



TOWNTALK

The newsletter from Fleet Town Council

Residents' Presentation

Tuesday 25th May 2021

Back in March 2020, we had to cancel our **Annual Residents' Meeting** due to the pandemic. Sadly, that stopped us from seeing you in person to give our usual update and answer your questions.

So, while the COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, we have decided to take a very different approach.

On the 25th May 2021, we will be releasing our first ever online Residents video presentation.



Pictured: The 2019 Annual Residents' Meeting

It will cover the changes that this last year has brought – and, as we all know, there have been plenty! Firstly; the impact that COVID-19 has had on all our lives, secondly; the changes that we will be going through as we recover from the pandemic and, thirdly; the impact of new development on our neighbourhood, community and town.

We will be putting together the contents of this very different Residents' Presentation between now and May and we want to make sure we cover as many of your questions and concerns as possible.

Could you therefore please spend a few moments thinking about those questions and concerns so that we can, as far as possible, include them as part of the presentation. Please send these to email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk **by 9am on the 19th April** and we will do our very best to address them in our presentation.

The link to watch the presentation will be posted on our website and social media so you will be able to watch it at your convenience.

Question & Answer Session

Following the presentation on the 25th May, we will also be holding a live online **Questions & Answers session**, with a panel of Councillors and others available to respond to earlier comments that could not be addressed within the video or you would like to raise as a consequence of the video. We will release the date of the Q & A session on our website www.fleet-tc.gov.uk and through our social media (detailed right).

Of course, we know that not everyone has access to online services but hope that you will accept that, this year, the times call for an innovative approach. We are hoping that through this medium we can reach a broader audience and engage with an even wider section of our Fleet community.

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Follow us on Social Media ...



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Fleet Town Council



@fleettowncouncil



Fleet Vaccination Centre

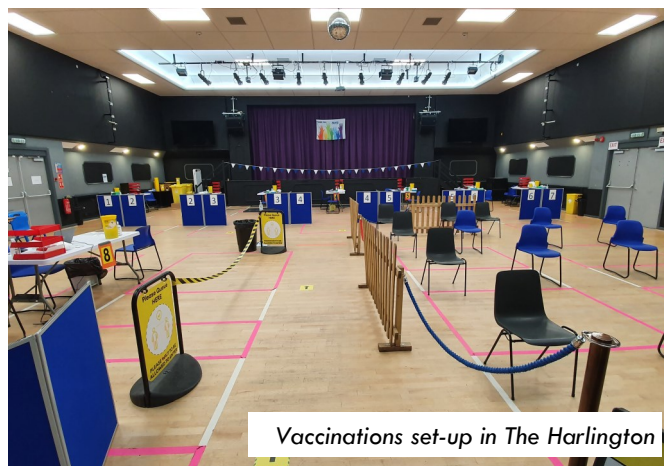
Over the past couple of months Fleet Town Council (FTC) has been working with local GP's and the North East Hants & Farnham CCG (NEH&FCCG) to bring a vaccination centre to Fleet for the benefit of its residents.

The Harlington was approved as a vaccination Centre for Fleet at the end of January with the site up and running mid-February. The Harlington was originally offered as a vaccination site in 2020 but unfortunately was not chosen.

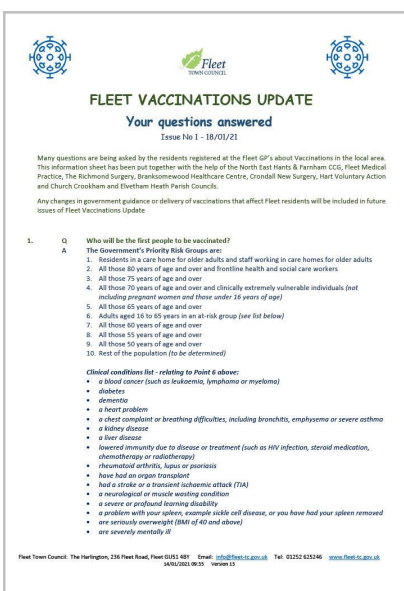
A new opportunity to propose vaccination sites became available in January and with support from local GP practices, Ranil Jayawardena MP, Hart District Council and FTC itself, the NEH&FCCG managed to secure The Harlington as a local centre for Fleet.

