

AGENDA FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Date: Monday, 6 January 2014

Time: 6:00 pm

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Executive Members:

Councillor S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)

Councillor T M Cartwright, Public Protection (Deputy Executive Leader)

Councillor B Bayford, Health and Housing

Councillor K D Evans, Strategic Planning and Environment

Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley, Leisure and Community

Councillor L Keeble, Streetscene



1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Executive held on 2 December 2013.

3. Executive Leader's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct.

5. Petitions

6. Deputations

To receive any deputations, of which notice has been lodged.

7. Minutes / References from Other Committees

To receive any reference from the committees or panels held.

Matters for Decision in Public

Note: Where an urgent item of business is raised in accordance with Part 3 of the Constitution, it will be considered with the relevant service decisions as appropriate.

8. Health and Housing

Key Decision

(1) Use of Right to Buy Receipts (Pages 7 - 12)

a report by the Director of Community

9. Leisure and Community

Non-Key Decision

(1) Community Covenant (Pages 13 - 22)

a report by the Director of Community

10. Strategic Planning and Environment

Non-Key Decision

(1) Portchester Castle Street Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy (Pages 23 - 82)

a report by the Director of Planning and Environment

11. Policy and Resources

Key Decision Notices

(1) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 (Pages 83 - 94)

a report by the Director of Finance and Resources

Non-Key Decision

(2) 2013 Residents' Survey Feedback (Pages 95 - 142)

a report by the Chief Executive Officer

P GRIMWOOD
Chief Executive Officer

www.fareham.gov.uk

19 December 2013

**For further information please contact:
Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100
democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk**

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Executive

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 2 December 2013

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
T M Cartwright, Public Protection (Deputy Executive Leader)
B Bayford, Health and Housing
K D Evans, Strategic Planning and Environment
Mrs C L A Hockley, Leisure and Community
L Keeble, Streetscene

Also in attendance:

J V Bryant, Chairman of Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel
Mrs P M Bryant, Chairman of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee
Mrs M E Ellerton, Chairman of Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel
M J Ford, JP, Chairman of Appeals Committee
Miss T G Harper, Chairman of Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel
Mrs K Mandry, Chairman of Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel
D C S Swanbrow, Chairman of Scrutiny Board
P W Whittle, JP, for items 9(1) 10(2) 10(4) and 10(5)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 4 November 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Executive Leader's announcements given at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Interests declared at this meeting.

5. PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented at this meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS

The Executive received a deputation from Mr Charles Cole in relation to item 8(1) – Hire of Open Spaces – Coles Funfair and was thanked accordingly.

The Executive received a deputation from Mr Percy O'Dell in relation to item 10(2) – 2014/15 Draft Spending Plans and was thanked accordingly.

The Executive Leader agreed to bring these items for consideration forward on the agenda.

7. MINUTES / REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- (1) Minutes of meeting Monday, 28 October 2013 of Housing Tenancy Board

The Executive received the minutes of the Housing Tenancy Board held on 28 October 2013 and accepted comments regarding the Review of Car Parking on Housing Estates at minute 8.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) receive the minutes of the Housing Tenancy Board held on 28 October 2013;
- (b) agrees to set aside £25,000 per annum from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme to improve parking on Housing Estates; and
- (c) notes the Work Programme for 2013/14, as attached at Appendix A to the minutes.

- (2) References from the Scrutiny Board - 21 November 2013.
 - (a) The Executive received comments from the Scrutiny Board regarding the Council Tax Support Scheme Year 2 and took account of these comments in determining the matter at Item 10(1) below; and
 - (b) The Executive received comments from the Scrutiny Board regarding the Updates to the Constitution and took account of these comments in determining the matter at Item 10(4) below.
- (3) The Executive received comments from the Audit and Governance Committee regarding the Updates to the Constitution and took account of these comments in determining the matter at Item 10(4) below.

8. LEISURE AND COMMUNITY

- (1) Hire of Open Spaces - Coles Funfair

The comments of the depute were taken into account in determining this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive grants approval for Charles Cole to operate a Community Fair at:

- (a) Titchfield Recreation Ground between 12-19 May 2014; and
- (b) Fareham Park, Hillson Drive between 11-18 August 2014, both subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) all requirements of the Council's Safety Advisory Group being met;
 - (ii) payment in advance of £300 per trading day to the Council;
 - (iii) a returnable damage deposit of £1000 payable in advance;
 - (iv) proof of £10 million public liability insurance; and
 - (v) all relevant safety certificates being supplied.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- (1) Preparation of Welborne Plan: Quarterly Financial Update

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P W Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the quarterly update on the financial costs of producing the Welborne Plan.

10. POLICY AND RESOURCES

- (1) Council Tax Support Scheme 2014/15

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the final Council Tax Support scheme as set out in the report;
- (b) recommends the final scheme to Council for final adoption; and
- (c) approves that the Director of Finance and Resources be given delegated authority to make any necessary minor amendments, and to publish the final scheme prior to 1 April 2014.

(2) 2014/15 Draft Spending Plans

The comments of the depute were taken into account in determining this item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P W Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the updated capital programme as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (b) approves the revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and the proposed revenue budget for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix B to the report;
- (c) approves the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix D to the report; and
- (d) requests officers to undertake a full review of beach hut rents during 2014/15.

(3) Award of Tender - Supply of Multi-Functional Devices, Print Room Equipment and Associated Software

RESOLVED that the Executive approves that the tender submitted by the contractor ranked 1 (as set out in the confidential appendix), being the most advantageous tender received, be accepted and the contract awarded to the company.

(4) Updates to the Constitution

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P W Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees that future changes to Standing Orders should be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report; and
- (b) agrees the updated Standing Orders with Respect to Meetings, as set out in Appendix A to the report and recommends the amendments for consideration by Council.

(5) Vanguard Method Implementation Update

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P W Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the progress on the implementation of the Vanguard method, as detailed in the report.

(6) Matched Funding - Update

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) that a matched funding award of up to £7,500 be awarded for St Margaret Mary Church, Park Gate;
- (b) the award be subject to all contributory funding being secured; and
- (c) a Community Use Agreement is entered into with St Margaret Mary Church.

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, as the Executive considers that it is not in the public interest to consider the matters in public on the grounds that they will involve the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES

(1) Tenders - Six Monthly Report

RESOLVED that details of all tenders received and contracts awarded during the six month period ending 7th October 2013, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.02 pm).

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 6 January 2014

Portfolio: Health and Housing
Subject: Use of Right to Buy Receipts
Report of: Director of Community
Strategy/Policy: Housing Strategy

Corporate Objective: A balanced housing market

Purpose:

To seek approval to use the Council's proportion of capital receipts arising from the sale of Council houses to provide replacement homes to help meet the growing need for affordable housing in the borough.

Executive summary:

The Right to Buy scheme was introduced in 1980 and is designed to help social tenants in England buy their home at a discount. The scheme is open to people who are secure tenants of a local council and who have spent at least 5 years as a public sector tenant.

Since April 2012, major changes have been made to Right to Buy. Maximum discounts were increased from as little as £16,000 in some areas to a maximum of £75,000 across England. As a result the number of Council houses sold under the Right to Buy scheme has risen.

As part of the 2012 changes, the Council entered into an agreement with the Government which allows the Council to retain a proportion of the capital receipt to build new affordable homes or purchase existing homes. A condition of the agreement requires the Council to make use of the capital receipt within two years of its collection or pay the receipt in full (plus interest) to HM Treasury.

This report outlines a proposal for spending the proportion of the capital receipt that the Council has collected (under the terms of the agreement) for the purchase of replacement homes.

Recommendation:

That the Director of Community in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources be authorised to spend and continue to spend the Right to Buy receipts collected since April 2012 on the purchase of replacement homes to be let at affordable rents, subject to the cost being affordable and sustainable to the Housing Revenue Account.

Reason:

To replace social homes purchased under the Right to Buy Scheme and help to meet local housing need.

Cost of proposals:

The initial cost of this proposal is £791,411 comprising £237,423 from the portion of the Right to Buy receipts retained by the Council and £553,988 from the Housing Revenue Account Reserves.

The cost of this proposal can be met from within existing resources and can be met in full from the Housing Revenue Account. Future acquisitions will be dependent on the amount of future Right to Buy receipts and the ability of the Housing Revenue Account to support further purchases.

Background papers: **Agreement made between FBC and DCLG for the use of Right to Buy Retained Receipts** – (Agreement made under Section 11 (6) of the Local Government Act 2003 dated 22 June 2012 with amendment dated 28 June 2013).

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 6 January 2014

Subject: Use of Right to Buy Receipts

Briefing by: Director of Community

Portfolio: Health and Housing

INTRODUCTION

1. The Right to Buy scheme was introduced in 1980 and is designed to help social tenants in England buy their home at a discount. The scheme is open to people who are secure tenants of a local council and who have spent at least 5 years as a public sector tenant.
2. Since April 2012, major changes have been made to Right to Buy. Maximum discounts were increased from as little as £16,000 in some areas to a maximum of £75,000 across England. And for the first time, the money raised through extra sales is going towards building new affordable homes for rent.
3. Following the changes to the Right to Buy Scheme, the Council was invited to enter an agreement with the Government to use the money from the sale of council homes in the borough to purchase replacement homes.
4. This report outlines a proposal for spending the proportion of the capital receipt collected and retained by the Council for the purchase of replacement homes for rent.

PROPOSAL

5. Since April 2012, the Council has sold 16 homes (up to 6 December 2013) under the new Right to Buy Scheme with a further 12 applications actively being pursued. (This compares with 10 homes sold between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2012 under the previous scheme). The Council has been allowed to retain £237,423 of the sales proceeds under the new Right to Buy Scheme for investment in replacement homes.
6. Under the terms of the agreement with the Government, the Council is permitted to use the receipt to purchase a 30% stake in a replacement home with the balance (70%) of the cost being met from the Housing Revenue Account (either from HRA reserves or from HRA borrowing).

7. By combining the £237,423 retained receipt (the 30% stake) with a 70% stake (equivalent to £553,988) it provides the potential to spend a total of £791,411 to invest in replacement homes. The total amount is likely to increase as further homes are sold under the Right to Buy Scheme.
8. Therefore, it is proposed that in accordance with the agreement, the Council should use these funds to purchase replacement homes to help meet local housing needs.
9. It is estimated that the current budget is sufficient to purchase between 6 and 8 replacement homes for rent. Suitable properties will be selected by the Director of Community in consultation with the Head of Estates and the Head of Building Services.
10. As Right to Buy sales continue over the coming months and years, the Council will collect further receipts for investment in replacement homes. Therefore it is proposed that the Director of Community be authorised to continue to spend future Right to Buy receipts on new or replacement homes in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, subject to the purchase costs being affordable to the Housing Revenue Account.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The following risks have been considered:
 - 11.1 **Failure to use the receipts in accordance with the Government's agreement.** If the receipts are not used within two years of collection, the Council is required to pay the receipt plus interest to HM Treasury resulting in a loss of resources to Fareham and its residents.
 - 11.2 **Finding suitable properties.** The Council has suitably qualified and experienced officers to identify and acquire suitable properties.
 - 11.3 **Cost of matched funding from the HRA.** The Council can meet the cost of match funding the 30% stake from the Housing Revenue Account. Future acquisitions will be subject to consultation between the Director of Community and the Director of Finance and Resources to ensure the programme of future acquisitions is affordable and sustainable within the HRA.
 - 11.4 **Demand for social rented accommodation.** With approximately 1400 applicants on the Housing Waiting List and increasing numbers of households presenting in need of temporary accommodation there is plenty of demand for additional rented accommodation. At the time of writing this report, the Council has a total of 110 households placed in temporary accommodation and a further 12 households placed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation).

- 11.5 **Invest in new build or existing satisfactory purchases.** The Council has the option of investing the receipt in new affordable housing or purchasing existing homes. As the Council has no new build affordable housing onsite at present or prior to April 2014 (with the exception of the new sheltered housing scheme on the site of the former Collingwood House) there is little scope to invest in new affordable homes before a repayment is due. A further complication of the Agreement prevents the Council from using the receipt on new build affordable housing developments on sites where the Council has secured a grant from the Homes and Communities Agency.
- 11.6 **Future management and maintenance costs.** The properties will be retained within the HRA and their future management and maintenance costs will be met from the rental income.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. This proposal requires the Council to fund £553,988 (70% of the total funding) from the HRA. This can be met from within the existing HRA without the need for additional borrowing.
13. Further acquisitions will be discussed and agreed by the Director of Community in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources and will be subject to the affordability and likely impact on the HRA.

CONCLUSION

14. The proposal outlined in this report will help ensure the Council retains a proportion of the Right to Buy receipts to invest in the provision of replacement homes for rent, thus helping to meet local housing need.

Reference Papers: None

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 6 January 2014

Portfolio: Leisure and Community
Subject: **Community Covenant**
Report of: Director of Community
Strategy/Policy: NA

Corporate Priority: Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

To establish a Fareham community covenant to encourage local communities and public service partners to support the armed forces community within the area.

Executive summary:

A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the service community in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.

Recommendation: That the Executive agrees to

- (a) support the Armed Forces Covenant by signing a Community Covenant for Fareham;
- (b) appoint the Deputy Leader as the Member Champion for the Community Covenant; and
- (c) sign up to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme to enable bids from local community groups to apply for grant funding.

Reason:

To seek approval to sign up to a Fareham Community Covenant, for the benefit of the armed services personnel and the wider community.

Cost of proposals:

Within existing resources.

Appendix A: Proposed Community Covenant Pledge

Background papers: Communications with HMS Collingwood and Royal British Legion

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 6 January 2014

Subject: Community Covenant

Briefing by: Director of Community

Portfolio: Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.
2. The Community Covenant aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the Ministry of Defence, from statutory providers and from the charitable and voluntary sector.
3. The Community Covenant does not seek to replace the Armed Forces Day event but does aim to encourage the civilian community to extend their support beyond Armed Forces Day throughout the year and on longer term projects that benefit their local community. Armed Forces Day is very much about celebrating the hard work of our Armed Forces, the Community Covenant is about supporting them.

BACKGROUND

4. Fareham Borough Council has always enjoyed a close and cordial relationship with the Armed Forces, especially with HMS Collingwood which was awarded Freedom of the Borough in July 1974.
5. HMS Collingwood is the Royal Navy's largest training establishment covering 200-acres and is the lead institution for the Maritime Warfare School.
6. There are 404 married quarters accommodation properties within Fareham Borough, not including the residential units located within the HMS Collingwood establishment.

7. There are 155 Armed Service personnel who have registered as being Service Voters on the electoral register. There will be many more service personnel who live within the Borough but who have not notified the council of their status.

SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS

8. Hampshire County Council signed the Hampshire Armed Forces Community Covenant in June 2011 and is committed to working to ensure that the Armed Forces community has access to the help and support they need. The following areas are of particular significance to Fareham Borough Council in terms of service delivery:
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Housing
 - Leisure Opportunities
 - Access to Welfare Benefits
9. In order to promote Fareham Borough Council's commitment to service personnel in providing these services, it may be necessary for the Council's policies to be reviewed for these service areas to ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place.
10. The Ministry of Defence announced in 2011 that £30 million in grant funding would be available over four years to encourage and support projects which strengthened mutual understanding between the Armed Forces and Civilian communities at a local level. Some of this money has now been allocated however there is still £10 million to be allocated between 2014-2015.
11. Grant funding is only eligible to local authorities which have a Community Covenant in place. Bids from local authorities are submitted to a regional panel which will be chaired on a rotating basis by the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. The Armed Forces Covenant team and Treasury retain oversight of the process.
12. All local bids must be reviewed and approved by members of the local Community Covenant Partnership. The Partnership can include signatories to the Covenant as well as other relevant representatives. The full Partnership or a sub-group can be appointed to review local bids for Covenant Grant funding.
13. If the MOD has any queries or concerns about a bid, it will contact the local Covenant Partnership Grant Panel to act as its liaison with the local grant applicant to clarify information or seek additional information about the bid.
14. The MOD publishes its quarterly deadlines for applications to be received and when the Panel meets for making grant decisions.

PROPOSAL

15. It is recommended that the Executive agrees to sign up to the Community Covenant and that HMS Collingwood be invited to be a co-signatory.

16. It is further proposed that other charitable and voluntary sector organisations be approached and invited to join the Community Covenant in the future. For example, the following may be invited:

- Community Action Fareham
- Chamber of Commerce
- Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group

17. A proposed Community Covenant Pledge is shown at Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no financial implications for the Council in signing up to the agreement however, there is an opportunity to access funding for the benefit of armed services personnel and the wider community.

CONSULTATIONS

19. The Commanding Officer of HMS Collingwood, Captain Steven Dainton CBE, has written to the Mayor to express his backing of the formalising of Fareham's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to recognise the support the Council provides to Collingwood.

20. The Chairman of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association has written to the Executive Leader to promote his organisation's work to raise awareness for health measures to support surviving veterans and to request the Council's support by signing up to a Community Covenant.

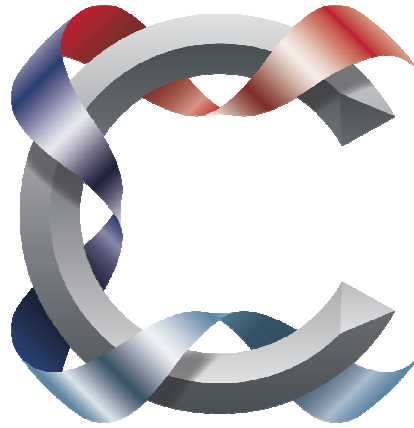
21. The Director General of the Royal British Legion has written to the Chief Executive Officer to encourage the Council to join the Community Covenant scheme.

CONCLUSION

22. The proposal outlined in this report will ensure that Fareham Borough Council demonstrates its commitment to support the armed forces community within the area.

Reference Papers: Royal British Legion Best Practice Guide to Community Covenants
MoD Community Covenant Guidance Notes

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)



Community Covenant

BETWEEN

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE BOROUGH
OF FAREHAM



**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR
THE BOROUGH OF FAREHAM**

We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Signatories

Signed on behalf of Fareham Borough Council

Councillor Susan Bayford
The Worshipful the Mayor of Fareham

Signed on behalf of the Naval Service Community

Captain Steven Dainton CBE
Commanding Officer, HMS Collingwood

Dated

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the Borough of Fareham

And

Fareham Borough Council

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the Borough of Fareham and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in the Borough of Fareham.

2.3 For Fareham Borough Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures

4.1 *Detail regarding specific measures to be put in place could be inserted here, e.g. Civil/Military Partnership Boards, Welfare Pathway, etc*

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Address:

Fareham Borough Council

Contact Name: Pauline Lock
Title: Corporate Services Manager
Telephone: 01329 824303
Address: Civic Offices
Civic Way
Fareham
PO16 7AZ

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 6 January 2014

Portfolio:	Strategic Planning and Environment
Subject:	Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy
Report of:	Director of Planning and Environment
Strategy/Policy:	Fareham Borough Local Plan
Corporate Objective:	Protect and Enhance the Environment

Purpose:

This report summarises the outcome of public consultation on the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal & Management Strategy for Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area and proposes its adoption.

Executive Summary:

This report relates to the Council's programme for the review of the adopted conservation area character assessments. It recommends adoption of the revised Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy which has taken into account the outcome of the draft document consultation and guidance produced by English Heritage.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:-

- (a) The Portchester Castle Street Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be adopted as evidence in support of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000) saved policies, the policies contained within the Fareham Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and the emerging policies of the Fareham Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites & Policies.
- (b) The preparation of an article 4 direction, as recommended in the character appraisal document, is supported. Delegated authority was granted by the Executive to the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment in July 2010 to make article 4 directions in accordance with the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2010 and this proposal will be the subject of a further detailed report

(c) Delegated authority is granted to the Director of Planning and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment to make minor factual and formatting alterations, including updating of photographs where appropriate, prior to publication of the adopted document.

Reason:

To continue the Council's programme for re-appraisal of the adopted Conservation Area Character Assessments and the addition of a management strategy. These documents play a key role in helping to identify the heritage significance of conservation areas and in preserving and enhancing their character and appearance through the development management process and in liaison with statutory undertakers.

Cost of proposals:

The operation of the management strategy will be undertaken through existing officer resource and departmental budgets. Any environmental improvement works will be subject to the availability of additional funding.

Appendices: A: Draft document consultation comments, responses and action table
B: Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy

Background papers: Individual responses to the public consultation.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 6 January 2014

Subject: Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy

Briefing by: Director of Planning and Environment

Portfolio: Strategic Planning and Environment

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks adoption of the revised Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy document for Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area following public consultation. This continues the programme of re-appraisal of the Council's adopted character appraisal documents.
2. English Heritage guidance concerning conservation area management advises Local Authorities to produce conservation area character appraisals and management strategies and to keep them up to date. The current Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Assessment was adopted in 2008.
3. The draft Character Appraisal and Management Strategy document was considered by the Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel on the 3rd Sept 2013. The consultation draft incorporated the changes to the text recommended by the Panel before being published for public consultation during October and November.

