



TOWNTALK

The newsletter from Fleet Town Council

Devolution — What services do you Value?

The National Association of Local Councils has recently published an interesting paper entitled "Local Service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support Parish and Town Councils." Why are County and District Councils looking to devolve services to Town and Parish Councils? Fairly obviously, this is currently being driven by those higher tier councils looking to minimize costs. Some local Town and Parish Councils are already seeking to take over some local services because they feel that service is not being delivered adequately or because they feel they can do it better and their residents would appreciate the improved service.

One example is Chippenham Council which has elected to take on road sweeping. This has involved purchasing a 17-tonne road sweeper, a smaller tyred sweeper, pick up trucks and 10 additional staff. All this had to be paid for out of the Council's precept which has meant a fairly dramatic 40% rise in the Band D local council tax to £270.44 per annum, but residents are now receiving a much-valued service and cleaner neighbourhood.

The position is that Town and Parish Councils are not restricted in how much the precept can be increased. The philosophy is, if local residents want and value a service, then they have the option to pay for it...

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Welcome to our new Councillors

At the Full Council Meeting on the 28th July Xiayou (Roy) Fang & Ben Willcocks were co-opted onto the Council to fill vacancies in the Courtmoor and Pondtail Wards. At Council on the 8th September Kumar Kuntikanamata 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 or see page 8.



Roy Fang



Ben Willcocks



Kumar Kuntikanamata

Action Day - come & join in!

**Saturday 23rd October, at Calthorpe Park
9.30 am —12.30 noon. Meeting at the pavilion next to the Tennis Courts.**



Action Day 2019

The main activity will be planting some of the Crocus bulbs that were kindly donated by the Fleet Rotary Club to go into Parks/Open Spaces around Fleet. Other jobs may include: painting the pavilion door and litter picking. All equipment and materials provided. If you are interested in taking part or require more info please Email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or Tel: 01252 625246



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Follow us on Social Media ...



@FleetCouncil



Fleet Town
Council



@
fleettowncouncil



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Fleet Town Council Meetings

A full list of Fleet Town Council meeting dates is available at www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

October	November	December	January	February
6 - Council	3 - Council	1 - Council	5 - Council	2 - Council
11 - Planning	8 - Planning	6 - Planning	10 - Planning	7 - Planning
20 - Policy & Finance	22 - Planning	8 - RLA	12 - Establishment	16 - Policy & Finance
25 - Planning		20 - Planning	24 - Planning	21 - Planning

Is your front garden affecting Climate Change?

There was an interesting but quite disturbing article in the Sunday Times at the end of August that said there was evidence that 12 square miles of front gardens in our capital were under paving, the equivalent of 22 Hyde Parks. As, quite rightly stated by a member of the London Assembly, "had a real park been lost there would be a public outcry."

Can you imagine the local public reaction had we put forward a proposal to concrete over Oakley Park? Well, just like London we are seeing front gardens across Fleet put under paving blocks or bonded aggregate. There is a Neighbourhood Plan Policy that calls for 50% of front gardens to be maintained as soft landscaping, partly to maintain local character and minimize flood risk but, more importantly, to protect biodiversity and reduce the loss of carbon absorbing green vegetation.



The article in the Times was focused on the impact of vehicles having to be parked on front gardens to facilitate the charging of electric vehicles. We don't have to wait for the advent of more electric vehicles as we are experiencing the problems now. The number of cars

per household is increasing as a response to the lack of a meaningful alternative to the private car, in particular alternative public transport...

...There are few planning restrictions on paving over front gardens, but permission is required for concrete surfaces of more than five square metres. Few people appear to realize this but

Fleet Town Council, as consultees on planning applications submitted to Hart District Council, is well aware and making our voice heard.