Vaccinations began at The Harlington w/c the 15th February and will deliver up to 3500 vaccinations a week, depending on vaccination supply.

Thank you to all the sites which have successfully vaccinated large numbers of Fleet residents across the local area so far and will continue to do so!! None of this could have happened without the support of the wonderful local volunteers, so a huge thankyou!!



Vaccinations set-up in The Harlington



Fleet Vaccination Updates — FAQ's Sheet

Many questions are being asked by residents registered at the Fleet GP Practices about vaccinations in the local area. Fleet Town Council has put together an information sheet with the help of the NEH&FCCG, Fleet Medical Practice, The Richmond Surgery, Brankenswood Healthcare Centre, Crondall New Surgery, Church Crookham Pharmacy, Hart Voluntary Action and Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath Parish Councils. Information includes :

- How you will be contacted for your vaccination
- Vaccination sites for Fleet Residents' and arrangements for each site
- Help with transportation to your appointment if required

You can view a copy of the information sheet on our website www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

Reminder — please do not contact your GP (unless asked to do so) to seek a vaccine, you will be contacted when you are eligible. Some surgeries are being inundated with calls which hinders them from making outgoing calls, booking appointments and taking calls from those who need urgent care.

Fleet War Memorial — 100 Year Anniversary

In April 2021, our War Memorial in Gurkha Square reaches its 100th Anniversary! Once again, the COVID-19 restrictions mean that we cannot commemorate this very special occasion by getting together in the way we would all wish. Recognizing these restrictions, we had to find a different way to celebrate this anniversary and remember all those who have fought and given their lives for this country.

A locally based visual communications company, NRG Digital, has very generously agreed to work with us, and the British Legion, to produce a short film that will not only celebrate the rededication of the Memorial but also trace its history and briefly bring to life the story of some unique names that appear on the role of honour. The film will, we hope, appeal to all ages and reflect the importance of our War Memorial to the residents of Fleet.

We are very grateful to NRG Digital for offering their expertise to deliver this community project and to the British Legion for their help and support. A link to watch the film will be available via our social media and website, www.fleet-tc.gov.uk, during April.



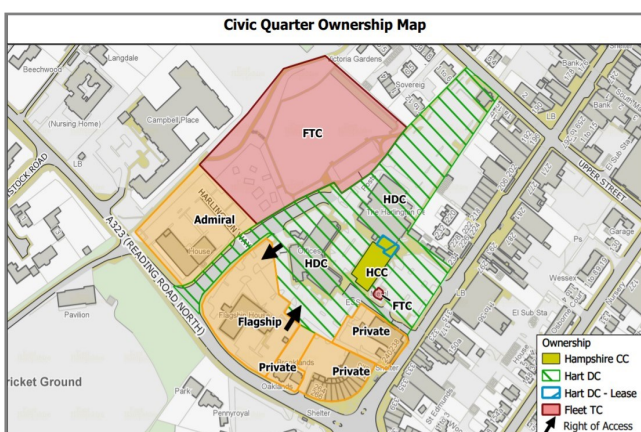
Fleet Town Centre – A Year of Change!

If there is one thing we can be sure of, our high street is changing fast and the pace is accelerating. We are seeing more residential accommodation being planned, including at Hartland Village but also through the conversion of the office space at Ancells Farm and the conversion of retail space to residential in our high street. All this change means that we need to ensure that, going forward, our high street meets the needs of both new residents, many of whom are young families, as well as our more established ones.

People's shopping habits have changed so much over this last year — more people have discovered the benefits of home delivery, more people have decided they like working from home and want to continue to do so. This means they will use the local high street more, not only for shopping but for leisure and entertainment — this is a great opportunity!