THE ROLE OF CHARACTER APPRAISALS

4. A Conservation Area Character Appraisal identifies the qualities of a conservation area that give it heritage significance. Character can derive from the age and style of individual buildings, the way groups of buildings are arranged, the spaces between them, their historical significance in the development of an area and their use. Other factors such as; open spaces, landscaping, trees and important views all interact to form the overall character of an area. In order to make informed decisions about development that affects the character of a conservation area it is essential to have a clear understanding of its heritage significance through an up to date character appraisal document.

5. The appraisal documents also have a general role to play in informing local residents and others about the history of the borough's older settlements and those aspects of their character and appearance that it is important to protect.

THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

6. In line with current English Heritage guidance the updated character appraisal has been amended to include a management strategy that sets out the Council's approach to the conservation of the conservation area. It outlines the procedures currently in place to manage change and proposes additional measures and opportunities for enhancement as identified by the appraisal.
7. The draft management strategy (as published for public consultation) proposed measures and enhancements to preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area including the following:
 - Monitoring by photographic survey every four years and periodic street audit.
 - Liaison with other bodies, including statutory undertakers and other Council departments who are responsible for, or undertake, works or re-instatements that are likely to affect the character and appearance of the conservation area.
 - Opportunities for enhancement including:
 - Waterside Lane Car Park - surfacing, marking out, signage, lighting low level planting, improvements to the definition of Waterside Lane adjacent to the car park.
 - Clearing of undergrowth and planting from the Gunpowder Store which is a scheduled monument on the outer earthworks of the castle.
 - Improvements to the sea wall when opportunity arises to introduce a softer edge.
 - Strengthened low level planting to screen the small car park close to the land gate of the castle.
 - Resurfacing of Church Road with a material more appropriate to its historic context.
 - Removal of overhead cables from the open space east of the castle and the southern end of Castle Street.
 - Improvements to west end of Wicor Path including cemetery gates and wall.
 - Review of signage and street furniture placement throughout the conservation area, including for example highway signage, bins, seating etc; including in the scheduling area within and around the castle.

THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

8. Public consultation on the draft Character Appraisal and Management Strategy was undertaken between 21st Oct and 18th November. It comprised:
 - A notification letter, setting out how to obtain a copy of the draft document and how to respond, sent to properties within the conservation area boundary and to local amenity societies, including Portchester Civic Society, The Portchester Society, The Fareham Society, Portchester Community Association and Portchester Community Centre Limited, statutory undertakers and other relevant bodies including English Heritage and Hampshire County Council.

- Site notices were placed on roads and footpaths and in local noticeboards in the conservation area.
- Details of the consultation were put on the Council's website including the ability to download the draft document and to submit comments electronically.
- A display was located in the foyer of the Library for the first two weeks of the consultation period and was moved to the Community Centre for the second two weeks. Documents and comment sheets were available to take away. The display was periodically manned by the Conservation Officer for a number of advertised morning, afternoon and evening sessions to help with enquiries.

9. The consultation asked for comments on the following:

- **Question 1.** The key features identified in the character appraisal to be preserved or enhanced;
- **Question 2.** The proposed opportunities identified in the character appraisal for enhancing character and appearance;
- **Question 3.** The use of an article 4 direction to control potentially harmful alterations by requiring a planning application;
- **Question 4.** Any general comments.

THE OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. Representations were received from 22 respondents including The Portchester Society, Portchester Civic Society and local residents. Their comments raised a wide range of issues, some relating to the specific questions asked in the questionnaire and some raising other issues. A summary of the views received is set out below and a more detailed table of comments is attached at Appendix A. The table includes an officer response indicating amendments made to the document where appropriate, or other actions.

Responses to Question 1: Key features identified in the character appraisal to be preserved and enhanced.

11. There were 15 comments received relating to this question. Six were in broad support of the key areas identified. Seven comments related to the importance of long distance views of the castle including those from Portsdown Hill. In particular a number related specifically to the impact of the proposed 10 Storey development at Trafalgar Wharf close to the borough boundary in Portsmouth. Other comments related to the importance of the architecture and age of the buildings, the open gardens and allotments and the setting of the castle and St Mary's Church.

Responses to Question 2: Opportunities identified in the character appraisal for enhancing character and appearance.

12. There were 25 comments received in response to this question. Six of these expressed overall support for the list of opportunities for enhancement set out in the document. Nineteen comments showed support for the the aims of the specific proposals whilst raising concerns such as maintenance of planting/ fencing, no reduction of in car parking provision, highway safety and vandalism.

Responses to Question 3: Using an article 4 direction to control harmful alterations to buildings by require planning applications.

13. There were 23 comments made in response to this question: 22 were in favour of the proposal and one considered that some controls should be made less strict. Other matters raised were concern over loss of boundary walls/ gates, use of front gardens as parking spaces, control of planting, and the need for a consistent approach to implementation.

Responses to Question 4: General comments.

14. There were 38 comments received that related to other issues. Eight of these gave general support for the document. Others raised a variety of matters such as additional historic facts or corrections to the text. The standard of maintenance work by statutory undertakers, the maintenance and management of the open spaces, upkeep of the historic buildings in particular the castle, littering and unsocial behaviour after dark and the need for conservation area guidance documents were also raised.

Specific Highway and Traffic Matters

15. Ten comments related to the management of the highway and traffic. These include issues such as car parking, speeding and signage. These issues will be raised with the Highway Authority. The importance of liaison with the highway authority concerning these matters to ensure appropriate conservation is set out in the Management Strategy of the document.

Development and Planning Matters

16. With regard to wider planning and development issues, these will be considered through the normal planning process having regard to the saved policies contained within the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000), the policies contained within the Fareham Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy, the emerging policies of the Fareham Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites & Policies and the evidence set out in the Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy. This approach is identified within the Management Strategy of the document.

NEXT STEPS

17. The Character Appraisal and Management Strategy document has been amended following the responses to the consultation and is attached at Appendix B. It is recommended that the Executive agrees to the adoption of the Portchester (Castle Street) Character Appraisal and Management Strategy. The document will then be published on the Council's website.
18. Following adoption the Character Appraisal and Management Strategy will be used as evidence in support of the saved policies of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000), the policies contained within the Fareham Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and the emerging policies of the Fareham Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites & Policies. As such, the content of the documents is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

CONCLUSION

19. The Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy continues the Council's programme for re-appraisal of the adopted Conservation Area Character Assessments. These documents play a key role in helping to identify the heritage significance of conservation areas and in preserving and enhancing their character and appearance through the development management process.
20. The document has been prepared following best practice guidance set out by English Heritage and has taken account of the comments raised by the community of Portchester and interested organisations.

Reference Papers:

Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management – English Heritage (2011)

Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Assessment (2007)

Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy - Consultation Draft (September 2013)

Appendix A – Draft Document Consultation Comments Responses and Action Table

Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Q1. KEY FEATURES IDENTIFIED IN THE DOCUMENT TO BE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED			
General Comments			
General support for the key features identified.	5	Support for the list is noted.	No Alteration
The Portchester Society - All the features identified are important.	1		
The Portchester Society - Paragraph 3 (long distance views of the castle in its wider setting) is paramount.		The importance of the setting of Portchester Castle and St Mary's Church, including in long distance views is included in the document and on the accompanying map on page 20. The negative impact of the existing large building at Trafalgar wharf is also identified.	Mention of views from Portsmouth and Gosport added to paragraph 4.1.
Portchester Civic Society – The 10 storey block of apartments proposed on the Trafalgar Wharf site is an immediate threat which will be higher than the Castle's Keep and is totally inappropriate for the area. It is not on a site that Portsmouth City Council has identified for high rise buildings in 2007. Any planning proposals for buildings and their surrounds must follow the strict guidelines laid down in the Conservation Area rules and be robustly enforced.	1	The Trafalgar wharf site is located outside the borough, Fareham Borough Council has objected to the planning application for the development proposal that included a 10 storey building.	
Portchester Civic Society - The special architectural and historic setting of Portchester Castle and St Mary's Church must be preserved from future developments both within and outside the conservation area.	1	It would be appropriate to include reference to views from Portsmouth and Gosport.	
Important views of the castle should be retained from other areas within Portchester, as well as within the conservation area. The long distance views should also	1		

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
include those from Port Solent, Tipner, Whale Island, Portsmouth and Gosport.			
It is impossible to discuss the 2nd item on page 23 without considering the proposed development of the Vosper site and a neighbouring site eastward along the A27. The proposed erection of high-rise buildings would if implemented make nonsense of all efforts to conserve the environment of Portchester Castle. The present proposal would be catastrophic to the environment.	1		
High rise buildings which will further interfere with the view of Portchester Castle from the A27 or Portsdown Hill should be resisted.	1		
Long distance views of the castle are compromised by the Vosper building at the end of the harbour (north) and from Portsdown Hill.	2		
The character of Castle Street is defined by the age & variation of the housing, the large back gardens, the ambience of the street architecture & fittings, and it is important to maintain these sympathetically.	1	These aspects of the character and appearance of the conservation area are included in the document.	No alteration.
The open land, garden and allotments are absolutely essential to the setting of the castle.	1		

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Q2. COMMENTS ON OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED (ON PAGE 30) FOR ENHANCING CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE.			
General support for the list of opportunities identified	6	Support noted.	No alteration.
1. Waterside Lane Car Park - surfacing, marking out, signage, lighting low level planting, improvements to the definition of Waterside Lane adjacent to the car park.			
Portchester Civic Society - The Waterside Lane car park would benefit from resurfacing and consideration taken to increase the number of parking spaces by laying it out differently. Angled chevron parking might make better use of the space.	1	The opportunity for enhancement through improvements to the car park is set out in the document. If a detailed scheme for improvement is developed the optimum number of parking spaces would be addressed. It is not considered appropriate to increase the size of the car park which would be harmful to the setting of the castle, a grade 1 listed building and a scheduled monument, and the character and appearance of the conservation area.	No alteration.
The car park should not be increased in size.	1		
Any work on Waterside Lane Car Park should focus on increasing the number of car parking spaces available.	1		
2. Clearing of undergrowth and planting from the Gunpowder Store on the outer earthworks of the castle			
Portchester Civic Society - The stability of the Gunpowder Store is threatened by the shrubs that have been allowed to grow against its walls.	1	The importance of clearing the undergrowth and planting from the building is made clear in the document. English Heritage, who are responsible for the building, have been contacted	No alteration. Liaise with English Heritage concerning a timetable for the work
If the undergrowth is cleared from the Gunpowder store,	1		

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
then measures would need to be taken to protect the building from misuse/ graffiti	1	and have advised that works will be undertaken to clear the building. Officers will contact English Heritage again to confirm the date the work will commence and will also raise concern about the need for regular inspection.	and the need for regular inspection in the future.
The Gunpowder Store needs regular inspection to make sure everything is okay. It is a 200 Year old building.		The issue of graffiti is beyond the scope of the document, the undergrowth must be cleared as it will result in harm to the listed building which forms part of Portchester Castle scheduled monument.	
Japanese knotweed is present in the area and along the sea wall and needs to be eradicated as soon as possible.	1	This is beyond the scope of the document. The comment has been passed to the Council's Leisure and Community Department for action.	No alteration.
3. Improvements to the sea wall when opportunity arises to introduce a softer edge.			
No comment received	-	-	No alteration.
4. Strengthening of low level planting to screen the small car park close to the land gate			
Additional planting to hide the car park near the land gate is necessary	1	The opportunity to further screen the cap park is included in the document	No alteration.
The wooden fencing close to the land gate and on	1	The fencing close to the land gate is	Liaison with English

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Watergate Lane is broken in places.		the responsibility of Fareham Borough Council and has been repaired. The fencing on Waterside Lane will be discussed with English Heritage.	Heritage.
Avoid planting bushes around the car park, as Fareham Council's reputation on keeping bushes in Portchester is dubious. They are left to grow and grow with no maintenance and upkeep.	1	The need for regular maintenance would be considered as part of any proposal for further planting.	No alteration.
5. Resurfacing of Church Road with a material more appropriate to its historic context.			
General support for improvement to Church Road.	3	Support for the opportunity for enhancement is noted.	No alteration.
Portchester Civic Society - We support the resurfacing of Church Road with a more compatible material. Larger waste bins or a 'Please take your Litter home' notice would also be useful in this area as the bins are often overflowing on busy days.	1	The location and size of bins and signage needs to be carefully considered in the conservation area.	Forward comment and liaise with the Street Scene Department.
The Portchester Society - Number 5 (Church Road) needs urgent attention as it leads to the parish church and funerals, weddings and church services are struggling at the moment; patching that up is not an option.	1	The need for liaison with other council departments concerning placement of street furniture is made clear in the document, the comment has been passed to the Street Scene Department.	Forward Comment and liaise with the Highway Authority concerning highway safety.
Concern relating to possible injury due to the existing surface due to potholes and bodged repairs.	2		

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
6. Removal of overhead wires from the open space east of the castle			
Overhead cables include British Telecom.	1	Noted, this should be clarified and the document amended accordingly.	Paragraph 21.1 of the document amended to also refer to British Telecom.
7. Improvements to west end of Wicor Path including cemetery gates and wall			
No comments	-	-	No alteration.
8. Review of signage and street furniture placement throughout the conservation area.			
Inappropriate seating on the southern/ water side of the castle	1	Two are located on the open space beside the shore on the southern side of the castle. They are not unduly harmful to its setting.	No alteration.

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Q3. Comments on the proposal to control harmful alterations to buildings using an article 4 direction to require planning application			
General support for use of Article 4 direction	11	Support for the use of an article 4 direction is noted.	No alteration
Portchester Civic Society - We support the recommendation that an article 4 direction should apply to the Portchester Castle Street Conservation Area.	1	The use of an article 4 direction is recommended in the document.	
The Portchester Society - Article 4 (16.1) is most important. We would agree with this wholeheartedly.	1		
Concern at infilling of front gardens as car parking spaces.	1		
Concern at the removal of railings/ gates.	2		
Removing permitted development rights essential, as long as it's backed up by a robust & open planning policy.	1		
Sometimes when properties change hands, the new owners have big ideas which could badly affect the existing properties.	1		
Para's 16.1-3 add weight to the need for special measures to be enforced in this conservation area.	1		
The initiative should be applied consistently across all affected properties with no exceptions.	1		An article 4 direction can only be used where alterations would be harmful to

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>Owners of listed building go through a tortuous procedure for even the smallest alteration. There are many modern houses in the conservation area which are not subject to these restrictions and the owners expect the same approval to be given as if in general suburbia.</p>	1	<p>the character and appearance of the conservation area. This will not necessarily include all modern buildings. There is a separate statutory procedure for article 4 direction which includes a period of public consultation.</p>	
<p>Bushes/Shrubs should be cut back to boundaries of houses.</p>	1	<p>The cutting back of garden bushes/ shrubs is outside the control of an article 4 direction which only applies to 'development' as defined by the Planning Acts. The contribution that garden planting makes to the character and appearance of the conservation area is included in the document.</p>	No alteration.
<p>Alteration to the rear of the buildings visible from the castle could be treated sympathetically/ made less strict by the planning authority.</p>	1	<p>Proposals for development are considered on their merits having regard to the impact of the proposals on the architectural and historic interest and setting of listed buildings and the character, appearance and setting of the conservation area. The document is a material consideration in making planning decisions.</p>	No alteration.

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Q4. General Comments			
General support for the document	7	Support for the document welcomed	No alteration.
The Portchester Society - appreciates all the work that has been put into the appraisal and is impressed with the outcome.	1		
Portchester Civic Society - The Conservation Area has been improved over the years and Fareham Borough Council must be congratulated for the work done.	1	Support for the work undertaken by the council is noted.	No alteration.
The Portchester Society - The document should mention C18 and C19 graves inside the seawall in the fields opposite Portchester. Possibly French prisoners.	1	This has been checked with Hampshire County Council Archaeology service and an appropriate reference will be added to the document text. The record is in the form of a verbal report that before a sea wall was constructed it was possible to see gravecuts in section along the shore. They were possibly the graves of French POW's of the 18th century (unsubstantiated). The document should be amended accordingly.	Paragraph 3.5 of the document amended to include reference to graves.
It is important to mention the graves inside the seawall in the fields opposite Portchester which are probably those of French Prisoners	1		
Don't waste time or money on rosebeds/ gardens with rose trees and large bushes i.e. on the junction of White Hart Lane and Castle Street they are not maintained. The large bush is hiding a drain. Better to put grass and bulbs	1	This suitability and type of planting is beyond the scope of the document and will be forwarded to the appropriate department of the Council.	No alteration. Forward comment to Street Scene

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
in the spring.			Department.
An effort should be made to ensure that where utility companies dig up roads or pavement the surface is replaced using similar materials to the original. Maintenance work carried out by utilities is generally poorly done and there is often little effort to match the materials laid down by the Council.	2	Agreed. The document makes clear the importance of liaison with statutory undertakers and other Council departments who are responsible for re-instatement works.	No alteration.
Public footpath signage should be improved on the Solent Way.	1	<p>The importance of footpaths is included in the document.</p> <p>The location and size of signage needs to be carefully considered in the light of the character and appearance of the conservation area. The need for liaison with other bodies concerning placement of street furniture is also made clear in the document.</p> <p>The comment will be passed to the Council's Street Scene Department and Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Team.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Forward comment and liaise with Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Team and the Council's Street Scene Department.</p>
There is a gradual erosion of the quality of the existing buildings, through the inclusion of inappropriate materials, poor quality design and poor maintenance.	1	The document recommends the use of an article 4 direction to require a planning application for a range of alterations that are currently permitted development. Where design and the use of materials requires planning	No alteration.

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
		<p>permission or listed building consent the impact of the proposals will be considered in the light of the architectural and historic interest and setting of listed buildings and the character and appearance of the conservation area.</p> <p>The appraisal document is a material consideration in making planning decisions. In the case of unauthorised alteration or serious neglect and decay of listed buildings the Council will consider the use of its enforcement powers.</p>	
<p>There is no design brief for the sailing club, which is one of the closest buildings to the Castle.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Any proposals for development on the sailing club site would be considered in the light of the setting of Portchester Castle as a grade I listed building and scheduled monument and also the character and appearance of the conservation area. The importance of the setting of the castle its immediate surroundings are made clear in the document and are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p>

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>Urchins copse, which comprises the Outer Moat of Portchester Castle to the west of Hospital Lane, has become overgrown and a refuge for occasional alcohol and drug abuse. This wooded area should enhance Portchester Castle and not detract. Fareham Borough Council is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.</p>	1	<p>The importance of the land that forms the immediate setting of the castle is included in the document. This comment will be passed to the Street Scene Department and the Community Safety and Enforcement in the Department of Regulatory and Democratic Services.</p>	<p>No alteration to the document.</p> <p>Forward comment to and liaise with the appropriate departments.</p>
<p>The grassed open areas to the west of Hospital Lane need to be retained to maintain the vista to Portchester Castle</p>	1	<p>The importance of this open area of land is included in the document.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p>
<p>The refurbishment of the moat sluice (traditionally the "TOLLOP") area, including both inside and outside channels.</p>	1	<p>This matter of the moat sluice will be raised with English Heritage.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Liaise with English Heritage.</p>
<p>The report presents the Castle and Castle Street at its best. At its worst, after dark and into the early hours, the area frequently becomes a playground for badly behaved, often drunk, gangs of youths. Noisy cars in the Castle car parks and unruly gatherings around the Castle wall perimeter are common. Any opportunities to improve this situation should be taken, and any opportunities to make it worse, e.g. more public seats which quickly become gathering /meeting places after dark, should be seriously avoided.</p>	1	<p>These issues are outside the scope of the document. This comment will be passed to Community Safety and Enforcement in the Department of Regulatory and Democratic Services.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Forwarded to Community Safety and Enforcement for action.</p>

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
At page 29 of the document, para 18.1. Reference to the 'barn' at 157 Castle' is incorrect, it is at 163.	1	Noted. This is an error, the document should read 'to the south of 157'	Paragraph 18.1 of the document text corrected accordingly.
The foreshore and water should be cleared of rubbish allowing clean water to run in and out with the tide attracting herons, kingfishers et al.	1	This is beyond the scope of the document. The comment will be forwarded to the Council's Street Scene Department.	No alteration. Forward to and liaise with the Street Scene Department
Applicants' proposals that rely on tree screens should be stringently looked at as trees can be removed.	1	Any proposals for development within the conservation area will be considered in the light of the setting of Portchester Castle and the other listed buildings and also the character and appearance of the conservation area. The presence and long term effectiveness of any tree screening would be a material consideration in the determination of any particular application. The contribution and importance of the protection of trees that contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area is included in the document.	No alteration.

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Residents have a responsibility to look after the conservation area for future generations. Concern that approval for buildings/ alterations to modern buildings might slip though. Changes have to be made but they must be in keeping.	1	Any proposals for development within the conservation area would be considered in the light of the setting of Portchester Castle and the other listed buildings and also the character, appearance and setting of the conservation area. The conservation area designation is not intended to prevent development but to manage it in such a way that its character and appearance is conserved or enhanced.	No alteration.
Portchester Castle is the 'jewel in the crown' for Fareham Borough Council. However, familiarity has bred contempt for this amazing structure, from English Heritage, from the Council, from the local residents and from many of the visitors to the castle. There are many reasons for this such as finance, not a vote issue, lack of support, poor maintenance and lack of education.	1	The importance and significance of Portchester Castle is reflected in its heritage designation as grade 1 listed buildings and scheduled monument. Its importance and the contribution that it makes to the character and appearance of the Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area is set out in the document. The document is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.	No alteration.
The Council have also failed to appreciate the value of this historic castle with poor maintenance of the local paths, poor signage, poor refuse collection/bin arrangements and poor seating (inappropriate locations/materials). Recent suggestions coming from the Council include a waste recycling centre in the car park, pitch and putt, burger vans and house boats. All these would affect the ambience and setting of this magnificent building.	1	The importance of liaison with other bodies and departments of the Council is set out in the document.	

