

Springing into Action: Growing Our Community



Welcome from The Chairman



Bob Schofield

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! As the days grow longer, our parks and green spaces come into bloom and the vibrant energy of spring fills the air, we're excited to share some updates and plans for the months ahead. This season marks a time of renewal and growth for our community, with a variety of projects and events to look forward to. We're thrilled to bring

you updates on exciting projects, including renovations to enhance our shared spaces, and summer events that are sure to bring us all together. Stay tuned for updates as we finalise the details—whether it's opportunities to gather, explore, or simply enjoy the beauty of the season. Thank you for being an integral part of our community, we can't wait to make this spring and summer memorable together!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 Budget and Vision for Fleet
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- 4 Highlights & Upcoming Events
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Annual Residents' Meeting - 11 March, 7pm

You are warmly invited to this year's Annual Residents' Meeting, at The Harlington, come and hear the Council's plans for the upcoming year and ask any questions you have.

As in previous years, there will be representatives from some of our community partners too.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend in person, copies of the presentation will be available on our website, www.fleet-tc.gov.uk after the event.



Fleet Town Council Budget & Precept 2025/26

Band D Precept
£131.27 per year /
£2.52 per week

Budget planning for the next financial year has been challenging due to the impact of central government's increases to employer National Insurance contributions and the anticipated inflationary impact that will have on indirect costs.

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 December 2024, the Council agreed that the precept will increase for the coming year by 36 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 2025/26



Income 2024/25



Fleet Town Council's VISION FOR FLEET

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 by:

- 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

GREENING FLEET - 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- 1** Join the Greening Fleet Facebook group to discover eco-initiatives, share ideas, vote, and influence government actions.
- 2** Visit the Fleet Repair Café to have broken items fixed by skilled volunteers, reducing landfill waste and CO₂ emissions.
- 3** Volunteer to join a Greening Fleet Pillar group, whether it's thermal imaging teams or repairers, there's a role for everyone.

FLEET'S AWARD-WINNING PLAY PARKS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS How Civic Volunteering Complements Local Governance

Paul Einchcomb

As a councillor and member of the Friends of Basingbourne, I've seen how teamwork transforms our green spaces. While the council handles maintenance, infrastructure, and improvements, the friends of group brings the community together for events, fundraising, and restoration. Last year's trespass incident at Basingbourne Park tested this partnership. After the unauthorised encampment left waste and damage, the council acted swiftly to clear the area and ensure safety. The friends of group rallied volunteers to restore the park, adding final touches that helped it shine again. Together, we not only repaired the damage but revitalised the park, ensuring it remained a welcoming space for everyone. This collaboration didn't go unnoticed. Our joint efforts helped secure a Gold Award in the South & South East in Bloom awards, a testament to what we can achieve when the Council and community work hand in hand.



This success extends beyond Basingbourne. Ancells Farm, Calthorpe Park, Oakley Park, and The Views also received recognition, with a collective three Gold and four Silver Gilt awards. We are always pleased to see the growing number of 5-star Google reviews and hear about the personal experiences from our residents about the playparks. Your feedback means so much to us, please continue to share your thoughts and stories! To find out more about events and volunteering opportunities, follow the Friends of Basingbourne or Friends of Oakley Park online via their website or Facebook page.



Sue Tilley

GET TO KNOW, YOUR COUNCILLOR

What motivated you to join the local council?

12 years ago, I was inspired to join after my granddaughter was born with hip dysplasia (she's doing great now, at 18!). A local Councillor, Sharyn Wheale, who supported me at the time encouraged me to get involved, and I felt it was time to give back to our community.

What's your favourite thing about Fleet?

Fleet's welcoming, friendly spirit. I've lived here for over 40 years, and it's always felt like a safe and inclusive place to raise a family.

How do you stay Connected with the Community?

I'm actively involved in various projects, like Fleet Jazz Club and Fleet BID. I've helped organise events such as the Christmas Festival, Fleet Food Festival, Jubilee Celebrations, and the first-ever Fleet Music On The Views.

What has been the biggest highlight of your time at FTC?

The 4-day Jubilee celebrations really showcased the best of Fleet's community spirit. It was a true highlight, and I'm confident that even better things are to come!

Any advice for others who want to get involved in local issues?

Don't hesitate to join a local voluntary organisation! They're always looking for volunteers, and your contribution, even if small, can make a big difference. Plus, you'll gain a deeper connection with the community.



3 WAYS TO GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS:

- Follow Fleet Town Council on Facebook and Instagram.
- Visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk
- Come along to our Annual Meeting or Councillors' Coffee Morning.

