

October 2020



# TOWNTALK

The newsletter from Fleet Town Council

## New Calthorpe Park Play Area

The new play area at Calthorpe Park is now officially open to the public.

The long awaited new playground in Calthorpe Park is now open and the local young people are giving a “big thumbs” up to the four play zones.

The play equipment and activities are suitable for all age ranges and abilities from toddlers to teenagers and include at least two pieces of



Pictured: The Mega Fort

accessible equipment in each area. This new facility features a mega fort, a toddler and under 8’s area, a woodland adventure zone and activities for the older youngsters which includes table tennis and a goal and kick wall. Litter bins, picnic benches and seating have been sited close to new pathways linking the play zones together.

Fleet Town Council is very keen to promote young people’s health and well-being. The installation of this much needed play and recreation equipment by the Town Council will provide facilities that support these aims and encourage a lifelong enjoyment of the outdoors and visitors are being encouraged to walk or cycle to the park.

Cllr Paul Eincomb, Chairman of the RLA Committee said:

“This project is another part of a Fleet Town Council programme of bringing new and improved outdoor recreation play to residents. Previously, Calthorpe was the only park serving a very large residential area without any formal children’s activities — it also now accommodates disabled play. On behalf of the Council I’d like to thank all the staff involved in making this project possible, in particular our Facilities & Open Spaces Manager, as well as all the local residents for their patience and understanding whilst the works took place.”

It is important to note that the money spent on the new play area came from what is known as S106 funding (i.e. funding provided by housing development companies to provide community and leisure facilities) and **not** from the precept that the Town Council collects.

If you have any queries or feedback about the new play area please Email: [info@fleet-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@fleet-tc.gov.uk) or contact us on the details listed below.

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## Follow us on Social Media ...



## NEED HELP DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

The Hart Response Hub has been set up in partnership with Hart District Council, Hart Voluntary Action and Hampshire County Council to provide assistance to Hart residents during this pandemic. For help with shopping, prescriptions or for a friendly phone call, phone 0333 370 4000. The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm.

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Photography: David Fisher — Aldershot, Fleet & Farnham Camera Club

The new playground at Calthorpe park pictured consists of 4 play zones, interlinking paths, safety surfaces, accessible equipment and disabled access.



Pictured: Children's Play Area

### Fleet High Street Pedestrianisation

As of the 24th August, a temporary closure of Fleet Road came into effect between Church Road and Victoria Road to ensure residents and visitors can continue to safely shop in the town center while maintaining social distancing. The move also enabled restaurants/cafes to use the pavement for additional seating and allow more room for shoppers to pass and queue as necessary to enter shops, subject to a tables and chairs license. The measures were implemented by Hart District Council in response to Government guidance on public health during the pandemic.

At Hart District Council's meeting on the 24th September, a motion was put forwards to reverse the pedestrianisation of the high street stating that despite good intentions "The negative impact on residents particularly those living near the closure, of traffic congestion and the resulting pollution has not been outweighed by any appreciable benefits to businesses." The motion was rejected, deciding to continue the trial for at least another month to collect more meaningful data on the impacts of the scheme and so the road closures will remain in effect for now. Those with comments about how the scheme can be improved can Email: [FleetRoad@Hart.gov.uk](mailto:FleetRoad@Hart.gov.uk)



### Fleet Christmas Festival

Sadly, the Christmas Festivities cannot go ahead in their normal format, but despite the restrictions in place to stop the spread of COVID19, the Town Council is currently investigating ways of bringing festive cheer and enjoyment to the local community.

The Council is keen to include children, choirs and performers in a safe and imaginative way. One option being considered is a virtual Christmas that could involve live-streaming the Switching-on of the Christmas lights and performances from local choirs/groups. However, planning is in the early stages and subject to change but we do know that the schools within Fleet are keen to be part of this year's annual Fleet Christmas Festivities. As soon as more details are available, these will be listed on the Fleet Town Council website and social media (details on page 1) nearer the time.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Fleet Town Council Meetings				
A full list of Fleet Town Council meeting dates is available at <a href="http://www.fleet-tc.gov.uk">www.fleet-tc.gov.uk</a>				
October	November	December	January	February
7 - Council	4 - Council	2 - Council	6 - Council	3 - Council
12 - Planning	9 - Planning	7 - Planning	11 - Planning	8 - Planning
19 - Policy & Finance	23 - Planning	16 - RLA	25 - Planning	17 - Policy & Finance
26 - Planning		21 - Planning		22 - Planning