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>English Heritage has a policy of ‘allowable degradation’, for the castle’s fabric. The Council needs to challenge this and get the castle moved up the English Heritage planned maintenance programme.</p>	1	<p>Officers have contacted English Heritage who is responsible for maintenance of the castle concerning this matter. The maintenance of the castle is subject to available budgets, English Heritage has advised that it hopes the recent announcement of government funding to conserve the National Collection of Monuments will enable maintenance work to be programmed. The English Heritage quinquennial survey of its properties informs funding decisions based on urgency of work required and significance of fabric affected.</p> <p>Officers will continue to liaise with English Heritage concerning the maintenance programme for the castle.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Liaise with English Heritage to clarify maintenance programme.</p>
<p>English Heritage also has a poor record for involving the local residents in the Castle.</p>	1	<p>This comment beyond the scope of the document.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p>
<p>If the Planning Department and the Council are serious about preserving the castle street conservation area, then they will need to allocate more resources to do this.</p>	1	<p>Available resources are addressed in para 22 of the document.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p>
<p>The photos within the report need updating (some are over 10 years old) and a photographic record of every listed building needs to be carried out, so that changes can be noted.</p>	1	<p>The photos will be updated. The management strategy recommends a dated photographic survey every 4 years.</p>	<p>Update the photos in the document as appropriate.</p>

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
There are many departments at both local and regional/national level who are responsible for this local environment, not many of them are actively working to enhance the conservation area.	1	The importance of liaison with other bodies and departments of the Council is set out in the document.	No alteration.
Utility companies do not appear to educate their staff for conservation areas. A sign at the boundary of the conservation would alert everyone that some consideration for the placement of services is required. It would be helpful if the planning rules could be changed to cover the work undertaken by these companies on listed buildings/within conservation areas.	1	Further signage would be inappropriate and harmful to the character and appearance of the conservation area and the setting of listed buildings.	
Hampshire County Council controls the land between the recreation ground and the industrial estate. There does not seem to be an active and enhancing plan for this important area. The balancing pond is full of rubbish, the paths of poor quality. It offers little help to the local wildlife or benefit to the residents. This should be changed.	1	<p>The importance of this land to the character and appearance of the conservation area is made clear in the document.</p> <p>The comment concerning management of the land will be passed to Hampshire County Council.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Liaise with Hampshire County Council.</p>
Litter is a problem. There are insufficient bins or disincentives for people to drop litter resulting in rats and unsightly piles of rubbish.	1	The need for liaison with other Council departments concerning placement of street furniture is made clear in the document, the comment has been passed to the Street Scene Department.	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Pass comment to and liaise with Street Scene Department.</p>

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Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>Most property owners in Castle Street do not understand their legal obligations in owning a protected building. Many of the owners are elderly and therefore do not have (easy) access to the Planning Portal (even if they had heard of it). Property owners are fed incorrect information from suppliers/contractor and are told that 'planning permission is not required' for a whole variety of alterations to their properties. Properties are maintained in the same ownership for many years, so 'irregularities' go un-noted. The key issue here is to educate property owners (by way of a leaflet?) setting out their responsibilities, what they can and cannot do and what the penalties.</p>	1	<p>Paragraph 15.8 of the document recommends the use of guidance documents to inform proposals for development and alteration. The wording should be amended to include reference to guidance that advises owners of the legal implications of owning a listed building or a building in a conservation area. The Council's website should also include this advice.</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Paragraph 15.8 amended to include reference to guidance advising owners of the legal implications of owning a listed building or a building within a conservation area and review the advice contained on the Council's website.</p>
<p>There is no 'enhancement' or improvement plan for the area, either for wildlife or for the local residents and visitors to the castle. This could be changed, resulting in less 'regular' maintenance (saving costs) and increasing more wild/native areas, more appropriate to the setting of the castle.</p>	1	<p>This comment is beyond the scope of the document but is relevant to other strategies such as the Biodiversity Action Plan. The comment will be passed to the appropriate Council department</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>The comment will be passed to the appropriate Council department.</p>
<p>For the Castle Street conservation area to be a success it needs every section of the community and local government to pull together. One suggestion would be to set up a 'Friends of Portchester Castle' group who would be able to support the Council's officers and departments to initially agree a full management plan for the area and then to ensure the plan was carried out (and updated as required). However without a person (at the Council) being 'in charge' of the area (and having the authority to</p>	1	<p>Responsibility for change that can affect the conservation area does not lie with one individual, group or department of the Council but with a number of different public bodies, statutory undertakers, landowners, and Council departments under a number of statutory regimes. Fareham Borough Council elected members are also</p>	<p>No alteration.</p>

Appendix A – Draft Document Consultation Comments Responses and Action Table

Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>get things changed), then the conservation area will continue to degrade and Fareham Borough Council will be left with a very burnished crown.</p>		<p>responsible for making decisions in the light of specialist advice provided by officers. The character appraisal is essentially a planning document but it recognises that pressure to alter character and appearance can come from a number of sources and highlights the importance of liaison with other bodies, including statutory undertakers and Council departments who are responsible for, or undertake, works.</p>	
<p>Specific Highway Comments</p>			
<p>Portchester Civic Society - There is a parking problem in Castle Street especially in good weather when the Castle car parks become full and the parking spreads up Castle Street, often on both sides. The danger of emergency vehicles not being able to access the street is getting worse. The visual aspect of the approach to the Castle through the Conservation Area is also marred by the volume of cars.</p>	1	<p>These comments relating to parking and access have been passed to the Highway Authority and to the Department of Regulatory Services.</p> <p>The impact of parking is a long term issue in the conservation area. The document recognises that pressure for further off street parking has resulted in loss of front boundary enclosures and front gardens which is harmful to character and appearance. The provision of further road markings and</p>	<p>No alteration.</p> <p>Forward to and liaise with the Highway Authority and the Department of Regulatory Services.</p>
<p>There is a lack of car parking in the conservation area. Bigger car parks are not the solution but this problem will continue unless addressed in depth.</p>	3		
<p>Parking & access remain a major issue, particularly at</p>	1		

Appendix A – Draft Document Consultation Comments Responses and Action Table

Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
<p>weekends & bank holidays, when the street resembles a log jam, especially on the corner around 144-146 Castle Street. Many vehicles park on the pavement, blocking access for wheelchair & pushchair users, who are often forced into the road. Unfortunately, the road isn't wide enough to allow cars to park both sides legally, and maintain a wide enough central path for traffic, and I am concerned about access for emergency vehicles. Install 'no parking signs' down one side of the street so cars cannot park and thus make the experience of visiting the castle a better experience.</p>		<p>signage may also be harmful.</p> <p>Possible solutions for alleviating on street parking were considered in the Portchester Study (1999) which carried out a comprehensive survey of the village. Various options were suggested that used Castle Shore Recreation Ground to the east of the castle, with access from Castle Trading Estate or Castle Street, combined with park and ride facilities from West Street to remove visitor car parking from the Castle Street and from the immediate vicinity of the castle. At that time public consultation showed significant opposition to the proposals favouring retention of existing arrangements.</p>	
<p>Stop lorries parking in the street overnight. (Made to use lorry park)</p>	1	<p>The importance of liaison with the highway authority and relevant departments of the Council in relation to highway matters is made clear in the document.</p>	

Appendix A – Draft Document Consultation Comments Responses and Action Table

Comment	No.	Officer Response	Action
Discreet signage should be erected at the northern end of Hospital Lane indicating it is a cul de sac.	1	The need for liaison with the Highway Authority concerning placement of signage is made clear in the document, the comment has been passed to the highway Authority.	No alteration. Forward comment and liaise with Highway Authority.
There should be 20MPH speed limit.	1	The use of a 20mph speed limit may result in the need for signage and road markings that would be harmful to character and appearance, the importance for liaison with the Highway authority on such matters is included in the document.	No alteration. Forward comment to and liaise with the Highway Authority.
Why was the Co-op allowed on the site of the old White Hart pub, it causes traffic chaos on the street with all the lorries and cars using its car park and is a danger to pedestrians and children from the school nearby.	1	The change of use of the building from a public house was not considered to be harmful to the character or appearance of the conservation area. Concerning highway issues the comment will be forwarded to the Highway Authority.	No alteration. Forward comment to and liaise with the Highway Authority.
There should be speed bumps on Castle Street	1	The provision of speed bumps would be harmful to the character and appearance of the conservation area. The comment will be passed to the Highway Authority.	No alteration. Forward comment to and liaise with the Highway Authority.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Conservation Area Appraisal And Management Strategy



Portchester (Castle Street)

Adopted
(January 2014)

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Fareham Borough Council has designated 13 conservation areas that are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest. They have been selected because each one has a character or appearance which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

1.2 The character appraisal:

- identifies the special character that justifies conservation area status, and
- provides evidence to inform decision making affecting the character or appearance of a conservation area.

1.3 The management strategy:

- sets out how the Council aims to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area;
- identifies the procedures currently in place to manage change and proposes additional measures where considered appropriate; and
- identifies potential for enhancement.

Conservation Areas in the Borough of Fareham

- 1 Warsash
- 2 Swanwick Shore
- 3 Sarisbury Green
- 4 Hook
- 5 Titchfield Abbey
- 6 Titchfield
- 7 Catisfield
- 8 Osborn Road
- 9 Fareham High Street
- 10 Wallington
- 11 Town Quay
- 12 Cams Hall
- 13 Portchester (Castle Street)

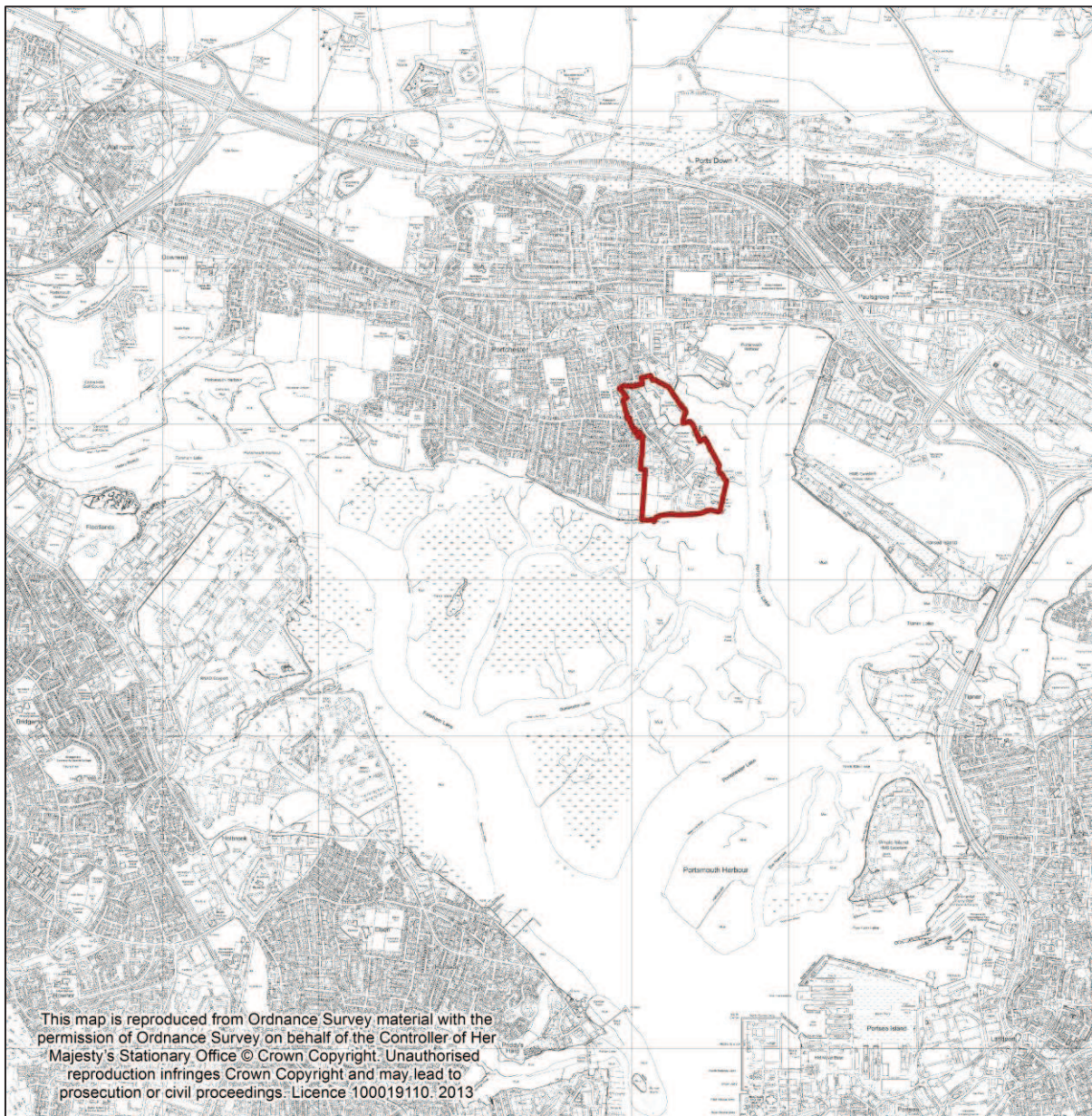


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CHARACTER APPRAISAL

2 LOCATION

- 2.1 Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area was designated in 1969 to protect the character and appearance of the village of Portchester including Portchester Castle. Its boundary was extended in 1975 to include an area north of White Hart Lane. Portchester village lies between Fareham and Portsmouth on the flat coastal plain south of Portsdown Hill. The village occupies a promontory of land at the head of Portsmouth Harbour; the castle, which originates from the 3rd century AD, is situated beside the shore at the end of the promontory.
- 2.2 Nikolaus Pevsner & David Lloyd, in the celebrated Hampshire and Isle of Wight Volume of 'Buildings of England', described Castle Street and Portchester Village as 'astonishing in its preservation'.



3 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

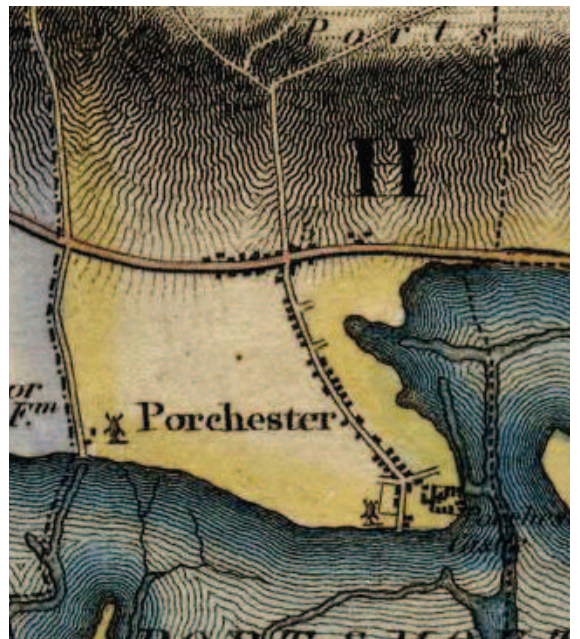
- 3.1 Although flints have been recovered from around the coast in the Portchester area, there is no evidence of permanent prehistoric settlement on the site of the present village.
- 3.2 The Romans first occupied the peninsula with the construction of a fort in the late 3rd century by the Emperor Carausius. The castle was one of a chain of forts known as the Saxon Shore Forts which were built along the south and east coasts of Britain and also the north coast of Europe most likely as a response to the threat of Saxon invasion. The castle is thought to be one referred to in the Roman governmental document the 'Notitia Dignitatum' as 'Portus Adurnis'. The Roman walls survive as the outer bailey of the medieval castle, although thinned by the re-use of materials for later additions. The castle is one of the best preserved Roman fortifications in Europe, a Grade I listed building and a scheduled monument. There is evidence of high status intensive occupation of the castle throughout the Saxon period including that of a large aisled hall and courtyard. The castle was acquired by King Edward the Elder in 804. It became a fortified burgh and is listed in the 'Burghal Hidage', a Saxon document recording the fortified defences of Wessex. It is also mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle.
- 3.3 Portchester continued to be of importance into the medieval period. The Domesday Survey records two Manors, one held by the King and the second by William Mauduit. The total population was 20 and there is reference to a fishery and a mill but no mention of the castle. Mills were located to the north and west of the Castle. By 1100 Mauduit had built an inner bailey within the castle walls and a 2 storey keep had been added by the time the castle reverted to the crown in 1120. In 1130 the castle was acquired by William Pont de L'Arche and work progressed with the curtain wall of the bailey and doubling of the height of the keep. An Augustinian priory was founded within the castle walls although this soon moved to Southwick. The Church of St Mary, a Grade I listed building, remains as the Parish Church.



Portchester in the early C20



STER. — The Village Street. —



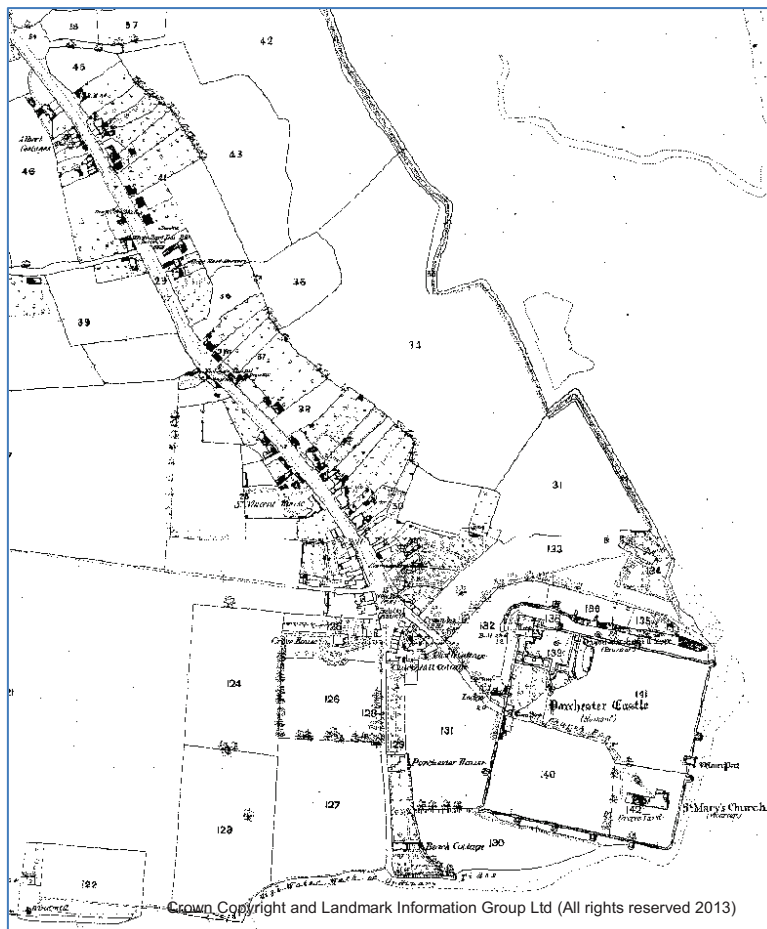
Greenwood's map 1826

3.4 The castle had reverted to the crown by 1158 and domestic buildings were added to the inner walls of the bailey. It declined in importance in the C13 before construction of a royal palace in the inner bailey between 1320 and 1326. The start of the 100 years war in 1337 resulted in further improvements to the fortifications including Asheton’s Tower and extensions to the outer earthworks. At the close of the war in the late C14 the palace buildings were rebuilt as a royal residence by Richard II. Henry V departed to Agincourt from Portchester in 1415 after which followed another period of decline.