Festival Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fleet Christmas Festival, it was another fantastic turnout! The Grotto, run by Funtime Dance and hosted in The Harlington, raised an impressive £1,004.54 for the charity Stepping Stones. The festival also featured festive stalls, entertainment, and the Christmas lights switch-on, bringing joy to all ages.



Cracking Christmas Lunch

For the ninth year, Fleet Town Council hosted a free Christmas Day lunch for those in Fleet, Elvetham Heath, and Church Crookham who would have spent the day alone. The event was a great success, with around 70 guests and volunteers enjoying a warm, festive afternoon. This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of many generous individuals and organisations. Thank You!

Thinking Back

to Fleet Town Council Highlights



Town in Bloom: A Growing Commitment to Nature

Last year, Fleet High Street was brightened by beautiful, bee-friendly floral displays that blossomed from June to October, bringing vibrant colour to the heart of our town.

This year, with the help of an environmental grant we gave nature a fresh boost by planting around 64 new trees in our parks and open spaces, enhancing the local environment.

And thanks to the valuable feedback from residents, we are adding dedicated pollinator areas across our parks and open spaces. These areas will support local wildlife and promote biodiversity.

We appreciate your continued involvement in shaping the future of our green spaces. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and opportunities to get involved!



Fleet in the spot-LIGHT

Our festive lights along Fleet High Street gained unexpected national attention, bringing smiles to many and reinforcing the vibrant sense of community in the area. Though the display was never intended to make headlines, the dazzling lights have become a symbol of the town's festive spirit during the Christmas period.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to everyone who attended the Remembrance Sunday service, parade, and wreath-laying ceremony at Gurkha Square. It was an honour to be part of Fleet's Act of Remembrance, with residents of all ages coming together to pay their respects. Wreaths were laid by local groups and dignitaries, and we were pleased to welcome around 300 people for refreshments afterward.



Halls for Hire

The Harlington provides a lively and versatile venue at the heart of the community. There's also a great line-up of entertainment available, see pages 6-7 for details. With its spacious auditorium, professional sound and lighting systems, and additional rooms for smaller gatherings, it supports a variety of community-focused activities. Welcoming and adaptable, The Harlington is also available to hire.



Ancells Community Centre provides a friendly space for parties, classes, and gatherings. Offering flexible layouts, kitchen facilities, and free parking, it's an ideal venue to hire. There is also a host of regular community activities available at the venue.



Time for Tennis

With the tennis season approaching, now is the perfect time to enjoy one of the courts available at Calthorpe Park. You can play as much as you like for just £40.83 per year! The membership fee entitles each household to a code that can be used to access the courts after making a reservation online. Pay to play is also available! Visit www.calthorpeparktennis.com to book.

Looking Forward

to Exciting Events and Initiatives



After the incredible success of last year's event, Music on The Views is BACK for 2025 –and this time, it's going to be even bigger and better! Get ready for an unforgettable day of live music, outstanding performances, and a whole lot more.

"Brilliant bands, great atmosphere, full day of fun."

This is your chance to support amazing local small businesses while enjoying unforgettable acts like The Harlington's crowd favourites—Mainly Madness, Wild Boys, and more to be announced!

Join us for an epic day of music, fun, and memories! Enjoy real ales, tasty food stalls, pop classics, and timeless tributes. And who knows? You might even discover some emerging artists who are about to take the stage by storm.

Trust us—you won't want to miss a single moment of it!



FUTURE

RENOVATION

The Views Skatepark

The Skatepark has become a much-loved facility in our community, and we are committed to making it even better. To ensure improvements reflect the needs of those who use it most, consultations with young residents took place, with a big thank you to Fleet Phoenix for their collaboration and support.

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project!



PROJECTS

Edenbrook Play Parks

Based on resident feedback from our park survey, we explored what could be achieved within the budget. With strong support for renovating both parks, we're excited to announce the council has approved seeking an additional public loan. Once secured, we'll move forward with next steps. Stay connected through social media for opportunities to further in put and hear more on this development!



