Fleet TOWN COUNCIL

Fleet Town Council NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/WINTER 2026



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The Harlington On Tour Update ...

The Harlington will continue to be at the heart of Fleet, bringing live entertainment, community activities and the experience you know and love to a new temporary home in the Hart Shopping Centre from early 2027. Find out more about The Harlington On Tour and our plans for the future on page 6...



The Views New Playpark...

We are excited to move forward with plans for an exciting new playpark at The Views. Alongside the already installed new Skatepark this new addition, supported by Fleet BID, will help make The Views a destination park and support local businesses. More on page 5...

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Cllr Bob Schofield

It does not seem possible that another year has nearly passed, and the exceptional heat of this summer already feels like a distant memory. Music on The Views enjoyed perfect weather and our best attendance yet, making it a real highlight of the summer.

The Views has been a particular focus this year, with the opening of the Skate Park and plans progressing for the refurbishment of the play park, with a contractor now appointed. This will be a significant upgrade to the facilities, creating a more attractive destination for families and encouraging people to stay and enjoy the area. This is the result of a collaboration with the Fleet BID, representing our business community, and will give residents and visitors even more reasons to spend time in the town.

The transformation of The Harlington, has also moved forward. Design work is well underway, a planning application is in its final stages and the temporary relocation of The Harlington to the Hart Shopping Centre was agreed at the end of September. This will be our 'Harlington On Tour', allowing community groups to continue their regular hires and commercial shows to go ahead, while also bringing activity to the High Street during the refurbishment.

There was the prospect of major change with the Local Government Reorganisation, which came to an unexpected halt in September. This has created uncertainty across local government, particularly at County and District Council level. The Town Council will continue to work with others to support our community and respond to the local issues that matter to residents.

Amazingly, we are already into another round of budget preparation for 2027/28. There is certainly no shortage of ideas and ambition for new projects and improvements to our parks and open spaces. We have a number of projects we are looking to progress, while focusing our resources where they will have the greatest benefit for residents and communities. We remain mindful of the financial pressures facing households and the wider pressures on local government finances. As always, this means balancing priorities and making careful choices about where we invest. It is not every councillor's happiest time of year, but it is an important part of the job and an opportunity to deliver positive improvements across our town.

As we look ahead to the festive season, on behalf of Fleet Town Council Members and Officers, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

3 WAYS TO GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS:

- Follow Fleet Town Council on Facebook or Instagram.
- Visit www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/council-info/councillor-contacts
- Come along to our Annual Meeting or Councillors' Coffee Mornings.

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**

Fleet Community Awards 2026/27



Nominate and shine a light on those in our community making Fleet a great place to live!

www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/news/2026/community-awards

Christmas in Fleet



Get into the festive spirit in Fleet! There's plenty of family fun to enjoy this Christmas, starting with the Fleet Festival on Wednesday 25 November. And the celebrations don't stop there — join the Friends of Basingbourne Park in December and keep the festive feeling going!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

25th November, Fleet Town Centre, 2pm-9pm

- Christmas Market, 2pm-9pm, Fleet High Street.
- Community Stalls, Live Nativity and Farm, 2pm-9pm, Gurkha Square.
- Kidszone and Santa's Grotto at The Harlington - from 2pm.
- Fleet BID Santa's Post Office in the Hart Shopping Centre from 4pm.
- Community Choirs from 4pm, Gurkha Square.
- Christmas Tree light switch on, 6.30pm, Gurkha Square.

For more information visit: www.fleetchristmasfestival.org

CHRISTMAS PARK EVENTS

- Basingbourne Carols in the Park
  Friday 11th December at 6pm
- Basingbourne Christmas Quiz night
  Friday 21st December at 7.30pm

Fleet Christmas tree

Special thanks to **Natta** for sponsoring this year's Christmas tree in Gurkha Square, and **NP Tree Management** and **Buckland Farming and Contracting** for their professional service and installation.