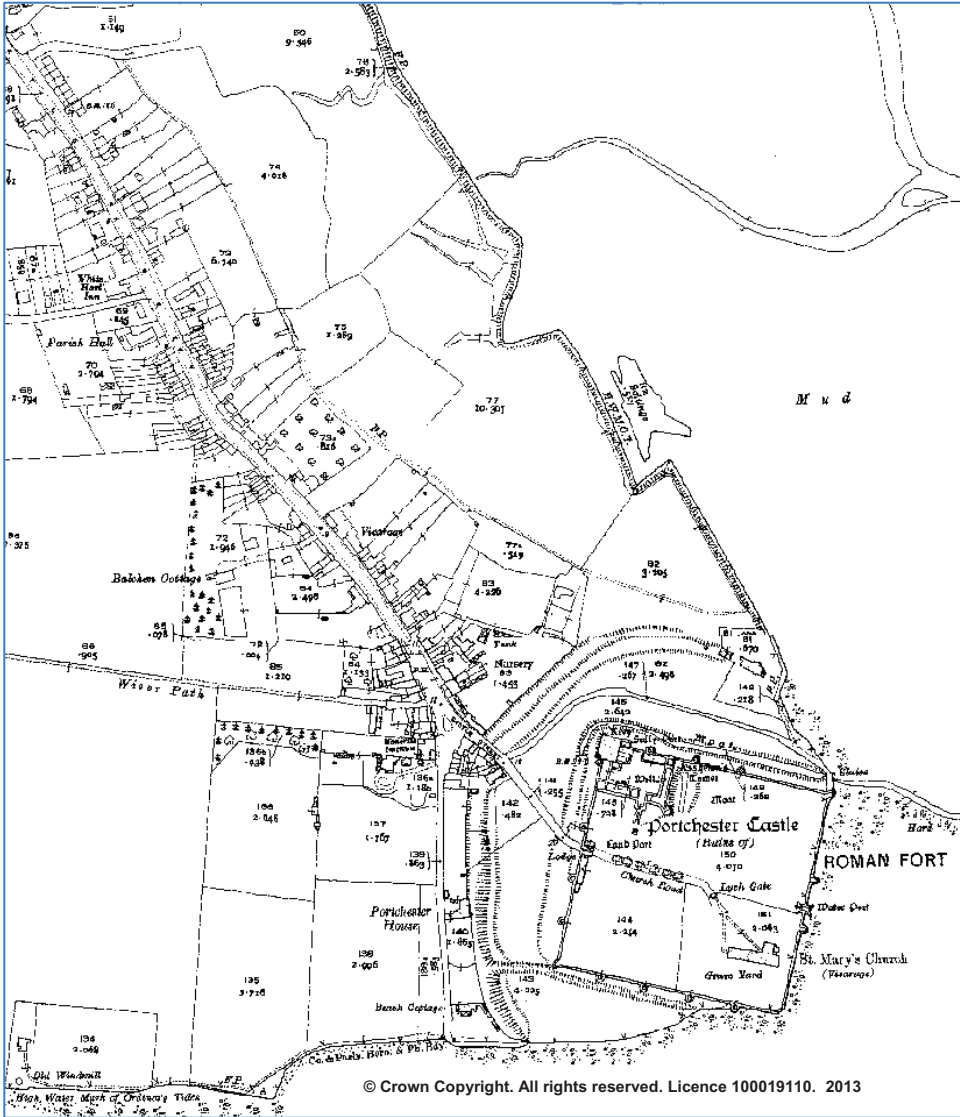
3.5 In the early C17 Thomas Cornwallis made further domestic alterations to the castle and it was finally sold in 1632 by Charles I to a local landowner William Uvedale. From the Dutch Wars in 1665 onwards until the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 it was repeatedly used as a prison, after this it was used occasionally as a hospital, a prison for deserters and a store before closing in 1819. Grave cuts are reported to have been seen during construction of the sea wall at the southern end of Hospital Lane which were possibly the C18 graves of French prisoners of war.



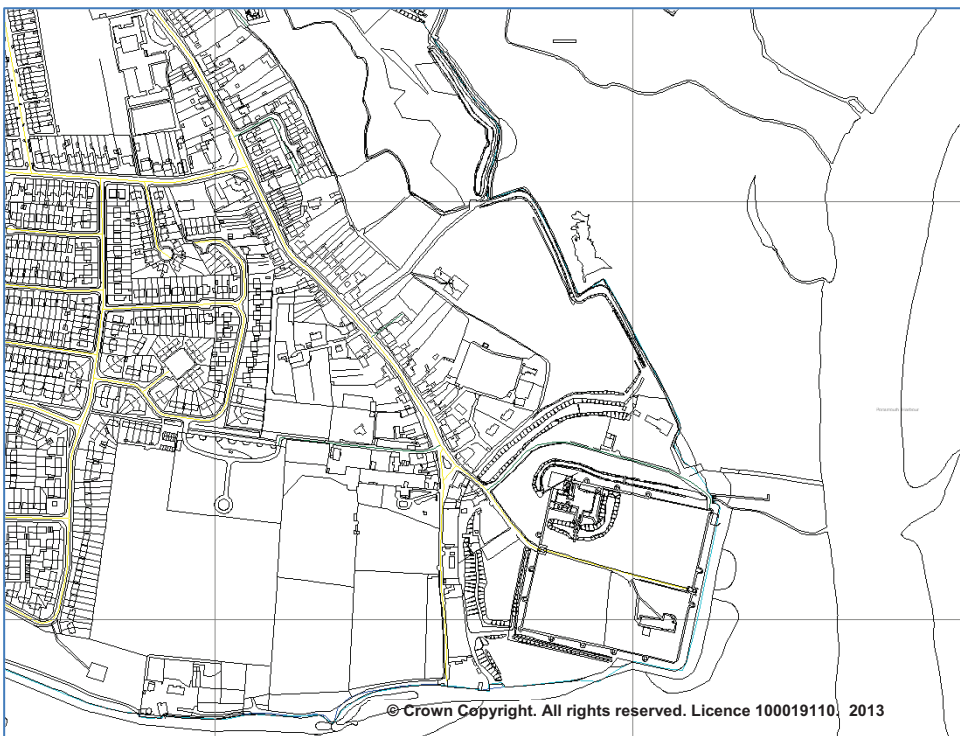
Portchester mid C19



Ordnance Survey 1868



Ordnance Survey 1932



Ordnance Survey 2008

- 3.7 The village of Portchester started to develop and thrive outside the castle gates in the C12. In 1230 the manor was split between the Bishop of Winchester and the King and this was reflected in a survey of the manors undertaken in 1405. The document, which listed all the village tenements and the strips of the three open fields to the west, gives a detailed insight into the village in the early C15. The roads mentioned in the document have persisted until the present day. Castle Street (formerly South Street), West Street, East Street and White Hart Lane were all present at the time of the survey. The village was granted a Saturday market, probably held at its southern end, and a three day fair in 1294 but despite this it never achieved borough status, probably due to the success of neighbouring Portsmouth and possibly the influence of Titchfield Abbey.
- 3.8 The plan of the village is straightforward with Castle Street, leading south to the castle, forming the principal street of the village. It links the old the south coast route, now the A27, to the castle. White Hart Lane leads to the west from a point mid way along Castle Street and probably gave access to the open fields. The railway arrived in 1848.
- 3.9 As can be seen from the Ordnance Survey maps of the late C19 and early C20 other than enclosure in the early C18 the open land around the settlement changed very little until the inter war period. At this time widespread housing development took place to the north and east of the village.
- 3.10 The following series of map extracts show the change in the settlement over the last two centuries. The village of Portchester grew slowly until its surroundings underwent a period of rapid change beginning in the interwar period. Within the conservation area the characteristic plot arrangement of street frontages with large open gardens primarily to the rear of the street frontage is retained. The open land around the castle and to its east and west has also survived and is of great importance both to the setting of the castle and the character of the conservation area.

4 LANDSCAPE, SETTING AND VIEWS

- 4.1 The wider setting of the village and the castle comprises Portsmouth Harbour, the low-lying coastal land and the long high ridge of Portsdown Hill to the north. The exposed location of the castle makes it a prominent landmark. The historic significance of the building as a scheduled monument and a grade I listed building in the wider historic context of the harbour is extremely important. The castle and the village can be appreciated in this wider setting from many viewpoints. These include the ridge of Portsdown Hill, the M27 and the M275, which skirts the harbour to the east. It is visible across the water from the south and also from North Harbour, the A27, Port Solent, Portsmouth and Gosport. The views of the peninsula across the water from Port Solent, with the castle keep and church tower silhouetted against the sky at its southern tip, remain remarkably unspoilt.



4.2 Portsmouth Harbour is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Ramsar site and Special Protection Area due to its importance for nature conservation. There are also views of the castle keep from the west, notably from Wicor Path and Merton Crescent, the cemetery and the allotments. Within the conservation area boundary there are important views from the lower end of Castle Street, Wicor Path and the Open Space to the East.



Portchester from Portsdown Hill

4.3 The importance of open land, trees and planting around the castle and the village is particularly evident in long distance views, especially from Portsdown Hill. The small scale of the housing built in Portchester leaves the castle as the dominant building on the peninsula. The relationship between the castle and the surrounding open land and buildings is very important to its character and setting. The castle retains its prominence at the north end of the harbour providing a powerful reminder of its past and preserving its integrity as a historic survival of great importance.



4.4 The large shipbuilding sheds at Vosper Thorneycroft impact on the setting of the castle in certain views and indicates the visual damage that can occur. This is the only building that competes with the scale of the castle and harms its wider setting. It serves as a reminder that the wider setting of the castle is fragile and inappropriate new development could cause great harm to its wider setting and associated views.

5 LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Fareham Borough Council Landscape Assessment was undertaken in 1996. The study provides an appraisal of the landscape resources of the borough and is used to inform planning decisions. It defines Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area as within Portchester Village Character Area which includes the historic core of the village centred on the castle and extends up Castle Street, the area is described as predominantly residential and its essential characteristics are identified as;

- a coherent grouping of mainly C18 houses with a tight frontage to Castle Street which together form a delightful, traditional village streetscape of high visual and urban quality (a Conservation Area);
- the small-scale and intimate character of the streetscape and the varied but harmonious rooflines and building heights;
- the dominance of Portchester Castle with its impressive keep and stone walls and its attractive coastal setting;
- important areas of open space east of Castle Street and surrounding the Castle which are vital to its setting and provide a valuable recreational resource in their own right.

5.2 Conservation is identified as an enhancement priority for the area with the environmental effect of increased visitor traffic to the castle and car parking seen as key issues. Maintenance and protection of the exceptional quality of the village and the setting of the castle and the management of the coastal greenspace to maintain the setting of the castle are defined as priorities.

5.3 Hampshire County Council's Integrated Landscape Assessment (2010) compliments the existing borough landscape assessment. The Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area falls within the 'Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain Character Area' and its landscape types are defined as 'open coastal plain' and 'settlement'.

6 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Historic Landscape Assessment (HLA) is a countywide study undertaken by Hampshire County Council to identify and understand the historic development of today's landscape; it has identified over 80 Historic Landscape types. The landscape types that have been identified for the land included within Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area are old settlement, recent settlement, small parliamentary enclosure, defence and coastal.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 The archaeological record for Hampshire is maintained by Hampshire County Council in its Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR). Areas of national importance and known archaeological interest are identified in the Geographic Information System alert layer of archaeological sites. The areas of Portchester Conservation Area that are of archaeological interest are shown on the map on page 25. The archaeological significance and potential of Portchester was also assessed in more detail in the Extensive Urban Survey of Hampshire's Historic Towns, produced by Hampshire County Council and English Heritage (1999). The castle is a Scheduled Monument.

7.2 The churchyard of St Mary's Church within the castle grounds is an area of national importance and has equivalent status to a scheduled monument. Areas of known archaeological interest include most of the property plots both sides of Castle Street, Hospital Lane and the open land to the east of the castle. This includes the former salterns (an area of land used to manufacture salt by evaporation of seawater) east of Castle Street and the possible site of the mill and maybe wharves immediately to the east of the castle. The southern end of Castle Street, particularly the eastern side, is the most likely area to provide evidence of the earliest phases of development, any Romano British settlement and evidence of trades and occupations.



8 CHARACTER AREAS

8.1 For the purpose of appraisal the conservation area has been considered as a number of areas that differ in character. The nature and inter relationship of these areas combines to form its character and appearance. Four areas have been identified for the purpose of the appraisals which are highlighted on the map on page 26. The character assessment is not a detailed audit of historic buildings, most of which are statutorily listed, but a broader assessment of character and appearance. Where individual buildings or features make a particular contribution they are mentioned in the text, but that should not be taken to imply that other buildings and features are not also of importance. The contribution made by architectural detail, trees and planting is vital and dealt with in separate sections.



8.2 The character areas are;

- A. Castle Street and its rear garden land
- B. The open land surrounding the settlement
- C. The immediate setting of the castle
- D. Inside the castle walls

Castle Street and its Rear Garden Land

8.3 This area includes Castle Street, its buildings and associated rear gardens. Overall, the historic alignment has remained unchanged. The historic pattern of development is still strongly evident. The older buildings generally face onto the street to form an urban frontage behind which is a related pattern of often deep open gardens which vary in size. Older buildings generally sit close to the pavement edge; some abut directly and others are set back producing subtle variation in the building line; low walls and railings maintain the continuity of the street forming small front gardens. This historic pattern is fundamental to the character of the street and differs materially from the more formal regimented arrangement of surrounding post war suburban development. Variety has evolved in the individual buildings with constant and often subtle variation in height, scale and architectural detail. This gives the street unique character. The height and scale of the buildings fluctuates but with few exceptions remains two storey. This limited variation



provides continuity to the street frontage.

8.4 The majority of historic buildings possess characteristic steeply pitched tiled roofs. The overall height is reduced by the modest depth of the buildings. Later rear additions are mainly in the form of smaller rear wings, separately roofed from the principal buildings. Despite notable variation in building form the collective use of traditional materials and detailing serves to unify the street.



8.5 Boundary walls and railings, particularly at the back of the pavement, are an important characteristic and where there are gaps in the built frontage, their presence provides important continuity. Pressure for off street parking has resulted in loss of front boundary enclosures and front gardens which is harmful to character.

8.6 The existing cast iron street columns are appropriate, contribute to the character of the street and should be retained

8.7 At its northern end the conservation area boundary follows Cow Lane. The frontage of the Castle Primary School site is excluded. On the opposite side of the street is an early C20 terrace with an open frontage.



8.8 Beyond the school the boundary follows the rear garden boundaries of the older buildings on the western frontage, a number of which are listed. These older properties are sited closer to the pavement which narrows the street and are important to character. No's 96, 98 and 73 rise to three storeys and with number 100, also listed, are prominent in views from both directions. No 77 abuts the pavement edge, others are set behind small enclosed front gardens, a recurring characteristic of the street. Walls, fences and railings are more or less continuous, exceptions being the deeper frontages of later infill between 102 and 112 which follow a more modern suburban arrangement behind a grass verge.



8.9 Despite some intrusion by later infill the character and appearance of the northern part of the conservation area is still strongly influenced by the siting, scale, architectural character and traditional materials of the groups of historic buildings.

8.10 The deep rear gardens north of White Hart Lane largely retain their late C19 arrangement. The survival of this pattern is important to the character of this part of the conservation area. To the east they abut the countryside boundary and are open to view from the public right of way.

8.11 Approaching White Hart Lane junction historic character has been eroded. This part of the street is characterised by the layout of modern development and the wide junction of White Hart Lane, with its visibility splays. The modern former White Hart Public House, now converted for use as a convenience store, is set back behind a large and unattractive area of hard surfacing. Modern bungalows and a row of modern semi-detached houses set behind front gardens occupy the east side of the road although walls retain a degree of enclosure to the street. The modern development at Portchester Gate marks a return to the more traditional street pattern; it retains a flint wall on the frontage that is of importance to character.

8.12 South of White Hart Lane the road and pavements narrow creating a more enclosed feel to the street. Initially, with the exception of the C18 century cottage at 118 (Hythe Cottage), the street is a mix of late C19 century and early C20 character with terraces on both sides of the road. These are set behind small front gardens and on the west side enclosed with distinctive brick walls and railings. For some distance the street is a mix of scattered older properties and later modern infill.

8.13 A distinct eastward curve makes the group of listed buildings 129 to 135, which occupy the outside of the bend, prominent in views. No 129, formerly used as a Wesleyan Chapel, is a distinctive building with a clay pan tiled roof, an unusual material in the conservation area.

8.14 The predominantly C18 character of the street becomes very strong south of the listed thatched cottage at No.158 and the wide pathway which forms an entrance to the open space. The majority of the buildings are listed and there is very limited intrusion from modern infill. The street curves gently and slowly widens towards a small green at its southern end. Leaving the Castle Shore recreation ground by the wide



avenue provides fine views of the listed buildings at 153 and 157. The presence of overhead cabling has a negative impact both on the character and appearance of the conservation area and the setting of the listed buildings.



8.15 On the west side the houses become more infrequent, often with side gardens that flank the street. A number of important historic walls and outbuildings abut the pavement and these give important continuity to the frontage. The fairly informal and often spacious arrangement that characterises this side of the street is unique and potentially fragile.

8.16 The eastern frontage is more built up with the houses forming a more or less continuous frontage. The buildings either abut the pavement edge or are set behind small front gardens separated from the street by walls, railings and gates.

8.17 There is variety in the eaves, ridge heights, scale and architectural detail of individual buildings and this contributes strongly to character throughout.

8.18 Castle Street widens at its southern end, forming a more formal triangular space enclosed on all sides with a mixture of houses and walls, it possesses a special character that has changed little since the C19. An important tree, the Jubilee oak planted in 1935, sits at its centre on a small green. From the green Hospital Lane leads south to the shore and Wicor Path to the west. The latter, public right of way 111, is a narrow historic path through the frontage and rear gardens linking the conservation area with the modern suburban development to the west. It is flanked by old outbuildings, walls and planting which are important to its character.



8.19 Castle Street narrows considerably as it leaves the green between no's 209 and 214. These buildings terminate the view south along Castle Street and frame views through to the Castle.



8.20 The older pattern of plots south of White Hart Lane largely survives with the frontage buildings often having long open rear gardens. Those of the nineteenth century terraces are typically narrow. Their open character provides an important contrast to the built frontage. They are also important to the setting of the listed buildings, in defining the older settlement and to a large extent the wider setting of the castle. Buildings in rear gardens are limited to smaller scale garden outbuildings and garages. Very limited backland infilling with individual houses has occurred in the past prior to the designation of the conservation area and this has caused some limited disruption to the historic development pattern. Further subdivision and development would be extremely harmful to the special character of the conservation area and the setting of listed buildings, including the castle.



8.21 The rear garden land on the eastern side of Castle Street abuts the open space boundary, separated by a hedge and trees. This area of land increases in width southwards where it includes a large area of allotments. Its open character, combined with that of the adjacent open space, is of vital importance to the wider setting of the conservation area and to the setting of the castle. It becomes prominent foreground in views of the castle and critical to its setting. Significant trees and a drop in ground level limits the impact of two backland plots adjacent to the outer earthworks of the castle, 212 and 210 Castle Street, which are at odds with the historic pattern of the village. The character and importance of the garden land in this area, including the adjacent allotments, is reflected in the designation of a large part of it as countryside in the Fareham Borough Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy) where development is strictly controlled.



8.22 The Land to the west of Castle Street forms an important buffer separating the historic village from later modern housing. It comprises the rear gardens of frontage buildings and former open field, now also garden land; it defines the older village and provides space around the older settlement. It contains significant trees. The arrangement of gardens on this side of the street is less formal reflecting the street frontage but



the historic boundaries persist and the land is glimpsed through the gaps between buildings. The area increases in width significantly southwards. Further backland development would be harmful to the character of the conservation area.

The Open Space Surrounding the Settlement



8.23 The conservation area contains large areas of open land that are of great importance to the setting of the village and the castle. These areas are designated as countryside in the Fareham Borough Local Plan and are outside the urban area. Further development on this open land would harm the character of the conservation area and the setting of the castle.

8.24 On the eastern side of the settlement a large area of coastal open space lies between the rear garden boundaries of Castle Street and the shore. The open character of this land is vital to the both the setting of the historic village and the Castle. There are important and impressive views of the castle and its keep from throughout this area. The views are marred by the presence of overhead cables and the unfortunate sheet piling that forms a hard and unnatural edge to the shore.



8.25 At its northern end, beyond the entrance to the open space from Castle Street, the character of the open land changes to become small enclosed fields close to the settlement and semi-open scrubland beside the shore.

8.26 As described in the section 'Wider Setting' all this open land is very important in distant views of the settlement, from the water and from Portsdown Hill where it can be seen in the foreground of the castle and the historic settlement. There are a number of public footpaths which cross the open space which are marked on the map on page 26.



8.27 To the north significant and important planting shields the open space from the impact of industrial development and the houses of The Keep.

8.28 To the west of the castle Hospital Lane marks the start of a large area of open land that is rural in character, with hedgerows and other planting.

This land is important in defining the older settlement and contributes to the wider setting of the castle.



- 8.29 Hospital Lane has retained a rural character due to its narrow width, lack of kerbs, formal paving and limited development. The few older houses along its length are sited end on to the road and their long gardens flank the lane. Informal brick walls and hedges add to the rural character. Further infilling would harm its established character and the setting of the listed buildings. There are important trees along its length which also contribute to its character.

The Immediate Setting of the Castle

- 8.30 This area comprises the open land and shoreline that closely surrounds the castle and provides its immediate setting. The area is dominated by the walls and bastions of the castle. It possesses significant architectural and historic interest as it comprises the earthworks outside the curtain wall that were part of the castle defences. These are part of the Scheduled Monument and maintaining their survival and integrity is important.



- 8.31 Castle Street passes through a narrow gap between buildings on the approach to the castle. The northern built frontage stops at the outer earthwork, allowing key views of the castle and its immediate setting. The western frontage, a terrace of historic buildings, continues as far as Waterside Lane. There are picturesque views of these buildings across the open land. Waterside Lane provides access to the shore, sailing club and the slipway close to the castle.