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

- Various music, drama, dance and fitness classes for a range of ages including: *Monkey Music, Rock Choir, Ceroc, Funtime Dance & Drama, Rebecca Fraiz Classical Ballet, Salsa Steps, Pilates with Sarah, Bodyline Aerobics, Over 50's Aerobics* and *Vicky Ewen Fitness*. - More details can be found online.
- **NHS Baby Weighing Clinic** Book in service (most Tuesdays) - Tel: 01252 813842 or Email: hp-tr.fleetandyateley@nhs.net
- **National Blood Donors** You can check your eligibility and register to give blood at myblood.co.uk
- Clubs/lectures such as: **Fleet Townswomen's Guild** (www.the-tg.com) held every 1st Wednesday of the month until April 2025.
The Arts Society (www.tas-hart.org.uk) every 2nd Wednesday of the month
U3A (<https://flu3aweb.wixsite.com/fleetu3a>) every 3rd Wednesday of the month
- **Sasha's Project** is a drop-in crisis centre for young people who are struggling with their mental health
 Tel: 07741 117655 or Email: angela.forster@sashasproject.charity
- **Fleet Phoenix** A local charity that co-ordinates music projects, youth clubs and mentoring projects as well as community outreach programmes to youths within Hart. Tel: 01252 812308 or Email: info@fleetphoenix.co.uk
- Not for profit, committee run events such as **Fleet Film Club** and **Fleet Jazz Club** (more information on these below)



Fleet Film
Mon: March 10th & 24th, April 14th & 28th, May 12th, June 2nd & 16th & 30th and July 14th 2025 at 7.30pm

Fleet Film is an award-winning film society serving Fleet and district with a unique programme of films from around the world, including many acclaimed films that rarely reach mainstream cinemas. We also show short films, annually present awards to local film students and have other special events, including outdoor cinema. Why not come along and see how different we are from the average cinema?



Fleet Jazz Club
Various artists
3rd Tuesday of the month
8.00pm

Fleet Jazz Club holds monthly jazz performances from some of the UK's finest jazz musicians on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, in a "jazz club" environment at The Harlington in Fleet. The club has an enthusiastic and growing membership since it started in January 2013, and we are always very happy to see new people.



VENUE HIRE

YOU CAN HIRE ANY OF OUR SPACES FOR YOUR EVENT!

DIFFERENT SIZED ROOMS FOR A RANGE OF USES:

Meetings | Conferences | Productions | Classes | Rehearsals | Training
 Networking | Private parties | Recording | Promotional shoots

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

Wifi | Licensed bars | Stage sound & lighting | Production assistance*
 Up to 7 camera recording/live streaming system | Technical support
 Entertainment booking service | Projection | Full size cinema screen | Helpful & friendly team

*our technical team can work with you to create a bespoke package to make your event run to plan



@theharlington



@theharlingtonfleet



@theharlington



Guns 2 Roses
Friday 7th March
8.00pm

Some GN'R tributes try and not one comes close to the authenticity, charisma and huge / notorious reputation Guns 2 Roses have become known for over the years.

The only GN'R tribute to perform live with 4 different members of Guns N' Roses. Their ability to emulate classic Guns N Roses has even been approved by members of the original and current lineup of GNR and is also why G2R are the most famous GNR tribute band in the world. Guns 2 Roses became a world famous name in a short space of time in the land of Guns N Roses.



The Pogue Traders
Friday 14th March
8.30pm

St. Patrick's Weekend Party!

Formed back in 2007, The Pogue Traders have become established as the UK's leading Pogues tribute band.

With a comprehensive set of Pogues numbers that are very faithful to the studio arrangements, The Pogue Traders play to sell-out major-venue audiences in London, Glasgow, Birmingham, and Nottingham, and to crowded pubs all over the country, leaving behind thousands of satisfied (and hung-over) gig-goers.



From Gold to Rio
Saturday 29th March
8.30pm

From Gold to Rio will take you on a nostalgic journey back to the New Romantic era which ruled the charts for over a decade. For the very first time the music from two of the UK's most iconic bands will be celebrated in one power packed show! With over 20 top 10 hits, the show will feature 2 hours of non-stop, classics including Gold, Rio, True, The Reflex, Lifeline, Girls on Film, to name a few!

Performed by a full 8 piece live band with over 30 years professional experience, this show features excellent vocals, tight harmonies, a powerhouse rhythm section and an infectious sense of fun.



The Big ABBA Party with The ABBA Tribute - Fever + DJ
Friday 4th April
8.30pm

Get your flares on and rose-tinted glasses at the ready and don't forget to get your 'Money, Money, Money' for tickets to The Big ABBA Party 'The Name of the Game', is for you to 'Take a Chance' on the biggest ABBA party in Fleet!

Abba Fever is one of the most successful touring live Abba productions in the UK and Europe! This 5 piece live band, with 5 part harmonies, stunning musicianship, authentic costumes and exciting choreography will transport you back to the 70's through the biggest hits of the world's favourite band.



Barrioke
Saturday 26th April
8.30pm

From the EastEnd to Fleet 'Barry from Eastenders' (Shaun Williamson) is bringing you the ultimate karaoke night with his 'Baz out of Hell' 2025 tour!

There are Oscar winners, Bafta winners and Golden Globe winners... but who would you rather sing with on stage than the coolest man on TV - Shaun Williamson.