NATTA
modern thinking traditional values

You can now receive the latest news along with surveys to have your say direct to your inbox.
Just head to our website **www.fleet-tc.gov.uk** to sign up



Grants Awarded 2026/27:

- **Fleet Carnival** - Contribution towards cost of celebrating 70th Anniversary
- **Fleet Lions** - Contribution towards protective jackets and peppercorn rent on Lions Community Store
- **St Philips & St James Church -** Contribution towards refurbishing toilets in community hall
- **Fleet Phoenix** - Rent waiver and room hire
- **Sasha's Project and Fleet Repair Cafe** - Room hire
- **Fleet Cricket Club, Girl Guides, 1st Crookham Scouts and 22nd and 26th Odiham Scouts** - Peppercorn rent
- **Fleet Connect** - Contribution towards community bus service
- **Basingstoke Canal** - Contribution towards the maintenance of the canal

For more information and to apply for a grant visit:
www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/finance-transparency/grants

Local Groups & Services Fleet Town Council Support:

Sasha's project
Fleet Phoenix
Basingstoke Canal
LIONS INTERNATIONAL
connect Linking communities in Hampshire
RBL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Scouts
Girlguiding
FLEET REPAIR CAFE

Annual Residents' Meeting

Thank you to all the residents who attended our Annual Residents' Meeting in March. We were delighted with the positive feedback on our new awards, live polls and on-screen Q&A, which encouraged participation throughout. We look forward to building on this two-way conversation and exploring opportunities to offer future meetings both online and in person.





Music on The Views

August saw Fleet's third Music on The Views, hosted by The Harlington and supported by Fleet Town Council with special thanks to the music-loving volunteers, and Fleet Lions. Hundreds of people came along to enjoy a fantastic day of live music, with great performances, a brilliant atmosphere and lots of positive feedback, making 2026 our most successful year to date!

Thinking Back & to 2026 Highlights

The Views Skatepark Opening

What a fantastic opening event! Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the new Skatepark at The Views.

The park was buzzing from day one, with skaters, scooter riders and BMXers taking to the ramps, showing off their skills and putting the new facilities through their paces. With plenty of action, tricks, ice cream and a brilliant community atmosphere, it was a fantastic day for everyone.

A big thank you to Fleet BID for the giveaways, Pedal Heaven and The Snow Board Shop for their wheel service, Lucy, Tate and Jake for sharing their expertise, and Fleet Phoenix for their support.

We're excited to see the Skatepark continue to bring the community together and be enjoyed by riders of all ages!



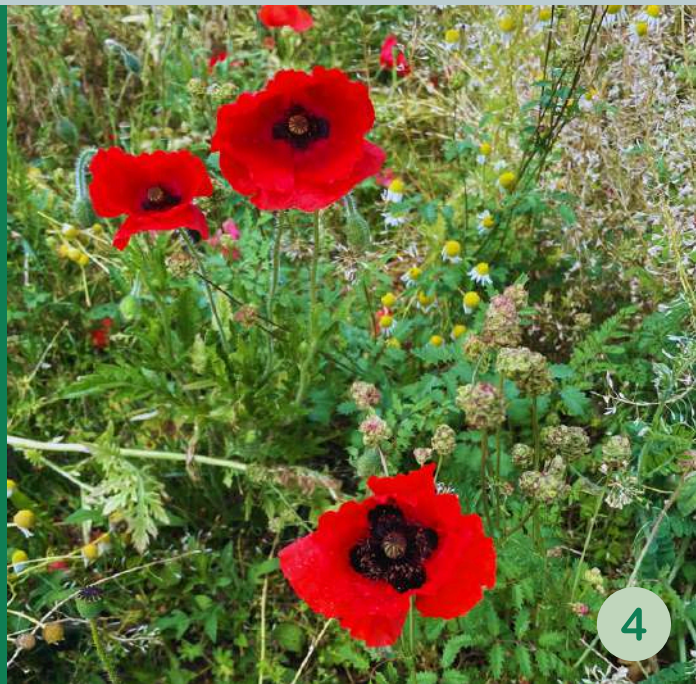
Blooming Lovely

There's been plenty to celebrate across Fleet's parks and open spaces this year!