### Looking for Christmas present ideas?

Why not gift a Tennis membership? With membership you can play Tennis as much as you like in Calthorpe Park for just £41 per year! The membership fee entitles each household to a unique 4 digit code that can be used to access the Courts after making a reservation online! To purchase membership visit [www.calthorpeparktennis.com](http://www.calthorpeparktennis.com) and set up an account or if it's a gift for a friend/family feel free to email us for help setting up an account ([info@fleet-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@fleet-tc.gov.uk))



### Fleet Tennis League

The LTA, in partnership with Local Tennis Leagues also run a Tennis League in Fleet. The league involve adults of similar abilities playing friendly singles matches when and where it suits them. Results are submitted online and players can move into a different box in the league to play new players in the next round. [www.localtennisleagues.com/fleet](http://www.localtennisleagues.com/fleet)



### South & South East in Bloom Awards



The 2020 Awards were this year conducted remotely with information on improvements made since the 2019 competition sent to the judges and scores based on this information and last year's results.

We are pleased to announce the following awards:

- Small Cemetery - Fleet Cemetery, Gold
- Small Conservation - Basingbourne Park, Gold and Oakley Park, Silver Gilt
- Small Park - Basingbourne Park, Gold and Oakley Park, Silver Gilt
- Large Park - Calthorpe Park, Gold. An improvement on last year's Silver Gilt!
- The Friends of Basingbourne Park were again awarded the highest level, "Outstanding" in the 'It's your Neighbourhood' category and Gold in the 'Our Community' category

We'd like to say a massive thank you to the Friends of Groups and to our grounds maintenance team for all their hard work.



### New Councillor

At the Full Council Meeting on the 2nd September, Ruth Hill was co-opted onto the Council to fill a vacancy in the Fleet Central Ward. For details of your local Councillors visit our website, [www.fleet-tc.gov.uk](http://www.fleet-tc.gov.uk) or see page 6.

### Christmas Day Lunch 2020

Fleet Town Council in collaboration with Churches Together (Fleet) usually organise a free Christmas Day Lunch for those in Fleet & Church Crookham who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. However given the COVID-19 situation we are currently unsure if this event will be able to go ahead and if so in what format.

If you would be interested in attending the event, plans permitting, please contact us so we can add you to a list to be kept up to date.

Please contact - Email: [info@fleet-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@fleet-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01252 625246/07584072340



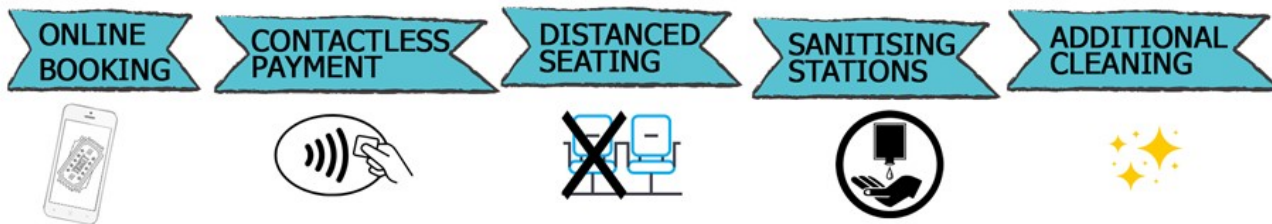
Photo Credit: Chris Martin

**THE HARLINGTON**

## A VENUE UPDATE

We're COVID-19 secure!

**THE HARLINGTON**



We've missed you and can't wait to welcome you back very soon!

The team have been working hard to take advantage of the enforced closure period in order to carry out essential maintenance work, which would have been difficult to complete during "open season".

We're now carrying out all necessary work and planning to ensure the venue is completely Covid safe, whilst also offering the very best live experience we can give you. The safety of our visitors and staff is our number one concern, and we have plans in place to be able to give you a great experience in a safe environment.