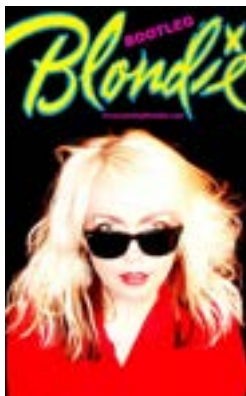
With his trademark warm and jovial manner, accompanying and singing with audience and guest participants on stage, creating a riotous, joyous moment that people will never forget.



Money for Nothing
Saturday 10th May
8.30pm

Money For Nothing was formed in 2000 as a tribute to one of the world's premier rock bands - Dire Straits. The abundant energy and the excellence and musicality of their performances makes Money For Nothing a "must see" for any rock enthusiast or Dire Straits fan.

Fronting the band is the brilliant guitarist and Mark Knopfler sound-alike Aled Williams. Behind him the line-up features top-class and experienced musicians that make this band a worthy tribute to Dire Straits. Aled and all the band have studied Dire Straits in great depth to re-create their tribute to be as close as possible to the real thing.



Bootleg Blondie
Friday 16th May
8:30pm

The official tribute to Debbie Harry and Blondie

As seen on BBC1!

Endorsed by the real "Blondie" and having had the honour of being mentioned on the band's latest studio album "Pollinator" this is the closest you'll get to the real thing. Lead vocalist Debbie Harris has the looks, the voice & the attitude of the original Blondie bombshell & like her heroine is typically outrageous on stage!



Brave Rival
Saturday 7th June
8.00pm

Brave Rival are the fast-rising, rip-roaring, rock and blues juggernaut ready to take their place in the upper echelons of British Rock Hierarchy.

Since their inception in 2019 and having played The Harlington for the first time only months later, Portsmouth based Brave Rival have delighted fans and critics alike with their modern take on classic rock vibes.

With comparisons to the Wilson sisters from Heart, as well as legends like Zeppelin and Fleetwood Mac, the DNA of the aforementioned bands flows through Brave Rivals veins.



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HELP!

Which Council to contact

 Hampshire County Council 0300 555 1375 www.hants.gov.uk

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

 Hart District Council 01252 622122 enquiries@hart.gov.uk www.hart.gov.uk

- 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

 Fleet Town Council 01252 625246 info@fleet-tc.gov.uk www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

- 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



Key diary dates

- 11 March** Annual Residents' Meeting
- 16 March** Fleet Half Marathon
- 5 April** Repair Cafe (ongoing - first Saturday of every month)
- 12 April** Easter Egg Hunt, Basingbourne
- 19 April** Easter Egg Hunt, Oakley Park
- 18 May** Childrens' 2k fun run, Oakley Park
- 21 June** Councillors' Coffee Meeting
- 5 July** Fleet Carnival
- 19 July** Oakley Park Summer Fete
- 2 August** Lions Beerfest
- 30 August** MOTV Music Festival

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

Contact us

Details of your Town Council Chairmen below.

Cllr Bob Schofield
Council Chairman
Development Control Chairman
01252 621373
bob.schofield@fleet-tc.gov.uk


Cllr Paul Einchcomb
Vice Chairman
RLA Committee Chairman
01252 662720
paul.einchcomb@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Leslie Holt
Policy & Finance Committee Chairman
01252 624814
leslie.holt@fleet-tc.gov.uk

Cllr George Woods
Establishment Committee Chairman
07966 138416
george.woods@fleet-tc.gov.uk

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

How to find us

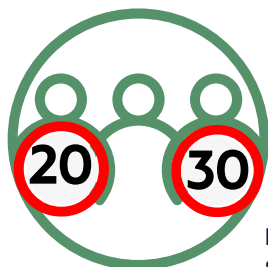
 Fleet Town Council, The Harlington, 236 Fleet Road, Fleet, GU51 4BY

 search 'Fleet Town Council'

 @fleettowncouncil

Editor and Photographer:
Communications Officer,
Fleet Town Council.

FLEET SPEEDWATCH IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



- Just 2 one-hour sessions per month
- Volunteers must be 17+, have reasonable eyesight and be able to stand for an hour
- Being able to recognise vehicle makes models is helpful but not essential
- Full training and equipment will be provided

Help encourage safe driving.
Sign up using QR code provided.

SCAN HERE



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Electric vehicle charge points

are available for public use at Church Road, Victoria Road and Civic Office Car Parks

www.impacthart.co.uk




Bag up your old electricals for recycling.

People in Hart can now recycle their old small electricals from the kerbside with their weekly waste and recycling collections
Search 'Small electricals' at hart.gov.uk for full details