Our Calthorpe Park Pollinator Corridor, planted last spring, has been coming into bloom, attracting bees, butterflies and other wildlife and creating an important space for biodiversity. It's been wonderful to see residents enjoying the area and watching nature thrive throughout the summer.

We were thrilled to see our open spaces recognised once again at the South & South East in Bloom Awards 2026, with several Gold and Silver Gilt awards.

We were also delighted to hear from many of you about how much you enjoyed the high street flowers, bringing colour and life to Fleet. Thank you to all our residents for your kind feedback and for helping us celebrate the places that make Fleet so special.



Gift a year of Tennis

Play as much as you like for £43.50 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, £6.93 per court per hour, is also available! Why not add it to your Christmas wish list. To book, visit: clubspark.lta.org.uk/Calthorpeparktennis



Christmas Day Event

Fleet Town Council are hoping to hold another Christmas Day event for those in Fleet, Elvetham Heath, or Church Crookham who would otherwise be on their own. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please get in touch so we can contact you when plans are finalised.
Email: info@fleet-tc.gov.uk or call 01252 625246.

Fleet Festive Shopping

connect
Linking communities in Hampshire

Fleet Connect, part-funded by Fleet Town Council, helps eligible residents get out and about with a convenient door-to-door service, including selected trips to The Meadows, Camberley. Operating Tuesday to Friday, Fleet Connect is a great way to enjoy some Christmas shopping and festive treats without the worry of getting there.
To register or book, call 01252 398451.

Temporary Home for Fleet Town Council



In preparation for The Harlington transformation project, Fleet Town Council offices will temporarily move to Ancells Community Centre. The Centre will still be available for parties and hirers.

See page 6 for information on The Harlington On Tour

Looking Forward

to Exciting Projects and Events

EXCITING PLANS FOR THE VIEWS PLAY AREA

Plans for the new playpark at The Views are taking shape, and the latest design gives us an exciting glimpse of what's to come.



Designed as a destination for children of varied ages and abilities, the new play area will bring together adventurous, imaginative and inclusive experiences in one exciting space. With active challenges, creative adventures and quieter places to pause and explore, the design offers plenty to discover, encouraging children to get involved, have fun and make the most of every visit.

The new layout will make the most of The Views, with impressive towers and elevated play creating a real sense of discovery. There will be plenty of opportunities to climb, swing, spin and balance, alongside inclusive features thoughtfully integrated throughout the design.

We're looking forward to seeing the plans develop and, in time, hearing the laughter and excitement of children enjoying their new play space.

Keep up to date: For the latest project news and information, visit **www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/project/the-views-play-area**

THE HARLINGTON ON TOUR

THE SAME SHOWS YOU LOVE IN A NEW LOCATION

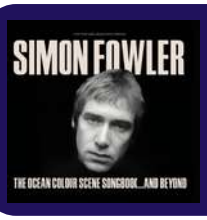
We are pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of securing one of the Hart Shopping Centre units, to host The Harlington On Tour from early 2027. With a seating capacity of 264, we have already secured some fantastic acts, with some listed on this page. For the latest design images showing how The Harlington On Tour will look, along with the most up-to-date information on timescales and progress, please visit our website: **www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/projects**.



