



**Whitehill Town Council – Executive Committee
Quarterly Meeting
Thursday 7th November 2019**

By Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company

35 attendees

Q&A Engagement

Q – What is the latest programme for the town centre?

A – The leisure centre will open next year. The Makers Market will follow in 2021 and the cinema, shops and health hub shortly after.

Q – How big does the town need to be before the new food store can open?

A – We need at least 20,000 residents in the town to sustain a third food store. We are targeting 2022/2023.

Q – WBRC has promoted the expansion of Whitehill & Bordon for a further 1,258 homes. As the population increases, will there more SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces) like Hogmoor Inclosure?

A – There are more green areas owned by the MOD that could be brought forward. These need to meet the requirements for open green spaces especially the protected areas, and we will work with Natural England and the Environment Agency to ensure that these areas meet SANG requirements.

Q – What affordable housing is being provided and will be provided if the town grows?

A – There are various forms of affordable housing. 15% of housing (360 homes) on the Prince Philip Park scheme is classed as affordable. This is for people on housing waiting lists and discounted housing. This level of housing was determined as part of the planning permission because it was acknowledged that we are contributing £54M towards social infrastructure including schools, play spaces, Hogmoor Inclosure and roads.

On the next phase of housing, we are partnering with Rent Plus. This is a part rent and part deposit-save scheme which allows people with affordable housing to buy their own homes. We are excited to deliver this.

East Hampshire District Council policy is for affordable housing to make up 40% of new homes. As the town grows the proportion of affordable housing will increase and this will have a positive impact on the communities in the town.

Q – People are concerned about the future of Chase Hospital and health facilities. Can we expect a planning application to go in for the health hub by the end of the year?

A – The application has now and we aim to submit the application in March. We need to ensure local surgeries and Southern Health Foundation Trust sign up to the hub. Funding support for these health services also comes from the NHS and we are working closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group on this. We need the CCG support through an Outline Business Case (first seal of approval) and we are seeking a timetable for this. There will then be a Reserved Matters planning application to East Hants District Council which will take 4-6 months. With a fair wind, we can expect to be on site for the new health hub by the end of next year.

Q – Who are the Community Trust?

A – The Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust a charity set up to benefit people in need in the town. The Trust also helps and coordinates community activities in support of other groups to boost community development and events in the town.

The Trust works with other organisations such as Community First, Whitehill Town Council, East Hants District Council, Whitehill Town Partnership. One of the immediate challenges in the town is providing youth activities and support. The Trust is working successfully with the schools on this and is planning to set up a Youth Council. More information can be found at <https://wbcommunitytrust.co.uk>.

Q –How is the Community Trust held to account?

A – The Trust is a charity governed by the Charities Commission with a set of defined objectives. The Trust must report annually against these objectives and account for every penny spent. All purchasers at Prince Philip Park contribute to the charity.

Barratt and David Wilson residents are not a part of Prince Philip Park so don't contribute to the Trust. We would however encourage these residents to do so and take an active part on the Trust's activities through volunteering and support of events.

Q – About the Chase Hospital and the Health Hub. Why waste money on the hub - why not build a small five/six GP surgery. If you knock the Chase Hospital down where do we go?

A – The Health Hub is designed to handle 23,000 patients and provide new services to the town including a dementia consultation service. It will feature state-of-the-art facilities. The location and size of the facility is felt to be better suited to deliver services which benefit the whole town.

Q – Does the fate of the Chase Hospital take Badgerswood Surgery away from Headley?

A – No, Badgerswood Surgery is a very vibrant surgery and will stay. We are working with those GPs too. The Forest surgery is expected to move into the Health Hub.

Q –How do patients get to the Health hub on public transport? Especially older people?

Q – Public transport has been a real challenge. We cannot entice existing bus operators to provide the additional services because the demand is currently not at a level to pay for the services. We are therefore planning to bring in an on-demand hopper service. We have a great model to role out when the town centre opens late 2020. This will address affordable transport.