On the same topic, Hart District Council has declared a Climate Emergency and we all need to play our part in minimizing the impacts of climate change. Alan Titchmarsh has an ingenious solution, stating that gardens full of plants such as sedum and heather can grow under a car and two narrow strips of paving for the wheels is all that is required. "If everybody did this, the green patches join together to make an enormous patchwork quilt." Alan went on to say "if we all block pave our front gardens, we are paving our way to disaster. The wildlife which visits your garden needs you every bit as much as the planet needs you. Don't imagine that by just negating that little bit of nature near you that it doesn't make a difference, because it does."



Watch out for your invitation – Chairman's Coffee Mornings are coming back!

Prior to the Pandemic, Chairman's coffee mornings had been taking place and recommenced in September 2021.

These Coffee Mornings allow Fleet Town Council to stay in touch with Fleet residents and understand what would make a difference to their life in Fleet. To do this, a small number of randomly selected residents are invited to join the Chairman and their ward Councillors for a Coffee and to tell us what they like and don't like about living in Fleet.

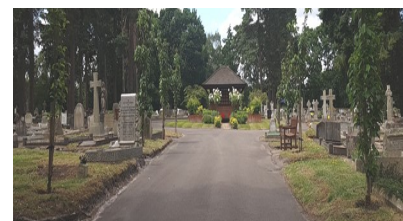


The next Coffee morning will be for residents in the Fleet Central Ward. Watch out for your invitation. This is your opportunity to tell us about your experience and expectations of living in Fleet.

Fleet Cemetery — New Plot Finder

A new search facility has now been added to our website which members of the public can use to easily locate their loved ones within Fleet Cemetery. This search facility not only tells you the plot number, but also connects to a map to show the location of that plot within The Cemetery. To use the facility you can provide a plot number (if you know it) or search by name. Previously to find a plot you could search the record lists/maps located within the central shelter in the Cemetery so we hope this will make things easier for those wanting to visit. This new facility can also be used to help those with genealogy interests.

To use the facility please visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk, go to the Cemetery tab/page and click the 'search our burial records' link.



Continued from Page 1... Devolution — What services do you Value?

The difficult bit is knowing what residents really value. Back in 2010, before the concept of downward devolution was conceived, Hart District Council devolved responsibility to Fleet Town Council for park and green space maintenance, operation and management of the Cemetery, operation and management of The Harlington, provision of local community bus services, contribution towards maintenance of the Basingstoke Canal and support of local charity and community groups for starters.

Hart used to collect an amount of money from Fleet, Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath residents, called Special Expenses to pay for these local services and the three new parish councils agreed to take on the services at the same cost.

Hopefully, it is appreciated that the parks have been better managed, the Cemetery improved and extended, The Harlington maintained and expanded in its scope of activities and the high street made more welcoming with its summer flower displays and Christmas lights. The Town Council also has continued to support valued local services like the Point youth services, the Community Store and our local Scout and Guide troops.

Is there any more we can do? Of course, there is, but the key issue is we cannot undertake additional services without additional funding and the one thing that is not devolved is the funding. Town and Parish councils have to increase their precepts to take on these additional responsibilities from the higher tier councils, but the higher tier councils rarely, if ever, reduce their tax levels. We welcome your views – what do you think of the principle of devolution and what more should the Town Council take on that the higher tier councils can't provide?

Send us your thoughts via Email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk



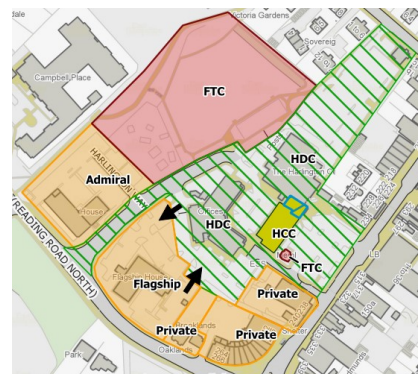
Civic Quarter Regeneration

It appears that the Civic Quarter regeneration project has stalled. This is understandable as the pandemic has caused no end of things to pause. During 2019/20, a working group of Hart District Councillors together with representatives from Hampshire County Council and Fleet Town Council discussed plans to revive this area and agreed that any plans would be subject to a public consultation to gauge residents' views.