Kenny Thomas. Thinking About Your Love – An Evening of Stories and Songs British soul legend Kenny will deliver an unforgettable night of music and rich nostalgia **September 24th 2027 @ 7.30pm**



This Is How It Feels – An Intimate Evening With Inspiral Carpets' Clint Boon An unforgettable night of **music,** memories and legendary Northern wit. **November 4th 2027 @ 7.30pm**



Simon Fowler – The Ocean Colour Scene Songbook...and Beyond new songs and classic hits, fantastic tales and amusing anecdotes from one of Britpop's central characters. **April 8th 2028 @ 7.30pm**

Hosted by The Harlington On Tour

- Fitness
- Monthly Community Events
- Community Services and Events
- Community Meetings
- Conferences
- Music, Dance and Drama



Whilst the location is changing, the heart of what The Harlington provides remains the same. The shows you love, the welcome you expect and the experience that makes The Harlington special will continue at our new temporary home. The Harlington On Tour will enable The Harlington to remain at the heart of Fleet's community, continuing to provide live entertainment, activities and opportunities for people to come together across the town.

The same community events and support right on your doorstep

The Harlington team have been working hard with all our hirers to ensure The Harlington On Tour remains home to a vast and diverse community offering, from fitness and dance classes to community events, meetings and activities. We are pleased to take this important step forward in our plans to redevelop The Harlington, whilst continuing to listen to and maintain the wants and needs of our community. Our aim is to ensure that The Harlington remains a welcoming, active and accessible place for everyone throughout this period of change.

You can find out more about community services on offer at **www.theharlington.co.uk/events**, and for the latest updates on the renovation and temporary facility plans please visit: **www.fleet-tc.gov.uk/project/harlington-development**

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE HARLINGTON



DC/UK
Friday 22nd January
8.30pm

One of the most popular and exciting tribute acts to rock legends AC/DC bring a level of authenticity to the 80's era, whilst still delivering a unique and organic show night after night. DC UK's full production is a complete spectacle, featuring multiple fully firing cannons, inflatable Rosie, and authentic full Marshall backline!



Tinderella – Adult Pantomime
Friday 29th January
5.30pm & 8.30pm

In a scandalous twist on the classic fairy tale, it's time to swipe right on "Tinderella" – the naughtiest adult panto to ever hit the stage! You're invited to a night of raucous laughter, innuendos, outuendos and unexpected encounters that will have you begging for more!

Tinderella is a whizz on social media, a real influencer, but it's all a charade because poor Tinders has no money, no man and none of the glamorous life she claims to be living. Until one day, she meets not one, but two Princes in the woods.... But who has the biggest balls? Will this be her happy ending or will she lose more than her shoe?!

Expect cheesy anthems, spicy frolics, rib-tickling antics and all the audience participation you could want from London's gleefully gayest and merriest panto.

Leave the kids at home and grab your glass slippers for TINDERELLA, Two Big Balls, One Happy Ending!

Christmas at The Harlington

Santa's Grotto
25 November, 30min sessions, Bookable from 2:00pm. Last session ends at 7:15pm