Between January and November 2020, over 4,500 retail stores closed in towns and cities around the UK. Fleet hasn't escaped. We will need, with your help, to develop a new vision for our high street that is centred around local residents and our needs — a local approach! The good thing to note is that some of our retailers and businesses are already responding by showing amazing flexibility and the variety of businesses is growing. We now, for example, have Podiatrists, Yoga Studios and even "Click and Climb" walls moving into traditional retail spaces and this diversity, together with more residential premises, will form the future of our town.

Fleet is lucky enough to have The Harlington in its town centre but, like all entertainment venues across the country, it has suffered almost a total loss of audiences and revenue throughout the pandemic. We feel strongly that it can, and should, play an important role in the post pandemic economic recovery of the town.



The Harlington is, of course, located in the area under review as part of Hart District Council's Civic Quarter Regeneration plan.

As you know, Fleet Town Council operate and manage The Harlington but Hart District Council owns the building and the land that it stands on. We look forward very much to hearing more of Hart's plans.

We understand that there will be a consultation on what may happen to this important area of the town, including the future of The Harlington, before decisions are made.

Visit Hart's new webpage for updates

www.hart.gov.uk/civic-campus-regenerationouncil

Fleet Cemetery – Winner of Awards

We are pleased to announce that Fleet Cemetery has again won the Gold Award for the "South and South East in Bloom 2020" and our thanks go to our Officers, and to our Grounds Maintenance company for all their hard work in ensuring that our Cemetery always looks its best.

We are also very proud to announce that the Cemetery has won a National Award — the Silver Award in the "Cemetery of the Year" in the Parish, Town and Community Council category. The judges looked at various criteria, including the management of the Cemetery as measured against best practice, improving standards, compliance with current legislation and the safe, user-friendly environment that had been created.

For anyone who hasn't visited the Cemetery off Richard Close, Fleet, please do! It is a beautiful tranquil space and the new Garden of Remembrance is a lovely spot for contemplation and reflection.



Garden of Remembrance - pictured left to right: Sanctum Memorial Vaults, water feature and Children's area

How will we remember the last year?

We have experienced the most extraordinary of times and hopefully you will also agree that, as we move forward, there should be some way of marking its effect on all our lives.

Developer Funding was made available from the building of Campbell Place to be used to create a Sensory Garden. Now would seem an appropriate time to extend the plans for the Sensory Garden and include a lasting, living memorial that will mark, for many years to come, all that our community went through during 2020/2021; the losses suffered and the debt of gratitude we owe to the healthcare workers, key workers and volunteers who have supported us all through this most difficult of times.

As a part of the Sensory Garden plan, it has been suggested that we plant a number of cherry trees on The Views to create a commemorative space to reflect the impact COVID-19 has had on our town and on the world. It will commemorate the year that we have all gone through as a country, celebrate our wonderful healthcare workers, key workers and volunteers and act in memory of those who have sadly died as a result of the pandemic.

The events of this past year have really highlighted how important it is for us all to have access to green space - somewhere for us to connect with nature and to reflect during difficult times.

We want to know what you think? Is this a good idea? Are there other ways of commemorating this exceptional period in our history?

We already know that there are local charities and local businesses that support the idea, but we really want to know if you agree with the proposal or have any other creative ideas.

Please send your comments and thoughts to info@fleet-tc.gov.uk



Local Elections — 6th May, 2021

This year there will be an election of a Ward Councillor for each of the 11 Wards of Hart District Council. There will also be the election of a County Councillor for 5 Divisions of Hampshire County Council (including the Division covering Fleet) and the election of a Police & Crime Commissioner.