- 8.32 To the north and west the area is maintained as open grassland. There are important trees and planting screening the houses in Hospital Lane and providing a setting for the castle and important relief from the modern backland houses to the rear of the Castle Street frontage.



- 8.33 To the south and east the shoreline lies immediately adjacent to the castle walls, particularly on its eastern side. The informal loose surfacing of footpaths in this area which are free of edging contributes to the castle's setting.

8.34 To the north the setting of the castle and its outer earthworks has been harmed by the extensive car park, a large expanse of hard surfacing with a black top finish and prominent markings. The definition of Waterside Lane is poor where it passes beside the car park and the two visually merge forming an extensive hard surfaced area. Picnic benches placed on top of the outer earthwork are an insensitive and inappropriate addition to this historic feature.



8.35 The small car park on the west side of Castle Street, close to the Land Gate, has no boundary screening and degrades the setting of the castle in views to the north. Introduction of appropriate low level planting to soften its impact would represent an improvement.

8.36 The use of simple timber fencing, field gates, timber for the footbridge and timber trip rails around the castle retains an informal rural character that should be continued.

8.37 Portchester Sailing Club occupies land immediately to the east of the castle. The club has occupied the site since 1928 and its waterside activities contribute to the character of the conservation area. The clay tiled clubhouse is low lying, small in scale and generally quite well screened, which makes it recessive in views of the castle. The sailing club activities and stored boats are screened by important planting and trees.



Inside the Castle Walls

8.38 This area confined by the castle walls is of very considerable archaeological, architectural and historic interest. The vast interior space, defined by the former walls of the Roman Fort, is a unique and important asset. The space is dominated by the castle keep, inner bailey and the Church of St Mary, which sits in its churchyard surrounded by flint walls. There are some important yew trees in the churchyard that contribute to the setting of the church.



8.39 There are wide unspoilt views of the castle keep, walls and gates and the church in the setting of its churchyard from all parts of the interior space. Retaining its open character is of vital importance to the setting of the castle and the church. The sensitive placement and choice of

street furniture and signage is important to avoid clutter and visual harm.

- 8.40 Church Road leads from the Land Gate past the church to the Water Gate. Its informal edging and the absence of kerbs is important in retaining the informality of the interior space of the castle. Its current patched black top surface could be improved, possibly with a more natural looking resin bonded aggregate finish.



9 BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC INTEREST

- 9.1 There are 51 entries in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest within the boundary of Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area. Portchester Castle and the church of St Mary are listed grade 1 (of exceptional historic interest), the remainder are grade II. The castle is also a scheduled monument and the scheduling area extends to include its outer earthworks. In addition to these designated heritage assets there are also five buildings included on the Council's Local List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. All these designations, including the extent of the scheduled monument, are shown on the map on page 25.



10 BUILDINGS OF TOWNSCAPE INTEREST

- 10.1 A number of buildings in the conservation area although not statutorily or locally listed make an important contribution to the character of the street. These are;

- The Cormorant Public House
- 214 & 206 Castle Street
- 114-16, 120-138 Castle Street
- 99-115, 121-127 Castle Street.



11 ARCHITECTURE & BUILDING MATERIALS

- 11.1 The architecture of Castle Street is a mix of buildings and styles, some displaying formal classical detail and others with a simpler vernacular character. The character of the street is predominantly eighteenth century but older buildings survive, a number of which are timber framed. Some buildings are a mix of periods and styles. The continued use of traditional

techniques and natural building materials is important in preserving the character of the conservation area and retaining local distinctiveness.

11.2 In an area lacking in local building stone the use of brick predominates; there is also some use of flint. Obvious exceptions are the medieval castle and the Church of St Mary, which as high status buildings enabled the use of stone in construction and detailing.



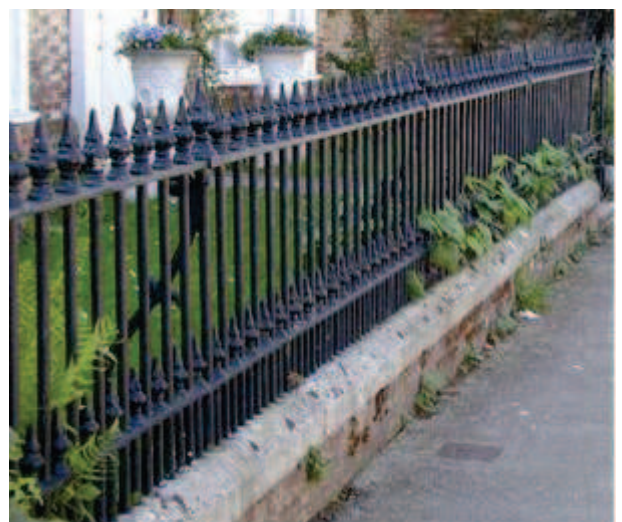
11.3 Local Fareham red brick, characteristic of Hampshire, can be seen on the majority of buildings and walls in the conservation area, laid in a variety of bonds. Red brick was often used in combination with vitrified blue/ grey headers, particularly on street elevations. Stucco became fashionable as a finish in the early C19 and some frontages are rendered. A red clay roofing tile was also locally produced and this distinctive material is predominant on the steep roof pitches throughout the conservation area. The continued use of these materials is of great importance in retaining character. In the late 19th century slate became more easily available and has also been used on a number of buildings and outbuildings.



11.4 Red brick and some flint was used in the construction of the many brick walls in the conservation area, notably those that flank the street. There are numerous examples of gates and railings, often set on low plinth walls. The continued maintenance and survival of traditional walls and railings is of great importance to the character of this historic street.

11.5 There are many chimneys throughout the conservation area which contribute to character. These frequently have traditional Fareham chimney pots with characteristic white slip banding around their tops.

11.6 The grander buildings have formal classical detailing including parapets, Georgian door cases, fanlights and vertical sliding sash windows; some were re-fronted in the Georgian period. Other buildings retain simple vernacular detailing, traditionally detailed casement windows and plank doors.

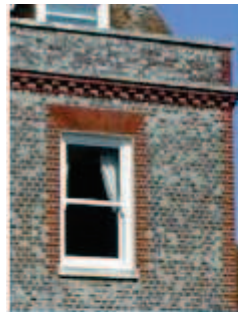


11.7 Numerous architectural features in the conservation area contribute to its character.

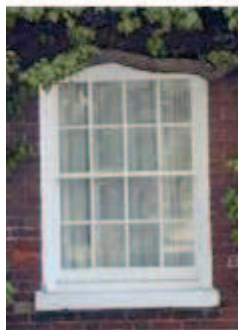
Typically gauged brickwork, dentil courses, brick arches, porches, parapets and bay windows abound. It is essential that such important details are retained. The use of natural materials and simple detailing for the kerbs, drainage channels and pavements, as part of a recent environmental improvement scheme, respects the character of the street. The use of natural surfacing materials, kerbs and paving is important to character. The cast iron lamp columns are important to the street both in terms of their scale and appropriate design.



11.8 The majority of buildings in the conservation area have retained their traditional windows and appropriate panelled or plank doors. Windows are either vertical sliding sashes or, often in the smaller vernacular buildings, side hung cottage casements. Traditional timber windows and doors are a vital component of the character of the conservation area and should be repaired or replicated.



11.9 There has been an erosion of traditional architectural features on a number of unlisted older buildings, such as the replacement of traditional windows with modern designs; this has harmed the character of the conservation area. There is potential for further harm to character and appearance though the continued exercise of permitted development rights. The use of an article 4(2) direction to limit further loss of important features should be considered.



12 TREES AND PLANTING

12.1 The conservation area contains many important trees and a wealth of other planting and vegetation situated in the street, in property gardens, and throughout the open spaces that contributes to its unique character. The large number of trees and other vegetation make a major contribution to long distance views of the conservation area from the harbour and also Portsdown Hill and is a notable contrast with surrounding modern development.



12.2 Trees and planting make a significant contribution to views and setting of the castle particularly across the open space. There are also significant individual trees in the vicinity of Waterside Lane leading to the shore that

contribute to the setting of the castle. Other large trees within the castle grounds are visible for some distance along Castle Street and form a backdrop to views of its southern end. There are also numerous individual trees, some of considerable size, that contribute to street character along the length of Castle Street, including the Jubilee Oak at the southern end. More mature individual trees and groups can be glimpsed in rear gardens in gaps between the frontage properties. There are a number of tree belts, tree groups and general plantings that provide screening. These:

- separate the castle grounds from the southern end of Castle Street and Hospital Lane as far as the shore;
- screen the sailing club yard and clubhouse;
- separate the open garden land from housing in the Keep and Castle Trading Estate;
- separate the open space land from the rear gardens of Castle Street.



13 KEY FEATURES TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE

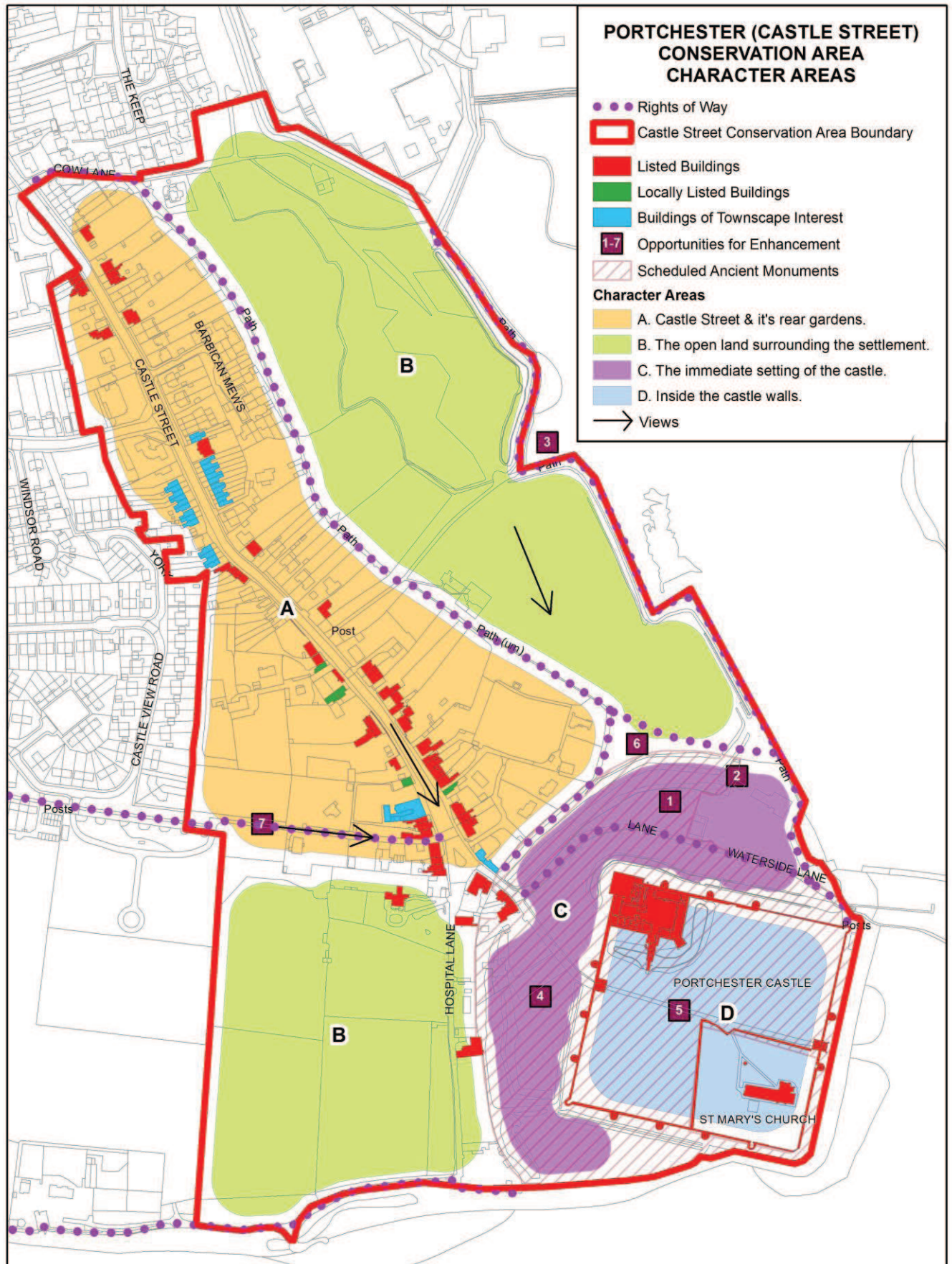
- The special architectural and historic interest and setting of Portchester Castle and St Mary's Church.
- The many important views of Portchester Castle from throughout the conservation area.
- The important long distance views of the Castle in its wider setting in the historic context of Portsmouth Harbour including those from Portsdown Hill.
- The archaeological interest of the settlement.
- The open land, gardens and allotments which provide a setting for the castle and the historic settlement.
- The surviving historic street pattern of Castle Street.
- The architectural and historic interest and setting of the listed buildings within the conservation area.
- The variety of architectural features, details and materials that contribute to the character of the conservation area.
- The many boundary walls and railings of historic interest that contribute to character.
- The many trees, groups of trees and widespread planting that contribute to the established character of the street frontages, gardens and the setting of the settlement.
- The loose surfaces and absence of formal pavements and kerbs on roads and footpaths where it contributes to character.
- The historic lamp columns.
- Traditional building materials and techniques that are important in maintaining the character and appearance of the conservation area.



0 250 500 1,000 Metres

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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0 25 50 100 Metres

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

14 CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT

14.1 The management strategy sets out the Council's approach for preservation and or enhancement of the character and appearance of the conservation area. It sets out the procedures currently in place to manage change and proposes additional measures and opportunities for enhancement. The strategy also identifies other measures such as additions to the local list, boundary review and monitoring.

15 THE MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

National Legislation and Guidance

15.1 In exercising its powers under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 the local planning authority will pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area and the management of development, including changes of use, is a key function in delivering this statutory duty. The provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 that relate to the control of listed buildings, through the listed building consent procedure, and the management of trees are also important in preserving the character or appearance of the conservation area. Current government guidance concerning conservation areas, which are designated heritage assets, can be found in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Current Local Planning Policy

15.2 The Council will apply policies contained in the local plan to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas in considering development proposals

15.3 The Fareham Borough Local Plan will consist of three parts:

- Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted August 2011)
- Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites and Policies Plan (in preparation)
- Local Plan Part 3: Welborne Plan (in preparation).

15.4 It will eventually replace the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000). The boundaries of the conservation areas are included on the Local Plan Policies Map.

15.5 A number of the policies in the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000) that relate to the historic environment have been 'saved'^[1] and in time will be replaced by the new policies of the Fareham Borough Local Plan. The Fareham Borough Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy was adopted by the Council in August 2011; Policy CS17 'High Quality Design' includes development affecting heritage assets. Appendix 1 of the document sets out the policies of the Local Plan Review (June 2000) that have been superseded. New development will be considered in the light of the Core Strategy and saved policies, or their replacement policies in the Development Sites & Policies Plan once adopted.

15.6 This appraisal and management strategy has been prepared in accordance with national guidance as evidence in support of the saved policies of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000), policies contained within the Core Strategy and the emerging Development Sites & Policies Plan. As such the appraisal and management strategy will be treated as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

^[1] By direction of the Secretary of State under paragraph 1(3) of schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (2007).

Managing Development

15.7 In a conservation area planning permission is required for a greater range of extensions, alterations and other development than elsewhere. Conservation Area Consent may also be required for the demolition of unlisted buildings and other structures. Listed building consent is also required for alterations to listed buildings that affect their character as buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It is advisable to contact the Department of Planning and Environment for advice about the need for an application. It is an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy trees in a conservation area without the consent of the local planning authority and the local planning authority must be given six weeks prior notice of any such works to trees.

15.8 To ensure that the character and appearance of the conservation area is given proper consideration in the exercise of planning functions the Council will follow the approach set out below:

- take into account the evidence in this appraisal for development management purposes as a material consideration in support of the policies of the Fareham Borough Local Plan;
- take specialist advice relating to the historic environment in the exercise of development management functions likely to affect the significance of the conservation area and heritage assets;
- take specialist advice relating to the management of trees in the exercise of development management functions likely to affect the character, appearance and setting of the conservation area;
- undertaken liaison with other bodies, including statutory undertakers and other Council departments who are responsible for, or undertake, works or re-instatements that are likely to affect the character and appearance of the conservation area and the architectural or historic interest or setting of historic buildings including matters relating to street furniture, highway management and safety;
- encourage prospective applicants to seek pre-application advice for development that is likely to affect the character and appearance of the conservation area and the architectural or historic interest or setting of historic buildings;
- prepare guidance documents to inform proposals for development and alteration and to advise of the legal implications of owning a listed building or a building in a conservation area;
- prepare development briefs or design principles statements to guide any significant re-development proposals.

16 ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

16.1 Permitted development rights allow a variety of minor alterations and extensions to be carried out without the need for a planning application. The exercise of permitted development rights does not allow the impact of alterations to be properly considered through the planning process and can result in harm to the character and appearance of the conservation area. An article 4 direction can be used to remove permitted development rights and make a planning application necessary. There is no fee for a planning application that results from an article 4 direction.

16.2 It is recommended that the use of an article 4 direction should be considered in Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area. The direction would apply those properties that make a

contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area and where alterations would be harmful. It is suggested that consideration should be given to the restriction of permitted development rights relating to; windows, doors, roof material and rooflights, porches, hard surfaces, satellite antennae, gates, fences and walls, chimneys, painting of unpainted surfaces and microgeneration equipment.

16.3 An article 4 direction requires a separate statutory procedure which includes a formal period of consultation. This would identify the groups and individual buildings to be included and also the permitted development rights that are recommended for removal.

17 MONITORING

- Recording - monitoring of change in the conservation area is considered necessary to enable the Council to review the effectiveness of planning control over time and to address any need for action. A dated photographic survey, which is recommended for this purpose, will be updated every 4 years.
- Street Audit - the Council will periodically undertake an audit of the conservation area to identify inappropriate changes or unauthorised alterations, the Council will consider the use of its enforcement procedures in such circumstances.

18 LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK

18.1 There were 2 listed buildings identified in the Council's Buildings at Risk Register (2006) that were considered in need of some repair. These were a wall at 153 Castle Street and the barn to the south of 157 Castle Street both of which front the street. The wall at 153 has now been repaired. The barn is not considered to be in significant disrepair but its condition should be monitored.

18.2 The Council will continue to monitor the condition of listed buildings and will identify those considered to be at risk of neglect and decay. If necessary the Council will seek to secure appropriate repairs through liaison with owners. In cases of serious neglect and decay the Council may consider the use of its statutory powers. There are no buildings included on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register (grade I and II* buildings) within the boundary of the conservation area.

19 BOUNDARY REVIEW

19.1 The Local Planning Authority has a duty imposed by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to determine which parts of the borough are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. This includes assessment of the current boundaries of existing conservation areas. There are no boundary changes recommended for the Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area.

20 ADDITIONS TO THE LOCAL LIST

20.1 The Council maintains a local list of buildings of architectural or historic interest. The local list identifies buildings which although not of national significance have a local interest that merits recognition in the planning process. Consideration of the architectural and historic interest and setting of locally listed buildings is a material consideration in planning decisions and policy HE9 of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review and policy HN1 of the Draft Local Part 2: Development Sites and Policies apply. There are 5 buildings in the conservation area that are included on the Council's local list. There are no further additions to the local list recommended for the Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area.

21 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

21.1 There are few features that detract from the historic character of the area to any great extent. However a number of opportunities have been identified that would lead to enhancement if implemented. Since the last assessment was adopted in 2008 the opportunity of improving the design and materials of the toilet block adjacent to the castle car park has now been completed.

Opportunities for Enhancement		Method
1.	Waterside Lane Car Park - surfacing, marking out, signage, lighting low level planting, improvements to the definition of Waterside Lane adjacent to the car park.	Explore possible sources of funding including the Council's Environmental Improvement Programme.
2.	Clearing of undergrowth and planting from the Gunpowder Store which is a scheduled monument on the outer earthworks of the castle.	Liaison with appropriate authority.
3.	Improvements to the sea wall when opportunity arises to introduce a softer edge.	Liaison with appropriate authorities including; The Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership and The Environment Agency.
4.	Strengthened low level planting to screen the small car park close to the land gate of the castle.	Addition to the Council's pro-active tree planting strategy.
5.	Resurfacing of Church Road with a material more appropriate to its historic context	Liaison with appropriate body.
6.	Removal of overhead cables from the open space east of the castle and the southern end of Castle Street.	Liaison with electricity provider (Scottish and Southern Energy) <u>and/ or British Telecom as appropriate.</u>
7.	Improvements to west end of Wicor Path including cemetery gates and wall.	Liaison with appropriate body.
8.	Review of signage and street furniture placement throughout the conservation area, including for example highway signage, bins, seating etc; including in the scheduling area within and around the castle.	Liaison with appropriate body.

21.2 The opportunities for enhancement above are marked on the map on page 26.

22 RESOURCES

22.1 Current resources for development management, including enforcement, and specialist advice relating to the historic environment, arboriculture and ecology, including resources for the environmental improvement programme are provided by the Department of Planning and Environment. Opportunities for enhancement of the conservation area that are identified in this document are subject to the availability of appropriate resources in relation to publicly

owned land or in other cases discussion with individual landowners where an opportunity arises.