Events have, however, moved the timeframes and the next stage in the discussions is yet to be announced. Fleet Town Council is obviously anxious for the project to resume. The Harlington, which is managed and operated by the Town Council, is an important part of this site and can play a vital role in the move to a more leisure orientated high street.

The Fleet Neighbourhood Plan stipulates that any plans for redevelopment of the area should include...

...“a performance /civic centre providing for a broad spectrum of community and commercial activity that supports the future viability and sustainability of the town centre; a library; facilities to accommodate the Hart District Council and Fleet Town Council civic functions; and a pedestrianized public space connecting to the high street”. Fleet Town Council is pleased that the District Council has, and continues to, acknowledge the Policy laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan and is keen to ensure that the provision of these facilities remain a driving force behind any future plans.



The Civic Quarter

The gift of Tennis

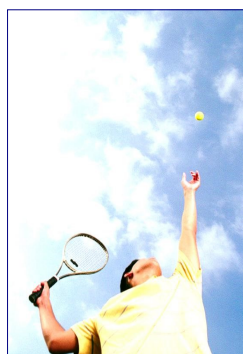


If you're looking for Christmas present ideas why not gift a Tennis membership for Calthorpe Park?

You can play Tennis as much as you like for just £42 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 and set up an account or email us for help — info@fleet-tc.gov.uk.

Tennis Coaching — Now available in Calthorpe Park



Tennis Coaching is now available in Calthorpe Park - if you're interested or require more information please email the coaches directly on: calthorpeparktennis@gmail.com

The changing face of the high street

We will have seen the news that, at the end of September after trading for over a 100 years, Baker and Sons finally closed their doors and ended an era. This has provided a further clear sign that the high street is shrinking. National and regional brands have deserted towns like Fleet and reduced their commercial property presence to save money.

The move to online shopping has accelerated even faster than was envisaged as a consequence of the Covid shutdowns and many, having experienced the convenience of keyboard shopping, will not return. So, we are seeing our high streets occupied by non-traditional services e.g. foot clinics, physios, yoga studios, computer gaming studios and climbing walls. Services such as coffee shops, hairdressers, nail bars, Vape stores and...



...mobile phone accessories now predominate over traditional retail.

The local retailers are having to work harder to remain viable and will only survive if they meet local needs and provide exceptional service. Retailers will not disappear, just become more diluted in the cocktail of the high street. Our high street can be the heart of our community - the place that we want to spend time in, meet friends, enjoy events and be entertained.

Dates for your Diary

Planned events, covid regulations permitting:

- **Circus Wonderland**
10th - 14th November 2021
The Views
- **Remembrance Sunday**
14th November 2021 — Fleet
- **Fleet Christmas Festival**
24th November 2021 — Town Centre
- **Christmas Day Lunch**
25th December 2021 — The Harlington
- **Fleet Half Marathon**
20th March 2022 — Around Fleet
- **Annual Residents Meeting**
22nd March 2022 — The Harlington

South & South East in Bloom Awards

We are pleased to announce the following awards won at the 2021 South & South East in Bloom Awards:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • Small Cemetery | Fleet Cemetery | Gold |
| • Small Conservation | Basingbourne Park | Gold |
| • Small Conservation | Oakley Park | Silver Gilt |
| • Small Park | Basingbourne Park | Gold |
| • Small Park | Oakley Park | Silver Gilt |
| • Large Park | Calthorpe Park | Silver Gilt |

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



Christmas Office Closure

Fleet Town Council's Offices will be closed for Christmas from 12 noon on Friday 24th December 2021 until 9am on Monday 3rd January 2022. If you have an urgent problem during this time, please try contacting The Harlington on 01252 811009 or email info@fleet-tc.gov.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.



Skatepark Re-painting - Views

A big thank you to Fleet Phoenix and all the local youths/families who undertook the re-painting of the Skatepark in The Views during September in time for their Annual Scam-Jam event.