There are no Fleet Town Council elections this year. Fleet Town Councillors are elected for a period of 4 years and so all Town Council members will be up for re-election next year (May 2022). If you have ideas about how our community should move forward, want to get involved in local decision making and support our residents, please consider putting your name forward for the 2022 Town Council elections. If you would like any further information, please contact your local Ward Councillor or the Town Clerk on clerk@fleet-tc.gov.uk

The polls this year will be run with COVID-19 restrictions in place. You will, of course, be able to vote in person or by a postal or proxy vote as usual. However, it is worth noting that new emergency proxy voting measures put in place by the Government will, this year, enable those who are unable to attend a polling station as a result of COVID-19 (including those who are self-isolating or shielding) to appoint a proxy **beyond** the usual deadline. Also, all those with an existing proxy arrangement are able to appoint a new proxy up until 5pm on polling day, if their proxy is affected by COVID-19 and is unable to act on their behalf.

Hart District Council run the elections and you can register for a postal or proxy vote or find further information on the website www.hart.gov.uk/elections. You can also email Hart on elections@hart.gov.uk or telephone 01252 774073, 01252 774157 or 01252 774158.



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.

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 they are now planned to recommence 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.

Council Tax (Fleet Town Council element)

The Town Council tax element of your local Council Tax is computed from two significant factors – The Precept and The Tax Base.

The Town Council's element of the Council Tax is calculated by dividing the **Precept** by the **Tax Base**.

Fleet Town Council has to prepare a detailed budget and forecast the amount of funding required for the following financial year and request Hart District Council to collect those funds on behalf of the Town Council. This is the **Precept**.

The more complex part of the calculation is carried out by Hart District Council which is to determine the Tax Base. Each property registered in the Town Council area is allocated a tax band between A to H; a small flat to a mansion. The data is then modified to produce what is termed the "Band D Equivalent".

The resulting number is further adjusted for a whole range of factors including:

* Disabled relief * Discounts and exemptions * Provision for bad debts * Allowance for growth

Details of all the reliefs and exemptions can be found on Hart's website www.hart.gov.uk

This final adjusted number is the **Tax Base** which when divided into the **Precept** establishes the tax on a Band D property.

The tax for the other bands is then calculated by the same factor as used in the Tax Base calculation for example, a Band H house will pay twice as much as a Band D.

Fleet Town Council only receives the amount declared in the **Precept** irrespective of the final number of tax payers.



Looking for a new market place?

Have you just started a new venture or are you looking to expand your business? If yes – then a stall at Fleet Saturday Market in Gurkha Square is just the place to do business.

The weekly market is currently only open for essential retail but, in line with Government guidance, as from 12 April all retailers will be welcome to join the market.

To help local businesses and to celebrate the coming out of lockdown, new stall holders now able to join the market will be offered a 6 week introductory discount to help them get started. Stall holders can attend every week or on a 2/3/4 weekly basis.

To find out more details about having a stall at Fleet Market, please contact info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or call 07584072340 in the first instance.

VISIT
GURKHA SQUARE
MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY
9am - 3pm
GURKHA SQUARE, FLEET

www.southernmarkettraders.co.uk www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Fleet Town Council Meetings

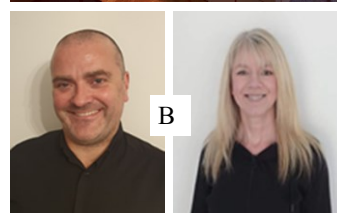
A full list of Fleet Town Council meeting dates is available at www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

April	May	June	July	August
7 - Council	10 - Planning	2 - Council	7 - Council	9 - Planning
12 - Planning	12 - Council	14 - Planning	12 - Planning	23 - Planning
26 - Planning	17 - Policy & Finance	16 - RLA	19 - Policy & Finance	
	24 - Planning	28 - Planning	26 - Planning	

Looking Back during the Lockdown...