23 **CONTACTS:**

Advice concerning conservation areas and listed buildings can be obtained from:

Planning Strategy and Environment
Department of Planning and Environment
Fareham Borough Council
Civic Offices
Civic Way
Fareham
PO16 7AZ
Tel: 01329 236100
Email: conservation@fareham.gov.uk

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 6 January 2014

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15
Report of:	Director of Finance and Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Finance Strategy 2014/15
Corporate Objective:	A dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

This report reviews the Council's finance strategy and makes recommendations regarding the capital programme, the revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and the revenue budget for 2014/15.

Executive summary:

On 2 December 2013, the Executive considered the Council's capital programme, revised service budget for 2013/14 and proposed service budgets for 2014/15.

Capital Programme and Resources 2013/14 to 2017/18

The capital programme amounts to £34,601,000, and there are capital resources totalling £34,814,000 over the programme period. Whilst a surplus of capital resources exists, there are significant spending requirements emerging that require new resources to be accumulated now so that the Council can meet its future commitments.

Revised General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14

The revised general fund revenue budget for 2013/14 amounts to £13,867,000 for service budgets with other budgets totalling £-4,043,700 giving an overall position of £9,823,300.

General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15

The proposed general fund budget for 2014/15 totals £13,027,400 for service budgets along with £-3,640,100 for other budgets giving an overall position of £9,387,300 which is a reduction of £436,000 against the original budget for 2013/14.

Recommendation:

- (a) That the capital programme for the period 2013/14 - 2017/18, amounting to £34,601,000 be approved;
- (b) That the revised 2013/14 general fund budget, amounting to £9,823,300 be approved;
- (c) That the base 2014/15 general fund revenue budget amounting to £9,387,300 be approved;
- (d) Use of the surplus on the spending reserve as set out in paragraphs 28-30 be approved.

Reason:

To allow the Council to approve the capital programme, general fund revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and draft revenue budget for 2014/15.

Cost of proposals:

The costs are set out in the overall revenue budget and capital programme detailed in the attached briefing paper.

Appendices A: Consolidated General Fund Budget 2013/14 (revised) and 2014/15 (Base)

Background papers: None

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 6 January 2014

Subject: Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15

Briefing by: Director of Finance and Resources

Portfolio: Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. This report brings together the revenue and capital spending plans for the Council's local service agreements, as part of the Council's co-ordinated strategic, service and financial planning process.
2. The finance strategy was considered in October 2013, in advance of the budget process. The Finance Strategy reviewed the Council's overall financial position, taking into account:
 - the actual position in the previous financial year;
 - issues that have arisen in the current year;
 - the future level of government support;
 - current and future financial pressures; and
 - timing of the Council's major capital schemes.
3. It is against this background that the budget setting principles for the forthcoming financial year were agreed.
4. This report provides a further update to the Council's overall financial position in the light of the updated capital programme and the approved service budgets and allows the ability to accommodate new revenue and capital spending plans to be considered.

FINANCE STRATEGY AND BUDGET SETTING PRINCIPLES FOR 2014/15

5. On 7 October 2013 the Executive considered a report on the Council's finance strategy that highlighted the various issues that will impact on the revenue budget and council tax for 2014/15 and later years.

6. A major corporate priority for the Council is to maintain council tax increases at or below the rate of inflation. Currently RPIX inflation is 2.7% (Oct 13) and headline RPI was 2.6%. The Government has indicated that it expects councils to freeze council tax at the 2013/14 levels and will reward councils that achieve it with additional grant to do this. The budget has been prepared in a way that will deliver a nil percent increase in council tax for a fifth year, consistent with the outcome achieved for 2013/14.
7. Gross expenditure on services in 2013/14 is £46.6 million but a minimal increase of only £60,000 (0.13%) is sufficient to increase the council tax by 1%. For 2014/15 the spending and funding pressures equate to a 15% increase in the amount due from council tax payers.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

8. The general fund capital programme was considered by the Executive on 2 December 2013. The programme amounted to £34,601,000 for the period 2013/14 - 2017/18.
9. Resources available to fund the capital programme amount to £34,814,000 over the programme period, and therefore by 2017/18 there should be a surplus of £213,000.
10. However, while the condition of the Council's assets is generally good, there is a growing need to make a significant investment over the coming years in order to maintain the assets and meet future service needs. One of the corporate priorities is to provide a new swimming pool in the western wards. Despite the current surplus of capital resources (compared to the approved programme), the asset reviews suggest that there are insufficient resources in the future.
11. Consequently, there is a need to continue accumulating additional resources to meet the future capital demands. The Executive has previously agreed to set aside £500,000 from the revenue budget each year for this purpose and also has a policy to use New Homes Bonus money for capital and project funding once any funding shortfall or requirement to fund expenditure relating to the Welborne Project has been met. Capital resources will also be supplemented with any non-specific windfall income received during the year.

THE REVENUE BUDGET

The Base Revenue Budget 2013/14

12. The net revenue budget for 2013/14 was £9,823,300, a reduction of £783,300 on the previous year, and as a result the council tax was frozen, which was below the annual rate of inflation for the ninth consecutive year.

The Revised Service Budget 2013/14

13. The Executive and the Committees considered the revised service budgets for 2013/14 in November and December 2013. The overall service budget is £1,154,800 higher than the base budget for the year.

14. Other budgets, such as investment income, contributions to capital, etc. have increased by an equivalent amount, and the revised budget remains as £9,823,300. Further information of how this is spread across portfolios is in Appendix A.

THE SERVICE BUDGET 2014/15

Cost of Services

15. The Executive considered the draft 2014/15 revenue budget for each committee and portfolio on 2 December 2013.

Other Budgets

16. In addition to the expenditure and income required to provide Council services, there are other costs and income which need to be taken into account when establishing the overall budget requirement. These include capital financing costs, interest earned on the Council's investments, accounting adjustments, etc.
17. Capital Financing Costs: The proposed budget provides for a revenue contribution to capital of £2.2m, which includes a contribution of £500,000 towards future capital commitments. This also includes a share of the New Homes Bonus award in the year (£897,900).
18. Interest on Balances: The downturn in the economy and subsequent slow recovery along with the uncertainty within the financial markets has had a significant adverse impact on income earned on investments. The Council has taken numerous steps to protect its investment portfolio even further, by spreading risks, using highly rated commercial institutions or Government bodies and investing for short periods. Consequently, however, the rates of return are limited.
19. The reduction in the figures for the base budget for 2014/15 reflects this but also takes into account a decision made by the Executive to invest up to £8million in the Commercial Property Investment Acquisition Strategy whereby income will be received through commercial rents rather than interest on investments.
20. Portchester Crematorium Contribution: This crematorium is one of the Council's earliest partnerships with three other Councils. Each year the crematorium contributes a share of any surplus to each Council and the Joint Committee has agreed that in 2014/15 the contribution will be £150,000 which is the same as the original budget for the current year.
21. Contribution from Reserves: This represents items in the budget that are funded from reserve accounts that the Council holds. This includes funding the Welborne project from Capacity Funding money and Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. Other reserves that have been used to reflect spending in the revised and base budgets include the High Street Innovation Fund (£200,000) to be used on various projects to improve shopper experiences within Fareham Town Centre, Improving the Customer Experience (£100,000) and Invest to Save (£100,000) funds to be used for the Vanguard Projects and some Section 106 funding for an additional ranger post of £40,000.

22. The following table summarises the overall variations in the Council's net budget, with further information of how this is spread across portfolios in Appendix A:

	Base 2013/14 £000s	Base 2014/15 £000s	Variations £000s
Gross Service Expenditure	42,559	43,275	+716
Gross Service Income	-29,847	-30,248	-401
Net Service Expenditure	12,712	13,027	+315
Other budgets	-2,889	-3,640	-751
Total Budget	9,823	9,387	-436

23. Taking account of all revenue budget items, the overall budget for 2014/15 will be £9,387,300, which represents an overall decrease of £436,000 or 4.6%. Taking account of the anticipated change in the formula grant and the council tax base for 2014/15, this budget will allow the council tax to be set at the same level as in 2013/14.

SPENDING PRESSURES AND SERVICE EFFICIENCIES

24. The Finance Strategy explained that there are a number of very significant spending pressures facing the Council over the coming years. These pressures represent increasing costs that cannot be avoided (e.g. changes to rateable values on car parks, rising fuel and equipment maintenance costs, etc), reducing income from services and investments, and additional funding that is required in order to progress high corporate priority actions.
25. The proposed budget of £9,387,000 includes over £632,000 of extraordinary cost increases (or income reductions) and efficiencies have been implemented to offset these costs.
26. At the meeting of the Executive on 7 October 2013 the Executive Leader advised that he has asked the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and bring forward a range of options for the budget gap to be closed by using the four elements of the Council's Efficiency plan (Priorities, Proceeds, People/Process and Procurement) as a basis, with a view to finding £800,000 of savings by 2015.
27. To support the revenue budget before these savings are achieved £435,300 has been transferred from the spending reserve with a view to replenishing the balance once the savings are realised.

SPENDING RESERVE

28. The Spending Reserve provides for unforeseen fluctuations in revenue expenditure and income such that one-off variations can be funded without having an adverse impact on the council tax. In accordance with the Finance Strategy, the minimum balance for the reserve is 5% of the planned gross expenditure. Taking account of the proposed expenditure in 2013-14, this equates to £2,330,000 and the current balance in the reserve is £3,313,700, a surplus over the minimum balance of £983,700.
29. As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy it was agreed that proposals for the use of the surplus would be developed during the autumn for consideration in this report.
30. Paragraphs 8-11 review the capital programme and resources needed in order to meet this programme. It is recommended that the spending reserve surplus of £983,700 is transferred to support the capital programme in respect of this project.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN 2014/15

31. Currently, local councils receive their funding from 3 main sources: grants from central government; council tax; and other locally generated income such as fees and charges for services.
32. From April 2013, business rates have been retained locally by the billing authority, and the Council pay a proportion of the money collected to Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Government.
33. The Government has also announced that there will be a one-off freeze grant available in 2014/15 for councils that keep their council tax either at or below the 2013/14 level. This grant equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax levels will enable council tax to remain low but it does mean that in order to keep spend at the same level there will be a need to reduce costs further due to 'lost' council tax income in future years.

NEW HOMES BONUS

34. On 7 October 2013 in approving the Finance Strategy, the Executive approved the following policy on the treatment of the New Homes Bonus income:
 - *“Firstly, if necessary, the award is top-sliced to meet reduced central government funding, and to support service delivery (particularly where demand has grown in line with the growth in housing);*
 - *The balance is earmarked for investment in capital schemes or other projects, which are driven by corporate priorities;*
 - *In determining the use of funds for capital investment, there should be a bias towards*
 - *investing in land & property that will generate a long term source of income;*
 - *Projects that support economic or employment growth; and*
 - *Projects that support or secure further housing delivery.*

35. *If assumptions for the reduction in Government funding are correct, then a top slice of any NHB award will be necessary to support continued service delivery. This will reduce the amount currently used to support capital projects to an extent where all NHB funding will be used to support reduced Government Funding by 2015/16.”*
36. In line with the policy, of the £1,106,900 received in 2013/14, £194,800 will be used to offset reductions in Government funding with the balance of £912,100 to be used for capital investment.
37. The provisional reward for 2014/15 is £1,480,000 and it is proposed that £582,100 is used to offset reductions in Government funding with the balance of £897,900 used for capital investment.

RISK ASSESSMENT

38. In considering the budget, there are a number of issues that need to be borne in mind, as set out below:-
39. The economic climate remains very uncertain, and has had a significant impact on certain services and budgets.
40. The Government continues to expect the public sector to achieve significant efficiencies, in 2014/15 and in future years due to changes in funding. The table below shows the funding changes for Fareham since 2009-10 when council tax was first set at the current level.

Financial Year	Government Grant (RSG & NNDR)	£ Change	% Change
2009/10	£6,204,530		
2010/11	£6,235,553	£31,023	+0.5%
2011/12	£4,610,248	-£1,625,305	-26.1%
2012/13	£4,000,459	-£609,789	-13.2%
2013/14	£4,090,980	+£90,521	+2.3%

41. Although 2013/14 shows a small increase in Government support this was achieved principally due to the subsidy for the Council Tax Support Scheme (£386,000) being incorporated into core funding for Local Authorities.
42. Between October 2009 and October 2013 RPIX has increased by 16.6%.
43. To add to the funding reductions the Local Government Resource Review has shifted the balance of risk away from Central Government to a local level with Councils bearing a large degree of the risk of fluctuations in business rates collected.
44. The Executive has previously agreed that the balance on the spending reserve should equate to at least 5% of gross revenue expenditure which, for 2013/14, is £2,330,000. A detailed assessment of need has been carried out, following guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (LAAP77), which indicates that this is an appropriate level to retain but should not be reduced, especially at this time of significant uncertainty.

45. While the Council's capital resources are expected to exceed planned capital expenditure at the end of the programme period (by approximately £200,000), future spending requirements could give rise to a very significant shortfall. It is therefore imperative that capital reserves are replenished whenever possible in order to meet the future spending needs.

THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2014/15

46. If the proposed base budget is approved, the overall revenue budget for 2014/15 will be £9,387,300.
47. With government support of £3,641,870 the total amount to be raised from council taxpayers would be £5,745,430.
48. With the council tax base – the equivalent number of Band D properties – for 2014/15 being 40,974, this would give a council tax per Band D property for 2014/15 of £140.22, which is the same level of council that has been charged since 1 April 2009. This council tax freeze compares favourably to the current level of inflation of 2.7% (RPIX, October 2013).

ASSURANCE STATEMENT BY THE STATUTORY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

49. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 states that when the Council sets a budget for the forthcoming financial year, the statutory Chief Financial Officer (CFO) must report to the authority on the robustness of the budgets and the adequacy of the financial reserves.
50. The CFO is able to confirm that the Council's co-ordinated finance strategy allows the availability of resources to finance both capital and revenue expenditure to be considered at the same time. It provides the necessary flexibility to allow resources to be allocated to both capital and revenue and this has enabled the delivery of balanced budgets for both capital and revenue.
51. The CFO can also confirm the robustness of the approved budgets and therefore major variations in expenditure and income are not anticipated. However, a risk assessment has been carried out to highlight the impact of possible variations in the level of expenditure and income and by maintaining the spending reserve at 5% of gross expenditure resources are in place to meet any likely variations that could not be met from within the Council's overall budget.

CONCLUSION

52. The Council's finances remain under pressure in the current year, and there is every indication that this situation will persist in the future not only from economic pressures but also from Central Government funding constraints.
53. Consequently, the budget setting process for 2014/15 has presented the same challenges that were experienced during the 2013/14 budget, but with careful forward planning and appropriate mitigating action being taken at the earliest opportunity, the proposed budget has been produced which is believed to be robust and sustainable.

54. Taking new priority spending into account, the proposed revenue budget for 2014/15 will provide sufficient resources to deliver the Council's services and its priorities, and enable the council tax to be frozen for 2014/15, at current levels.

Reference Papers: None

ACTUAL REVENUE BUDGET

	Budget 2013/14 £	Revised 2013/14 £	Variation Base to Rev £	Budget 2014/15 £	Variation Base to base £
Committees					
Planning Committee	669,000	707,400	38,400	793,400	124,400
Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee	395,800	399,700	3,900	503,400	107,600
Executive - Portfolio Budgets					
- Leisure and Community	1,681,800	1,837,200	155,400	1,754,000	72,200
- Health and Housing	1,369,400	1,444,800	75,400	1,210,300	-159,100
- Strategic Planning and Environment	-234,100	-181,700	52,400	-580,000	-345,900
- Policy and Resources	2,113,000	2,621,900	508,900	2,374,600	261,600
- Public Protection	2,435,700	2,745,100	309,400	2,679,100	243,400
- Streetscene	4,281,600	4,292,600	11,000	4,292,600	11,000
SERVICE BUDGETS	12,712,200	13,867,000	1,154,800	13,027,400	315,200
Capital Charges	-1,763,400	-2,152,200	-388,800	-2,152,200	-388,800
Capital Financing Costs					
- Use of Housing Capital Receipts	-415,600	-495,400	-79,800	-230,000	185,600
- Direct Revenue Funding	1,301,000	1,351,800	50,800	1,301,000	0
- Direct Revenue Funding NHB	897,900	912,100	14,200	897,900	0
Interest on Balances	-874,500	-770,700	103,800	-676,900	197,600
Portchester Crematorium	-150,000	-150,000	0	-150,000	0
New Homes Bonus	-1,092,700	-1,106,900	-14,200	-1,480,000	-387,300
Contribution to(+)/from(-) Reserves	-791,600	-1,632,400	-840,800	-1,149,900	-358,300
OTHER BUDGETS	-2,888,900	-4,043,700	-1,154,800	-3,640,100	-751,200
NET BUDGET	9,823,300	9,823,300	0	9,387,300	-436,000

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 6 January 2014

Portfolio: Policy and Resources
Subject: 2013 Residents' Survey Feedback
Report of: Chief Executive Officer
Strategy/Policy: Communications and Engagement Strategy

Corporate Objective:

- To be a dynamic, prudent and progressive Council
- Strong and inclusive communities

Purpose:
 This report sets out the results of the 2013 Residents' Satisfaction Survey.

Executive summary:

In the Autumn of 2013, the Council carried out a Residents' Satisfaction Survey by sending a self-completion questionnaire through the post to 4020 households selected at random from the Electoral Register. The questionnaire was based around the Council's Corporate Priorities, used plain English and was graphically designed to ensure the maximum number of responses. The Council received 1291 responses in total, which represents a 32% return, which is good for this type of survey.

Some questions were repeated from previous Resident's Surveys, the last one taking place in 2011, allowing the comparison of satisfaction over time. Most of the results showed an upward trend in satisfaction since 2011. The majority, 97% of respondents were happy with their local area as a place to live, 89% thought the Council provided value for money and 91% were happy with the way the Council runs things. Collecting household waste, working with the police to reduce crime and keeping the streets clean were the most important services to respondents.

74% of people thought that planning for a new community at Welborne was the right approach to take to help meet Fareham's future housing needs and help stop piecemeal development in the countryside that separates the different communities in the Borough.

The results of the survey indicate that a review of Community Action Team (CAT) meetings may be needed.

The full report containing the results of the survey is attached at Appendix A.

Recommendation

That the results of the 2013 Residents' Satisfaction Survey be noted and used to inform future planning.

Reason:

To ensure that the results of public consultation exercises are used to plan future services and measure improvement.

Cost of proposals:

Any costs associated with improvement plans would need to be built into the Council's service/budget planning cycle.

Appendix A: 2013 Residents' Survey Report

Background papers: None

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 6 January 2014

Subject: 2013 Residents' Survey Feedback

Briefing by: Chief Executive Officer

Portfolio: Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. The Borough Council undertakes regular consultation as part of its commitment to improving service delivery.
2. The Residents' Survey has been running since 2000, changing from an annual survey to a biennial one in 2007. The surveys are designed to allow the monitoring of trends over time and to ask questions about current topics of interest.
3. The 2013 Survey was designed to be appealing to potential respondents; with simple text and images used to break up the text. It was deliberately designed not to look like a typical Council survey.

Key Results

4. Overall, the results of the 2013 Residents' Survey shows that the high levels of resident satisfaction have been maintained, and in many areas improved, since the 2011 survey. The following key results have been structured around the seven corporate priorities identified in Fareham Borough Council's Corporate Strategy.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

5. According to responses, the majority of residents are happy with the Council services that work towards ensuring Fareham remains a clean and attractive place to live and work. For example:
 - 93% were happy with their local parks and open spaces, 2% more than in 2011.
 - 83% were happy with their household waste (refuse) collection, 3% more than in 2011.
 - 91% said they were happy with household recycling collection compared to 90% in 2011.
 - 85% said they were happy with the garden waste collection, 5% more than in 2011.

- 84% were happy with recycling sites e.g. bottle banks this year.
- 90% of respondents were happy with clothing and textile recycling in the Borough.
- 82% were happy that public land is kept clear of litter, 1% more than in 2011.
- 90% were happy that public land is kept clear of fly tipping, compared to 87% in 2011.
- 70% of people were happy that public land is kept clear of dog fouling.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 2: MAINTAIN AND EXTEND PROSPERITY

6. According to responses, the residents visit a number of shopping centres to satisfy their shopping and leisure needs. For example:
- Fareham town centre and Whiteley are the shopping centres with the broadest appeal to residents.
 - Only 42% of those that live near there use the town centre for their main food shopping.
 - Only 34% of those that live near there use the Locks Heath Shopping Village for their main food shopping.
 - More variety of shops, better quality of shops and easier parking would make residents use their local shopping centre more often.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 3: A SAFE AND HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

- According to responses, the majority of residents think that Fareham remains a safe and healthy place to live and work. For example:
- 90% thought that the police and Fareham Borough Council were successfully dealing with crime, antisocial behaviour and neighbour nuisance, compared to 88% in 2011.
- 84% thought that teenagers hanging around in public places was not a problem, 10% more than in 2011.
- 92% did not think there was a problem with people using or dealing drugs, 9% more than in 2011.
- 89% thought that people being drunk or rowdy in public places was not a problem, 9% more than in 2011.
- 86% of people did not think that feeling unsafe on a night out was a problem in Fareham.
- 99% of people thought there was no problem with abandoned or burnt out cars, compared to 95% in 2011.
- 91% did not think there was a problem with vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles, 11% more than in 2011.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 4 - LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AND FUN

7. According to responses, the majority of residents thought that there was a reasonable range of leisure opportunities for health and fun in the Borough. For example:
- 90% were happy with the children's play areas in the Borough, 5% more than in 2011.
 - 91% were happy with the Borough's community centres, compared to 87% in 2011.