Q – I travel on the A325 to Ash. Is there plans to widen the road? Will the bottleneck at Wrecclesham be addressed? The volume of traffic has increased massively.

A – The road network is controlled by Hampshire County Council. There are no plans to widen the A325 but plans are being considered for the key bottlenecks on the A325 and A31.

Q - An on-demand hopper service needs a phone signal. We can't have on demand if you can't get a phone signal. What are you doing about this?

A – To build the solution we want we will work with mobile operators to improve mobile coverage across a wider area. This will address the service.

Q – I see plans for Whitehill & Bordon were drawn up some time ago. How have plans changed in line with climate change?

A – Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council have declared climate change emergencies in July of this year. We are yet to see what detailed plans are under consideration.

With regard to Prince Philip Park we have a sustainability strategy which commits to carbon reduction targets through design and renewable energy solutions. Bruce Collinson of WBRC works with a team to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible and sustainable transport solutions are implemented. We are also planting thousands of new trees and we will publish how we are performing regularly.

Q – There is considerable traffic through Lindford and Headley at 7pm. How can we prevent heavy vehicles driving through these areas?

A – Please speak with Hampshire County Council. The County is counting traffic volumes to assess the actual impact of traffic on surrounding villages. They will then address how the network needs to change to deal with these issues.

Q – Petrol garages have opened on two old roads. Why are there none on the new road?

A – There are no suitable locations for a petrol garage off the relief road due to the proximity of the SANG and housing areas. One of the two garages in the town has been refurbished including electric charging points. This is a sign of the confidence of the garage owner in the business.

Q - The Future Skills Centre is training young people to build houses. This will only sustain them for twenty years. What skills will be transferrable after that in the town?

A – The Future Skills Centre is currently delivering courses for brick laying, carpentry and other construction skills. It will deliver a broader range of courses in future as construction methods change including panel building, ground engineering, landscaping, managing plant and related skills.

Q – What about desk/computer jobs?

A – We are linked in with other colleges which offer this set of skills training. Our plans for improving transport will help in getting young people to these colleges.

Q- As Aldershot food outlets are going out of business, how is it viable in Bordon if not viable in a bigger town?

A – The leisure centre, the Health Hub, the cinema, the Makers Market and the events programme in the town will draw people into Whitehill & Bordon. Our town centre will have a better environment and offer a wider range of activities than some of the nearby towns, helping to sustain its future.

Q – When are the Hogmoor Inclosure facilities due to open?

A – The WW2 bomb has delayed the opening of the Hogmoor Inclosure facilities. There is structural damage lifting the roof and causing internal damage. It forced the cladding out and there is now several thousands of pounds of repair work to be undertaken.

We were in the middle of drainage works when the fit out was about to commence. The bomb was discovered by the contractor putting in the drainage. We have insurers on site to assess the damage and repairs required. Once repaired, the fit out works will take ten weeks. We are anticipating a March 2020. The access road will be starting in the next month (not the cement works entrance).

Q – Is the Mustangs building being kept?

A – We will knock it down and build a new nursery, community facility and apartments. The survey for the existing building shows it is in poor condition and is not viable as a community building.

Q – Will the Canadian War Memorial be retained?

A – Yes.

Q –I live in a new house at Dukes Quarter. As the new walking and cycling routes along the relief road will not be available before spring next year, is there anything that can be done to give people access through Bordon Enterprise Park?

A – We will explore this and consider what can be done.

Q – As a cyclist can we make it clear what is and isn't a cycle path. By the recycling centre the path is narrow and there is not enough space for pedestrians and cyclists. Also, the A325 from the old fire station to Chalet Hill doesn't have a cycle path but is being used as one.

A – There is a new footpath cycleway by the new Oakmoor School. This will be extended out towards development and the skate park and will appear in spring 2020. The C114 (old A325) we have through the town centre planning approval we have planning improvements for cycling and walking from Chalet Hill.

Q – Can the c114 be called Camp road again?

A – Please take this up with the road naming group at East Hampshire District Council which includes Hampshire County Council representatives.

Link to presentation by WBRC