Whilst we've spent much time moving shows into next year and contacting customers personally, we've also been doing a lot behind the scenes to put together a smaller programme of events that we can offer to a socially distanced audience. So we will still be bringing you a Covid friendly programme of music, comedy and film throughout the rest of this year. Please keep your eyes on the website for updates.

We tested the water throughout August with some acoustic shows in the park and received some incredible feedback, so we're delighted that we should be able to bring some shows safely inside the venue very soon. We will also be offering live streams of some events for those who are unable to venture out just yet.

Please help to support your local venue and all of those working in the industry, who have been unable to work for so long. We need to keep our live events industry going, or we risk losing it forever. You've been so supportive of us over the years and we're so excited to be able to see some of your faces again!

### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Here's how we're ensuring your visit is safe:

- The venue is open for pre-booked classes and events only
- Clear signage and one-way systems
- Dedicated entry and exit points
- Regular and thorough cleaning
- Hand sanitizer stations
- Socially distanced seating plans with reduced capacity
- Dedicated pre-booked tables for every group
- Advanced ticket sales only. No door sales
- Requesting contactless payment where possible
- Table service
- Face coverings must be worn when not seated at your designated table
- Passive air handling system, drawing outside air and regularly circulating

[www.theharlington.co.uk](http://www.theharlington.co.uk)



@harlington.fleet



@theharlingtonfleet



@TheHarlington

### Socially Distanced Sundays

Throughout August, The Harlington held a series of acoustic musical events on Sunday afternoons in The Views. These were free community events where visitors had to book a socially distanced bubble in advance and participate in track and trace. These events proved to be a great community success whilst supporting grass roots music and we hope to be able to do them again next year!



### Gurkha Square Market

Come along and visit the regular weekly Fleet Market in Gurkha Square, Fleet, Saturday's, any time between 9am and 3pm and check out the fabulous variety of stalls. The organisers are keen to make visitors to the market feel safe and are following government guidance on social distancing! Details of stalls are posted on our Facebook page — see page 1 for details.

### Flats the size of Garden Sheds

You may have seen the headlines in some of the national press about the scandal of miniature flats being developed in office conversions under the Permitted Development Rights (PDR) to convert commercial office space to residential dwellings. We witnessed many flat conversions on the Ancells Farm Business Park that were smaller than the recommended national minimum gross internal floor area; that is 39 square metres for a one bedroom, one person flat. One conversion, not in Fleet, was reported to be providing flats the size of a car parking space; 2.4 x 4.8 square metres, equals 9.6 square metres or in old money 103 square feet, so a room 10 feet by 10 feet for your living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and supposedly some storage space.

We (that is the Planning, Development and Control Committee) said it would never happen in Fleet. Well it has. Two office conversions have been submitted under the Permitted Development Rights close to the centre of Fleet. The worst is proposing to squeeze 6 flats into a total floor area of just over 50 square metres. That is an average of 8 square metres per flat and two are decidedly smaller than average. Can we object to the development; no we can't because PDR allows the developer to convert without any consideration or restraint on the size of development. The amazing thing is, these flats are included in the national statistics of the number of new dwellings being provided each year.

The Committee had hoped that post Covid design standards would recognize the need for accessible and hopefully some personal open space. Being locked down in a flat barely the size of a garden shed is not good for anyone's health. — *Cllr Schofield*

### The Harlington Auditorium

What seems like an age, but then time has lost some meaning during this Covid lock down, the maintenance work carried out in the roof void above the suspended ceiling in the main Harlington auditorium has been completed and the forest of scaffolding (*pictured right*) is being removed.

While there was good access to the ceiling space, we have taken the opportunity to replace all the ceiling lighting with LEDs. This greatly improves the lighting quality and puts a tick in a box in our initiative of moving towards being a zero carbon Council.



The opportunity has been taken to carry out extensive maintenance work and some good house keeping like reorganising the electrical controls to the stage area which would otherwise have disrupted normal operations of the facility. Unfortunately, when visitors return to the main auditorium there will be very little evidence of all the work that has gone on, except they may notice the bright new ceiling tiles.