Fleet Town Council (FTC) continued providing its regular services throughout the Pandemic / lockdowns as well as:

- FTC's Council and Committee Meetings were, for the first time, held virtually and Full Council Meetings were also streamed live to our YouTube channel
- Christmas in a Box! FTC and Churches Together arranged for those residents who normally spend Christmas alone who were planning to join the Christmas Day Lunch held in the Harlington, to instead be treated to a festive afternoon tea delivered to their homes along with cheery Christmas wishes by an army of volunteers on Christmas Morning. (Picture A - the afternoon tea boxes)
- As the Christmas Festivities could not take place, a video was produced which was seen and enjoyed by thousands of residents online
- Two Councillors were co-opted onto the Council in 2020 — Robbie Richmond and Ruth Hill (Pictures B)
- FTC contributed to the transport costs to take residents to and from the vaccination centres
- Supported Fleet Phoenix by giving free use of the RVS/Green Room at The Harlington for their Food Bank



- Built a new play park in Calthorpe Park (Picture C - the Mega Fort)
- Provided a series of free Acoustic Music afternoons on The Views during the Summer 2020 (Picture D - the socially distanced bubbles)
- Repaired the roof and ceiling in The Harlington Auditorium
- Improved the Council's carbon footprint by changing the Auditorium lights to LED
- Took over the Saturday Market in Gurkha Square
- Introduced additional litter picks and emptying of rubbish bins due to the increased use of the parks and open spaces
- Ensured that all playgrounds were allowed to remain open in a COVID-safe manner

Tennis in Calthorpe Park

As of the 29th March, the Tennis Courts have been allowed to re-open, so if you're wanting to exercise outdoors why not buy a Tennis membership for Calthorpe Park?

You can play Tennis as much as you like 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 and set up an account. Pay to Play is also available too!



Calthorpe Park Tennis Courts

To our existing members, when your membership expires please contact us on info@fleet-tc.gov.uk with your details i.e. the name and email address registered to the Tennis account and we will extend your membership for a period to make up for when the Courts were closed during lockdown.

Floral Displays

The floral displays will once again be installed around Fleet sometime towards the end of May - we hope you enjoy them!



Contact Us

Until the national lockdown is lifted, while Fleet Town Council is still operating, our Offices in The Harlington are closed and staff are working from home. Therefore if you need to contact us please email us on: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or call the office mobile: **07584072340** and your enquiry/message will be passed on to the relevant member of staff.



A Hanging Basket Display

THE HARLINGTON

A VENUE UPDATE



@harlington.fleet



@theharlingtonfleet



@TheHarlington

Although currently closed to our normal activities and live performances, the venue is welcoming thousands of local people through its doors, as they receive their Covid vaccinations, and we're so happy to see the building buzzing again (in a socially distanced manner) as we draw ever closer to the end of this long tunnel.

We will remain open as a vaccination centre into the summer to ensure that Fleet can re-open as quickly as possible and we all feel safe to once again venture out and live our lives to the fullest. The medical staff, volunteers, our own team and everybody involved in making this happen are doing a fantastic job and we're very proud of the work they're doing and how smoothly everything is running. We all send our heartfelt thanks to them.

The Harlington team have been very busy readying the venue for re-opening and a new infrastructure has been installed to allow us to live stream shows and events. It's hoped that many future performances can be made available to people in their homes in addition to those attending.

A full programme of live shows and gigs is in place from September and we're also planning some performances in the months approaching the summer if the Government's roadmap continues as laid out. This will of course work in conjunction with the continued vaccinations taking place.

We cannot wait to welcome our loyal supporters back and we promise an even bigger and better programme than ever before. Your local venue together with all of Fleet's local businesses need your support more than ever before, so please keep a firm eye on our website for the latest announcements and some terrific shows. Together we can get Fleet buzzing again!

www.theharlington.co.uk

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
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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
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Cllr Glyn Carpenter Tel: 07706225490
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Cllr Ruth Hill Tel: 07885968759
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Cllr Robbie Richmond Tel: 07887953053
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Pondtail Ward

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

Cllr Dai Pierce Tel: 01252 621408
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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
- 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 –	
Fleet Link Bus Service	01252 518090	Ranil Jayawardena	01256 702468
Fleet Town Council	01252 625246	Police	101
Hants County Council	0300 555 1375	Refuse	01252 622122
		Hart Response Hub	0333 370 4000
		NHS Helpline	111