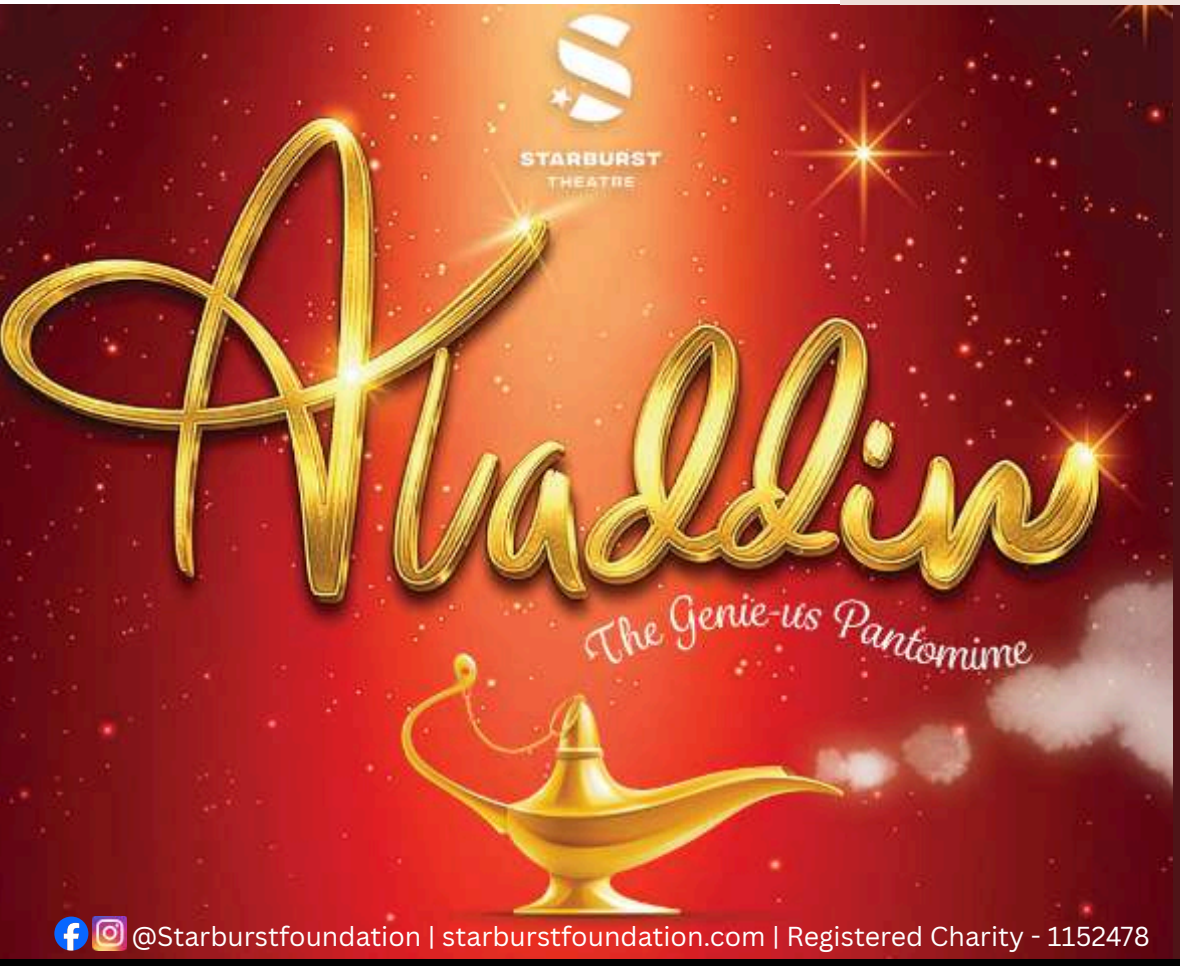
Christmas Cheesy Bingo
27 and 28 November - 8pm