- 83% were happy with their local sports facilities including pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, 2% more than in 2011.
- 93% of people were happy with Fareham Leisure Centre.
- 95% of people were happy with Westbury Manor Museum.
- 94% of respondents were happy with Ferneham Hall.
- 58% of people went to Ferneham Hall at least once a year.
- Musicals, comedians, shows for children and musical tribute acts were the types of show people would most like to see at Ferneham Hall.
- 75% of people have never used Fareham Tourist Information Centre.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 5: A BALANCED HOUSING MARKET

8. According to responses, the majority of residents think more should be done to ensure that the residents of Fareham have access to good quality housing that is affordable, within their means and offers a choice of tenures. They also strongly supported in principle the building of a new community at Welborne. For example:
- 54% did not think there were enough opportunities for young people to buy and rent locally.
 - 50% did not think there were enough opportunities for young families to rent or buy a home in Fareham.
 - 69% thought there were enough opportunities for older people to rent or buy a home in Fareham.
 - 68% believed that the Council should be doing more to build new affordable homes for local people.
 - 74% of people thought that planning for Welborne was the right approach to take to help meet Fareham's future housing needs and help stop piecemeal development in the countryside that separates the different communities in the Borough.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 6 - STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

9. According to responses, the majority of residents think they have easy and affordable access to information and services provided by the Council. For example:
- 82% felt well informed about events going on in Fareham.
 - 77% felt well informed about Fareham Borough Council Services overall, 7% more than in 2011.
 - Fareham Today, the Council's website and the local press are the most preferred way to find out what the Council is doing.
 - 90% had either never heard of or been to a Community Action Team (CAT) Meeting.
 - 91% found the Council welcoming, 2% more than in 2011.
 - 90% found the Council easy to contact.
 - 95% agreed that they were treated with respect when contacting the Council, 1% more than in 2011.
 - Using the phone, followed by email and face-to-face contact were the most preferred ways to get in touch with the Council.

COUNCIL PRIORITY 7: TO BE A DYNAMIC, PRUDENT AND PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL

10. According to responses, the majority of residents think that the Council offers good value for money by providing high quality services and maintaining high levels of resident satisfaction, whilst keeping Council tax levels low when compared to other district councils. For example:
- 89% thought the Council provides value for money, 1% more than in 2011 and 7% more than 2009.
 - 97% were happy with their local area as a place to live, the same as in 2011.
 - 91% were happy with the way Fareham Borough Council runs things.
 - Collecting household waste, working with the police to reduce crime and keeping the streets clean were the most important services to respondents.
 - The Tourist Information Centre, the provision of allotments and Westbury Manor Museum were the least important.
 - 57% of residents wanted a balance between increasing charges to service users and small increases in Council Tax

KEY MESSAGES

11. The large majority of results in the 2013 Resident's Survey were positive when compared to the 2011 and 2009 surveys. Overall, there has been a clear improvement in the levels of residents' satisfaction with the services that the Council provides since 2009. The majority of residents have also expressed support for the Council's approach to planning for Welborne. Most residents don't go to Community Action Team (CAT) meetings and a review of them may be needed. The information given about the services that are the most and least important to respondents, will be a useful tool in helping to inform future decision making.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The results of the Residents' Satisfaction Survey can be used to identify where to focus resources in the future.

CONCLUSION

14. The survey results will be analysed by officers and any lessons learnt will be used to measure performance and inform future planning.

Reference Papers: Results of Residents' Satisfaction Survey 2011
Results of Residents' Satisfaction Survey 2009

2013 Residents' Survey Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 2013 Residents' Survey was sent out by post to 4020 households in the Borough during October and early November 2013. The survey is designed to find out how happy residents are with the services provided by the Council, which ones are most important to them and to ask questions about issues which relate to living in the Borough of Fareham. A number of questions were repeated, or slightly amended from previous surveys, allowing the measurement of trends over time.
- 1.2. This paper will analyse the results of the survey and compare them to previous Residents' Surveys where appropriate. This paper only deals with the top level analysis, however, it will be possible to analyse any question against a series of further variables upon request.

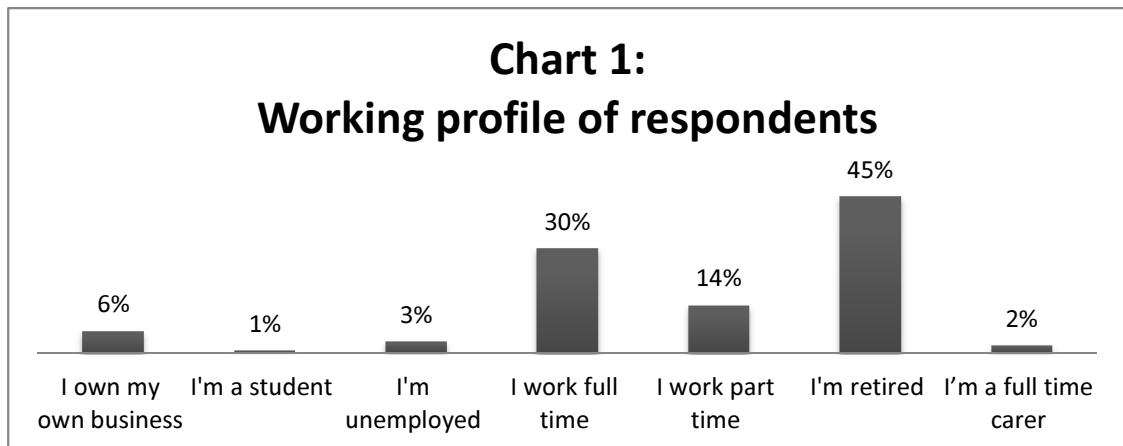
2. Methodology

- 2.1. A stratified random sample of 4020 residents (268 from each ward) was selected from the Electoral Register. Selected households were sent a self-completion questionnaire addressed to the occupier so that anyone living at that address could complete and return the survey.
- 2.2. The survey was deliberately designed not to look like a typical Council survey. In order to give it a clear structure, questions were based around the Council's 7 Priorities. There were 34 main questions in total, although a number of these contained further sub-questions. A further 2 questions asked for the respondents age bracket and employment status.
- 2.3. A number of questions have been carried over from previous surveys. This allows the tracking of satisfaction levels over time. Some of the content of the questions were amended slightly.
- 2.4. The Council received 1291 responses in total, which represents a 32% return. This is a good return rate for this type of postal survey.
- 2.5. In accordance with best practice, all results are based on the number of respondents actually answering a question. The figures in this report have been rounded to make the display of information clearer.

3. Demographics

3.1. As in previous surveys there was a slight overrepresentation of the older demographic in the Residents' Survey respondents. This is to be expected of this type of survey.

3.2. Chart 1 shows that although nearly half of the respondents were retired, 44% of the total were either in full time or part time employment.



4. Analysis of Residents' Survey responses

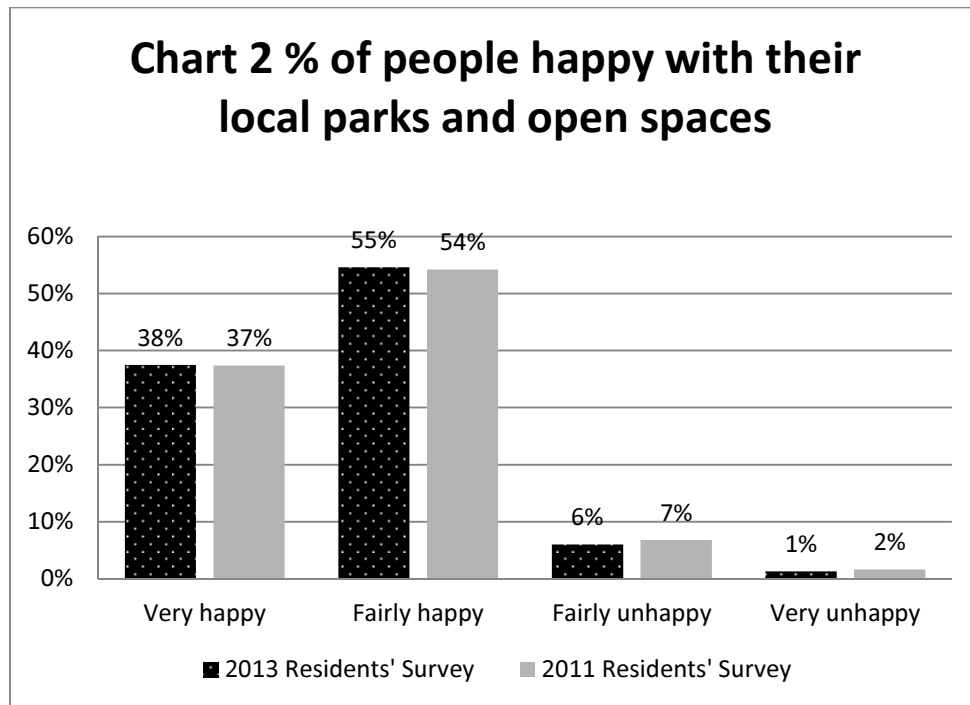
4.1. The following sections are structured around the Council's seven corporate priorities and give a top line analysis of the responses to each individual question within the survey. More detailed analysis is available upon request.

5. COUNCIL PRIORITY 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

5.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 1: Protect and enhance the environment.

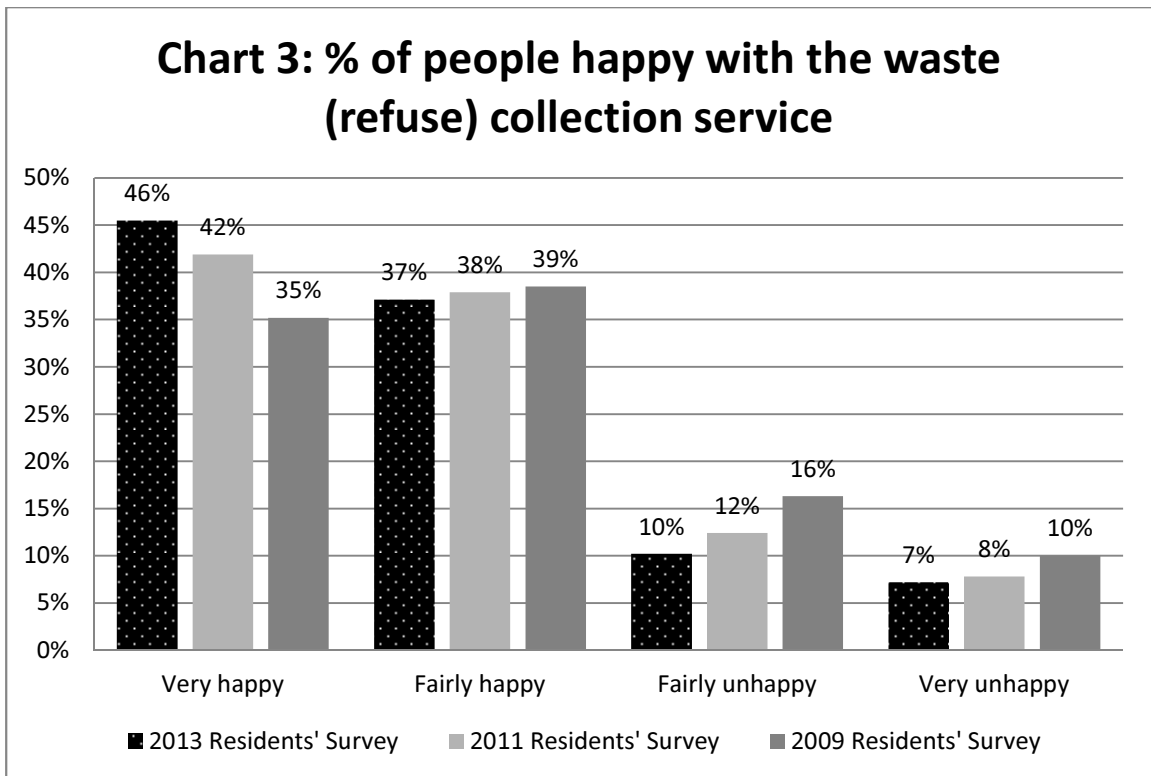
6. Question 1: More people are happy with their local parks and open spaces

6.1. Residents were asked how happy they were with the parks and open spaces in their local area. Chart 2 shows that the majority (93%) of people in the Borough are happy with their local parks and open spaces. This is 2% more than in 2011.



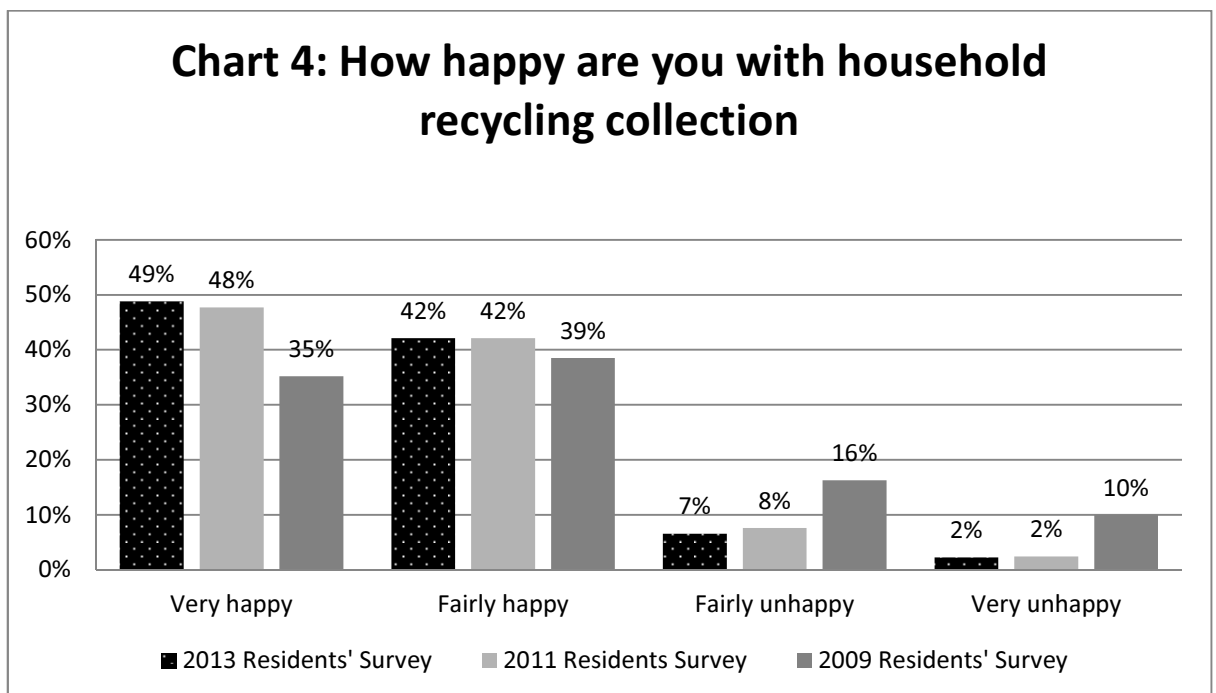
7. Question 2a: More people happy with their household waste (refuse) collection

7.1. Residents were asked how happy they were with their household waste (refuse) collection. The percentage of people happy increased to 83%, from the 80% who were satisfied with the service in 2011. This was 9% more than in 2009 and comfortably the highest level since bin collections were changed from weekly to once a fortnight.



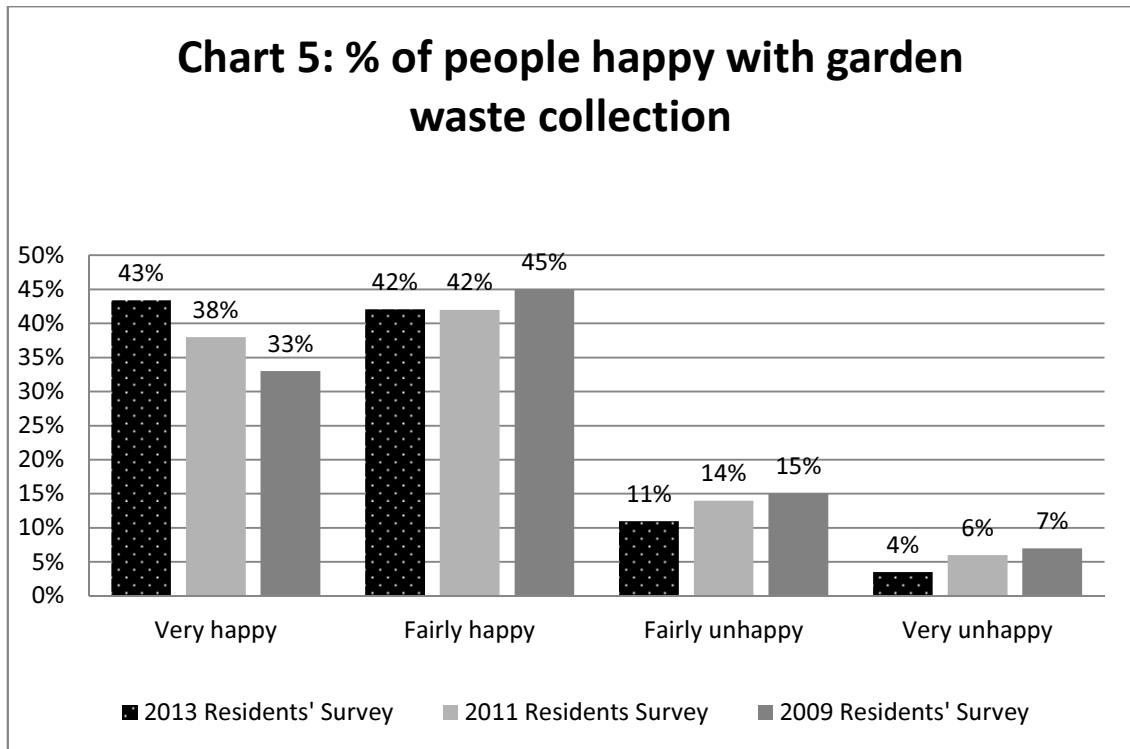
8. Question 2b: More people happy with household recycling collection

8.1. Chart 4 shows that there was a 1% increase in the percentage of residents who were either very or fairly happy with household recycling collection between 2011 (90%) and 2013 (91%). It is also a 17% increase in satisfaction since 2009.



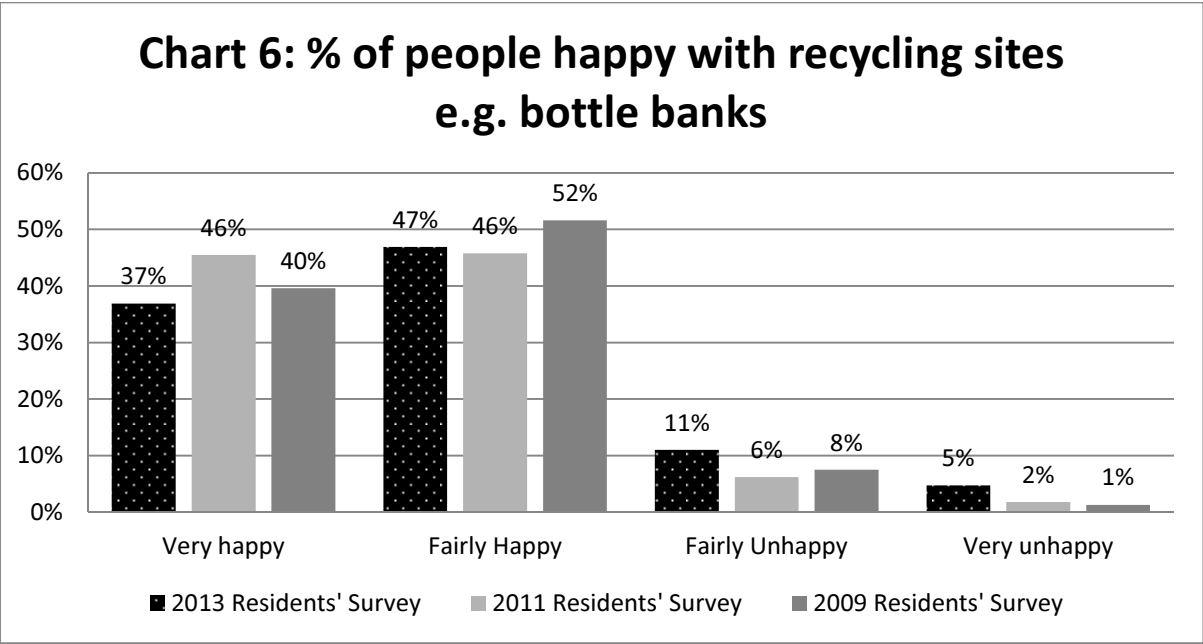
9. Question 2c: More people happy with garden waste collection

9.1. Chart 5 shows that whilst the percentage of residents who were either fairly or very happy with the garden waste collection service rose by 5% from 80% in 2011 to 85% in 2013. This is 7% more than those who were satisfied in 2009.