We take this opportunity to thank the Town Council Officers and the multitude of different contractors who have been working on the site every day throughout the shutdown period and have coped with the restrictions placed on them by the Covid Regulations, including some ingenious ways of maintaining social distancing in difficult working spaces and at temperatures over 30 degrees.

It will be a great relief to get back to some sense of normality! — *Cllr Schofield*

## Your Councillors

### Ancells Ward

Cllr George Woods Tel: 07966138416  
george.woods@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Jonathan Wright Tel: 07909797167  
jonathan.wright@fleet-tc.gov.uk

### Calthorpe Ward

Cllr Grahame Chenery Tel: 01252 617033  
grahame.chenery@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Leslie Holt Tel: 01252 624814  
leslie.holt@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sue Tilley Tel: 01252 668848  
sue.tilley@fleet-tc.gov.uk

### Courtmoor Ward

Cllr Paul Einchcomb Tel: 01252 662720  
paul.einchcomb@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Oliver Tel: 01252 679235  
alan.oliver@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sharyn Wheale Tel: 01252 616080  
sharyn.wheale@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Ruth Harrison Tel: 07817211012  
ruth.harrison@fleet-tc.gov.uk

### Fleet Central Ward

Cllr Alan Hope Tel: 07946292557  
alan.hope@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Robinson Tel: 01252 614590  
richard.robinson@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Glyn Carpenter Tel: 07706225490  
glyn.carpenter@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Ruth Hill Tel: 07885968759  
ruth.hill@fleet-tc.gov.uk

### Pondtail Ward

Cllr Kathy Jasper Tel: 01252 629667  
kathy.jasper@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Dai Pierce Tel: 01252 621408  
dai.pierce@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Bob Schofield Tel: 01252 621373  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
bob.schofield@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Wildsmith Tel: 07501439660  
peter.wildsmith@fleet-tc.gov.uk



## What are the different Councils responsible for?

### Fleet Town Council

- Ancells Farm Community Centre
- Cemeteries and Burials
- Christmas Lights
- Floral Displays
- Grants
- The Harlington
- The Harlington Coffee Shop
- Parks & Play Equipment at: Ancells Farm, Basingbourne, Calthorpe, Oakley Park, Edenbrook & The Views
- Pavilions at: Ancells Farm, Calthorpe, Basingbourne and Oakley Park
- Planning Application Consultations
- Annual Residents' Meeting
- Skate Park at The Views
- Tennis Courts in Calthorpe Park
- War Memorial
- Football Pitches
- Notice Boards

### Hart District Council

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Building Control
- CCTV
- Car Parks and Fines
- Council Tax Enquiries
- Electoral Registration
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Housing / Homelessness
- Fly Tipping
- Licensing
- Noise Pollution
- Pest Control
- Planning
- Recycling / Refuse / Special Collections
- Street Cleaning / Litter
- Taxi / Private Hire Licensing

### Hampshire County Council

- Bus Permits
- Blue Badges
- Education
- Pre-school, Infant, Junior, Secondary, Further, Higher and Adult
- Environment
- Highways and Footways
- Libraries
- Minerals
- Social Services—Adult/Children
- Street Lighting
- Trading Standards
- Transport
- Waste Disposal

## Useful Telephone Numbers ...

Ancells Com Centre	07702 834701	Frimley Park Hospital	01276 604604
Basingstoke Hospital	01256 473202	<b>The Harlington</b>	<b>01252 811009</b>
Birth/Death/Marriage Reg	0300 555 1392	Hart District Council	01252 622122
Bus Permits	0300 555 1376	Hart Leisure Centre	01252 629879
Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 111 306	Hart Shopping Centre	01252 811834
Council Tax	01252 774444	Hart Voluntary Action	01252 815652
Electoral Registration	01252 774077	Library	0300 555 1387
Fleet Cemetery	01252 625246/ 07880 722941	MP –	
Fleet Link Bus Service	01252 518090	Ranil Jayawardena	01256 702468
<b>Fleet Town Council</b>	<b>01252 625246</b>	Police	101
Hants County Council	0300 555 1375	Refuse	01252 622122
		Hart Response Hub	0333 370 4000