Fleet Christmas Festival

24th November 2021



November, 24th

2 pm – 9 pm

Fleet Road, Fleet

Parking: All car parks except Gurkha Square will be open. Normal charges will apply

Buses: Will be diverted from Fleet Road along Albert Street

Taxis: Will operate as usual



Thank you to our Sponsors !

A big thank you to the Sponsors and supporters of this year's Christmas Festival (as of the end of September) : Hart District Council, Hart Shopping Centre, Fleet Lions and The Harlington.

THE HARLINGTON



NATTA

BUCKLAND
FARMING & CONTRACTING



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FESTIVAL?

Fleet Road - high street

The Market will take place from 2 - 9pm on Fleet high street.

There will be a reduction in the number of stalls this year to allow more space for people to queue and move around safely, however there will still be a fabulous variety of gifts and crafts on offer as well as a scrumptious selection of food and drink for you to buy as presents, take home or sample on the spot.

Hart Shopping Centre

To be confirmed.

Gurkha Square

In Gurkha Square there will be community stalls offering crafts/games/items for sale as well as other activities to be confirmed. On the Main Stage Choirs will be singing, Santa will make an appearance and the cast of this year's pantomime will switch on the lights at 6.30pm! A schedule will be available on the website nearer to the event.

The Harlington

Details will be listed on the website once available but if you haven't booked tickets to this year's Pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, The Harlington Box Office will be open!

www.fleetchristmasfestival.org

Christmas Day Lunch 2021

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. Last year we unfortunately had to make alternative arrangements, but this year we hope the event will be able to go ahead in the usual format at The Harlington. If you've not attended before this includes: canapes/welcome drinks, Christmas Dinner, Dessert, entertainment and a gift from Santa himself.

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

Please contact - Email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or Tel: 01252 625246

Fleet Christmas Tree

A big thank you to : **Natta** for kindly sponsoring this year's Christmas Tree in Gurkha Square, **Cedardale Arboricultural Specialists** and **Buckland Farming and Contracting** for their professional service and for once again agreeing to undertake the installation of the Christmas Tree and **Hart District Council** for allowing the tree pride of place in Gurkha Square!



THE HARLINGTON



VENUE UPDATE

The last 18 months have been interesting but we've been working towards coming back stronger than ever, taking the opportunity to carry out some essential works and make improvements to allow for a more digital future.

We now have two large screens in the Auditorium which will give audiences a better overall experience and we can now offer live-streaming on selected shows using a new seven camera system, record live band videos and take our conferencing services to the next level.

The majority of local people will be aware that the venue has been used as a vaccination centre throughout most of 2021 and thanks to all the NHS doctors, organisers and vaccinators supported by an army of local volunteers, tens of thousands of people in the area have received their vaccination.

We're now so excited to offer a full programme of shows from September onwards and hope that you will feel safe to come out once again and support your local venue.

If you are still a bit wary keep an eye out on our social media and website to find out which shows will be live streamed so you can join in the fun from your own living room!

Below we have highlighted some of the upcoming shows — visit the website for details of the full programme!

www.theharlington.co.uk

STAND UP FOR SATURDAY



COMEDY CLUB

Christmas Ticket
price £19

Featuring the top acts from the UK comedy circuit

Normal Tickets £13 in advance

SATURDAY

23rd October
13th November
4th December
15th January

Show: 8:30pm



A Social Cinema Group showing award winning films from around the world

Tickets available on the door £6

Membership available - £45 / year
Information visit www.fleetfilm.co.uk

MONDAY

11th & 25th October
8th & 22nd November
10th & 24th January
14th & 28th February

Starts: 8:00pm



Featuring some of Britain's finest Jazz musicians

3rd Tuesday of the month

Please visit www.theharlington.co.uk for prices

TUESDAY

19th October
16th November
18th January
15th February

Show: 8:00pm



@harlington.fleet



@theharlingtonfleet



@TheHarlington



Bad Manners Plus special guests: Rat Race

If you want a big noisy ska-fuelled party, with added helpings of nostalgia, then look no further than the mighty Bad Manners!

