the event to go ahead. You heard it here first!"

Article 14 – New-look for our websites

We're excited to announce that we will be launching new websites for Fleet Town Council and The Harlington in late spring. Both sites will be mobile friendly and meet accessibility standards.

Town Council information will be much easier to find, and our news feature and community calendar will keep you up to date. The Harlington has seen its ticket sales shift predominantly online over the last four years, and a more responsive, user-friendly website will be more accessible for all customers.

Once we launch the new sites some of the web links in this newsletter may no longer work. Don't worry though, the main domain will remain the same as www.fleet-tc.gov.uk for Fleet Town Council and www.theharlington.co.uk for The Harlington.

Article 15 – Fleet Phoenix: Awards for young people in Hart

After the success of the Hart Youth Achievement Awards in 2023, Fleet Phoenix are again teaming up with local organisations to host the 2024 awards in October. The young people of Hart deserve to be recognised for their hard work and achievements in areas such as courage, volunteering, fundraising and more and we are hoping for even more nominations this year.

Nominations will open in mid-April, so please keep an eye on social media and emails. To sign up to emails, please visit www.fleetphoenix.co.uk.

Article 16 – Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation

Hampshire County Council want your views on ideas for changes to some local services. You can have your say up until the 31st March 2024. Visit www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation to have your say.

Article 17 – Which Council to contact

Hampshire County Council are responsible for the following list:

- Adult and Childrens Services
- Bus permits
- Blue badges
- Education
- Highways and pavements
- Libraries
- Street lighting
- Trading Standards

- Transport
- Waste and recycling

Hampshire County Council can be contacted on telephone 03005551375 or online at www.hants.gov.uk.

Hart District Council are responsible for the following list:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Bin collections
- Fly tipping & street cleaning
- Car parks and parking fines
- Council Tax
- Electoral registration
- Environmental Health
- Hart Leisure Centre
- Housing
- Planning consent and building control

Hart District Council can be contacted on telephone 01252 622122 or online at www.hart.gov.uk.

Fleet Town Council are responsible for the following list:

- Ancells Farm Community Centre
- Christmas lights
- Community grants
- Fleet Cemetery and burials
- Floral displays
- The Harlington events and hire
- Neighbourhood planning and statutory planning consultee
- Playgrounds, parks, pitches, courts and pavilions at: Ancells Farm, Basingbourne, Calthorpe, Oakley, Edenbrook and The Views

Fleet Town Council can be contacted on telephone 01252 625246 or online at www.fleet-tc.gov.uk.

Article 18 – Key Dates

Key dates for Fleet Town Council activities are listed below:

- 9th March for the Greening Fleet Launch Event
- 18th March for the Annual Residents' Meeting
- 6th April for the Repair Café launch

- 14th to 19th April Display your Greening Fleet challenge card on these days
- 18th May for the Action Day starting at 9.30am - all are welcome
- 25th August for the Music on The Views

For Town Council meeting dates visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk.

Article 19 – Contact us

Details of your Town Council Chairmen below:

- Cllr Bob Schofield is the Council Chairman. He is also the Development Control Chairman. He can be contacted on telephone 01252 621373 or email bob.schofield@fleet-tc.gov.uk
- Cllr Paul Einchcomb is the Vice Chairman of the Council. He is also the RLA Committee Chairman. He can be contacted on telephone 01252 662720 or email paul.einchcomb@fleet-tc.gov.uk
- Cllr Leslie Holt is the Policy & Finance Committee Chairman. He can be contacted on telephone 01252 624814 or email leslie.holt@fleet-tc.gov.uk
- Cllr George Woods is the Establishment Committee Chairman. He can be contacted on telephone 07966 138416 or email george.woods@fleet-tc.gov.uk

For the full listing of your Town Councillors by Ward visit or website www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

Article 20 – How to find Fleet Town Council

Our address is: Fleet Town Council, The Harlington, 236 Fleet Road, Fleet, GU51 4BY.

- You can find Fleet Town Council on Facebook by searching 'Fleet Town Council'.
- You can find Fleet Town Council on Instagram with the username handle [@fleettowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/fleettowncouncil)
- You can find Fleet Town Council on Twitter with the username handle [@FleetCouncil](https://twitter.com/FleetCouncil)

Article 21 – Upcoming Shows and Courses and Classes at The Harlington

The Harlington is home to, and supports a wide variety of organisations, activities and events for the benefit of the Community.

Due to the practicality of making the courses and classes listings accessible these have not been included in this version however information on courses and classes at The Harlington can be found at www.theharlington.co.uk/Courses_and_Classes or call 01252 811009.

Due to the practicality of making the events listings accessible these have not been included in this version however information on shows and events at The Harlington can be found at www.theharlington.co.uk/Whats_On or call 01252 811009.

Article 21a - Harlington Venue Hire

For information on venue hire please call 01252 811009. The Harlington has different rooms for a range of uses including: Meetings, Conferences, Productions, Classes, Rehearsals, Training Networking, Private parties, Recording, Promotional shoots.

Facilities include:

- Wi-Fi
- Licensed bars
- Stage sound & lighting Production assistance - our technical team can work with you to create a bespoke package to make your event run to plan
- Up to 7 camera recording/live streaming system
- Technical support
- Entertainment booking service
- Projection
- Full size cinema screen
- Helpful & friendly team

Article 21b - Harlington Social Media

- You can find The Harlington on Facebook by searching 'the harlington'
- You can find The Harlington on Instagram with the username handle @harlingtonfleet
- You can find us The Harlington Twitter with the username handle @theharlington

Photo Credits

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