Fleet Jazz Club: Christmas Special
1 *December - 8pm*

Mainly Madness: Christmas Party
4 *December - 8.30pm*

Christmas Comedy Club
5 *December - 8.30pm*

Tinderella - Adult Pantomime
29 January - 5.30pm and 8.30pm



BOOK NOW

Show Dates:
11th – 29th Dec

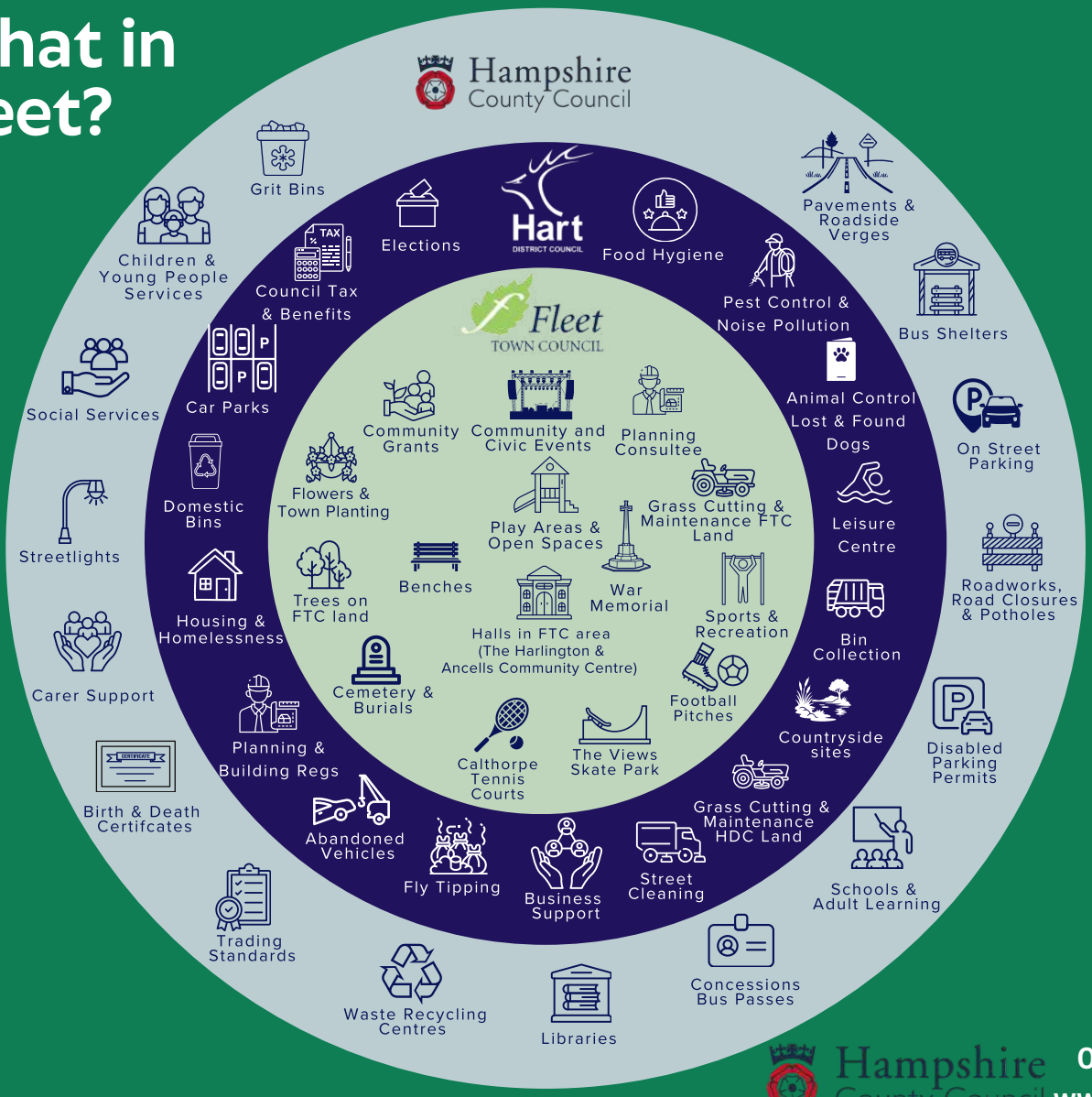
Tickets:
Adults: £18 – £22

Child/Concessions:
£16 – £19

Family: £60 – £75
(2 Adults & 2 Concs)

Concession is 60+
or valid student ID

Who Does What in Fleet?



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

Hart District Council **01252 622122** **www.hart.gov.uk**

Fleet Town Council

Key Diary Dates

7 November Fleet Lions Firework Fiesta
8 November Remembrance Day
25 November Christmas Festival
28 November Councillors' Coffee Morning
11 December Basingbourne Carols in the Park
21 December Basingbourne Christmas Quiz night
25 December Christmas Day Event
14 March Fleet Half Marathon

How to Contact us

www.fleet-tc.gov.uk

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

search 'Fleet Town Council'

@fleettowncouncil

01252 625246