Tickets: £20.00 Concert Standing

FRIDAY
22nd October
Show: 8:30pm



POP DIVAS Live!

Get ready to experience all your favourite pop divas as the greatest female stars of today appear of the same stage for the first time ever. It doesn't matter if you're 4 or 64, don't miss Pop Diva's Live, the UK's number 1 Pop Tribute!

Tickets: £14 / £50 — Family of Four

FRIDAY
29th October
Show: 6:00pm

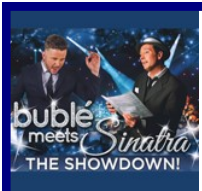


Purple ZEPPLIN

Come and experience the excitement of Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin in one mesmerising show! In a "full on" two and a half hour show complete with costume changes for each band, you'll hear more than 30 classic songs!

Tickets: £18 Seated / £15 Standing

SATURDAY
30th October
Show: 8:00pm



Bublé meets *Sinatra* THE SHOWDOWN

The concert of the century that never was' sees Sinatra time-travel from his trilby-wearing 1950s zenith to meet today's sensational Canadian contender for his crown. So who will be the favourite when these two global idols collide?

Tickets: £22 Cabaret Reserved

FRIDAY
5th November
Show: 8:30pm



IAN SIEGAL

Known as a bluesman but slipping between continents, eras and expectations, a typical solo show is more than blues, taking in the American folklore of songwriters such as Guy Clarke and Townes Van Zandt, and his own genre defying songs.

Tickets: £15 Cabaret Unreserved / Standing

SUNDAY
7th November
Show: 2:00pm



Jenny Eclair: Sixty! (FFS)

Having hit 60 (but still a year younger than Madonna), Jenny Eclair AKA 'The Face of Vagisan' confronts a new decade of decrepitude. What will her 60's hold for this 1960's babe and is it a legal requirement to buy Nordic walking poles?

Tickets: £20 Theatre Reserved

FRIDAY
12th November
Show: 7:30pm



The Floyd Effect

Rightly renowned for the remarkable accuracy with which it performs, The Floyd Effect faithfully recreates the music and intensity of a Pink Floyd concert without recourse to backing tracks, racks of computers, or other technological wizardry.

Tickets: £22 Cabaret Reserved

SATURDAY
20th November
Show: 8:00pm



80's Rewind : The Christmas Party Ft. Wild Boys

Rewind back to the 80s this Christmas with entertainment and live music from Wild Boys! With a DJ & compere after the band finishes, prizes for Best Dressed & Best Dancer... this party night may never end!

Tickets: £19 Concert Standing

FRI & SAT
26th & 27th November
Show: 8:30pm



MAINLY MADNESS : The Christmas Party

Back by popular demand, this group of Two Tone loving musicians are bringing the Madness experience to The Harlington this December for the Annual Mainly Madness Christmas Party!

Tickets: £18 Concert Standing

FRIDAY
3rd December
Show: 8:30pm

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 Roy Fang Tel: 01252 596688
roy.fang@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 Robbie Richmond Tel: 07887953053
robbie.richmond@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kumar Kuntikanamata Tel: 07715673881
kumar.kuntikanamata@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Pondtail Ward

Cllr Kathy Jasper Tel: 01252 629667
kathy.jasper@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

Cllr Ben Willcocks Tel: 07891030322
ben.willcocks@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
- Fleet Link
- 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
- Leisure Centre
- 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	The Harlington	01252 811009
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 — Ranil Jayawardena	01256 702468
Fleet Link Bus Service	01252 518090	Police	101
Fleet Town Council	01252 625246	Refuse	01252 622122
Hants County Council	0300 555 1375	Hart Response Hub	0333 370 4000
		NHS Helpline	111