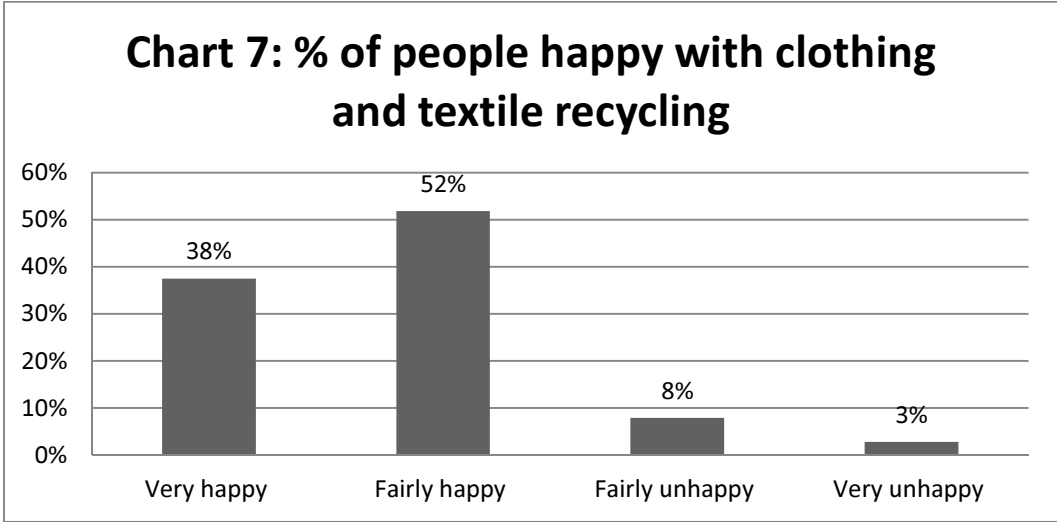
10. Question 2d: The majority of people happy with recycling sites e.g. bottle banks

10.1. The majority of residents (84%) said they were happy with the recycling sites in the Borough. However, as Chart 5 shows, this is a reduction of 8% since 2011. Whilst there was a 1% increase in those who were fairly happy, there was a 9% drop in those who were very happy.



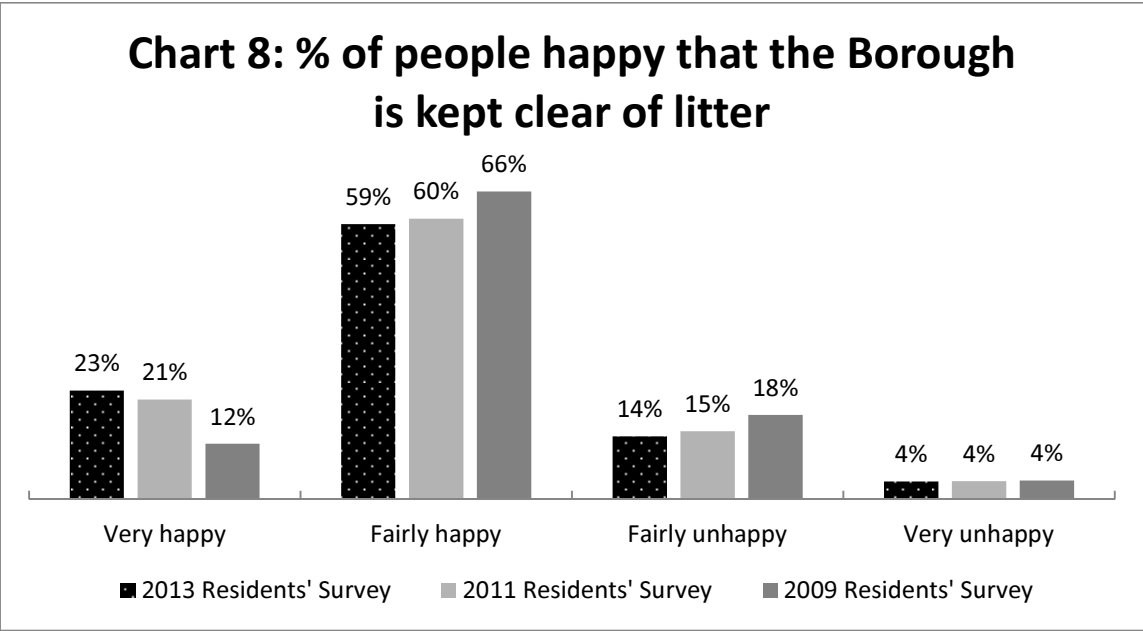
11. Question 2e: Most people happy with clothing and textile recycling e.g. blue banks

11.1. This question was asked for the first time this year, in response to the Council taking responsibility for textile recycling banks on public land in April. As Chart 7 shows, the majority of residents (90%) were either fairly or very happy with clothing and textile recycling in the Borough.



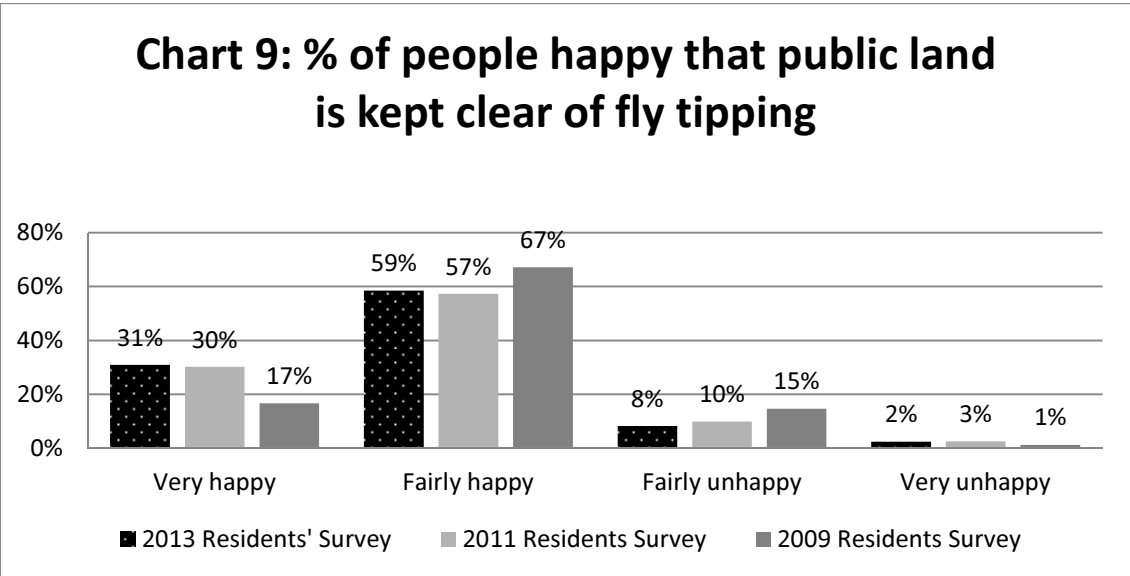
12. Question 3a: More people happy that public land is kept clear of litter

12.1. As can be seen in Chart 8, there has been a 4% increase since 2009 (78%) in the number of people happy that public land is kept clear of litter. The 82% who were happy in 2013 is also 1% more than those who said the same in 2011 (81%).



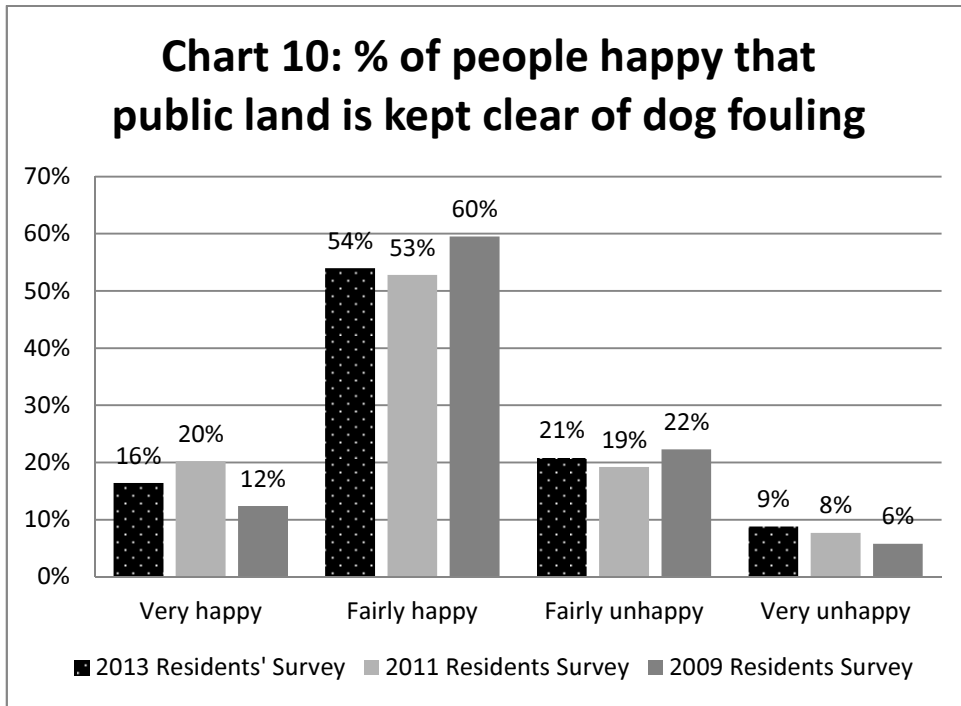
13. Question 3b: More people happy that public land is kept clear of fly tipping

13.1. As Chart 9 shows, 90% of respondents were either fairly or very happy in 2013, compared to 87% in 2011 and 84% in 2009. There was also a 14% increase in the number of respondents who were very happy that all public land was kept clear of fly tipping between 2009 and 2013.



14. Question 3c: Most people happy that all public land is kept clear of dog fouling

14.1. Overall, the majority of respondents (70%) said they were happy that all public land was kept clear of dog fouling. As Chart 10 shows, this is a 3% drop from the overall 2009 figure (73%). There was also a 3% increase in the people who were very unhappy between 2009 (6%) and 2013 (9%).

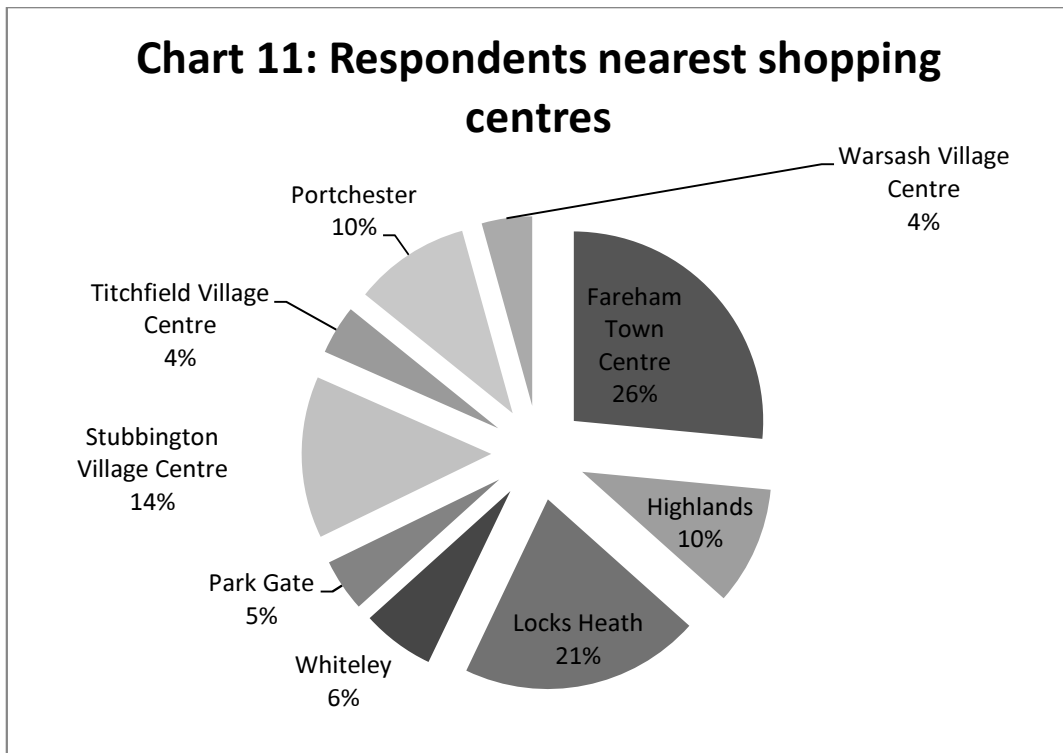


15. COUNCIL PRIORITY 2: MAINTAIN AND EXTEND PROSPERITY

15.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 2: Maintain and extend prosperity. The following questions focus on the respondents nearest shopping centres, what they use them for, why they use other centres and what would make them use their nearest centre more often.

16. Question 4: Respondents' nearest shopping centres

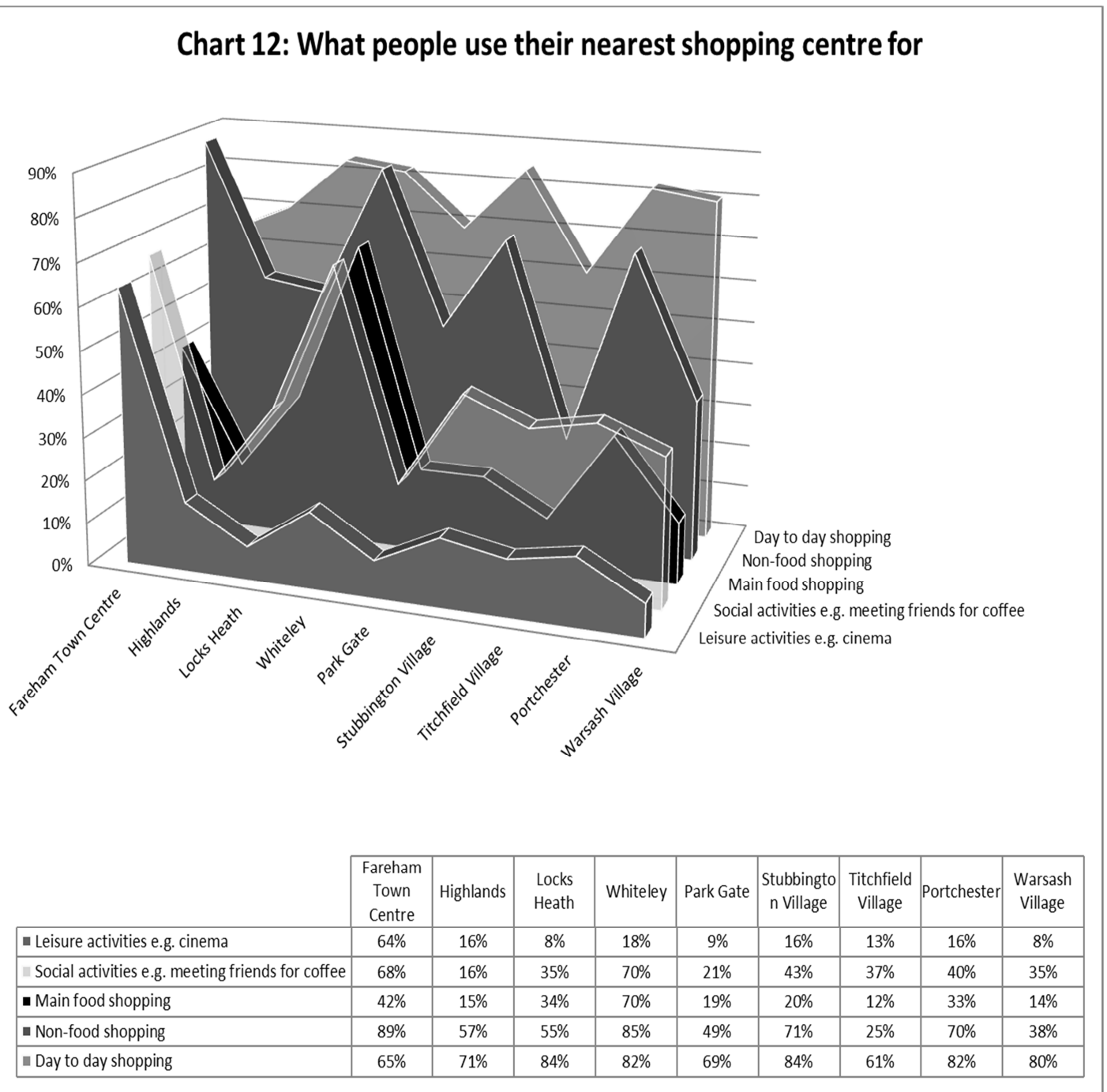
16.1. As Chart 11 shows, the town centre (26%) and Locks Heath Shopping Village (21%) were the 2 centres that had the most people living near them. Although Whiteley Shopping Centre is outside of the Borough, it was included in the question as it would be the nearest centre for some of our residents.



17. Questions 5a-5e: People use their nearest centres for a variety of activities

17.1. As Chart 11 shows, the 2 biggest centres Fareham Town Centre and Whiteley appeared to have the broadest appeal to local residents. However, it is interesting to note that only 42% went to the town centre for their main food shopping. The percentage of people who go to Whiteley for leisure activities is likely to increase from 18%, when the new multiplex opens there in 2015. Another point to note is the relatively small percentage (34%) who use Locks Heath for their main food shopping.

Chart 12: What people use their nearest shopping centre for



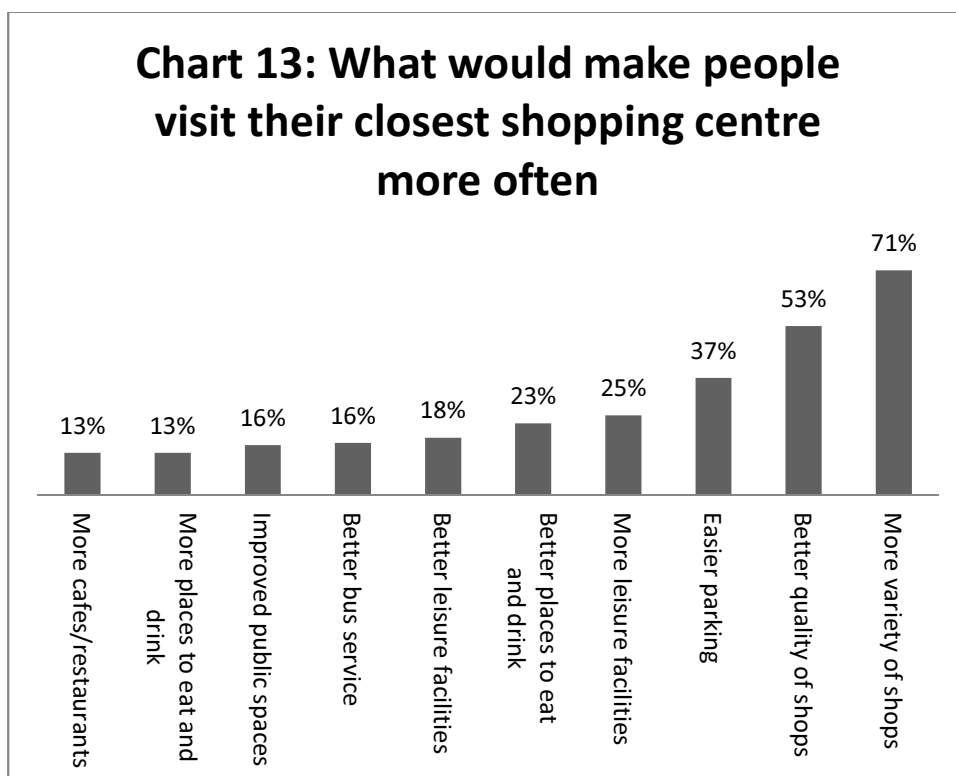
18. Questions 6 and 7: Where else people go and why

18.1. Respondents were asked follow on qualitative questions about which shopping centres they went to if they didn't go to their nearest and why. Most of those that lived near to but didn't do their main food shopping in the town centre, went to either Asda on Newgate Lane or Sainsburys in Broadcut. The main reasons given for this were convenience, free parking and cheaper food (at Asdas) compared to what is offered in the town centre.

18.2. Those residents living near Locks Heath but not using it for food shopping tended to go to either Tescos in the town centre, Asda on Newgate Lane or Sainsburys in Broadcut. Most cited a broader choice of products and price as motivating factors for using these shops as opposed to the Co-op in Locks Heath.

19. Question 8: More variety of shops would make people visit their closest shopping centre more often

19.1. Respondents were asked what 3 things would make them visit their closest shopping centre more often. As in the last residents' survey, the three most popular responses were 'more variety of shops', 'better quality of shops' and easier parking.

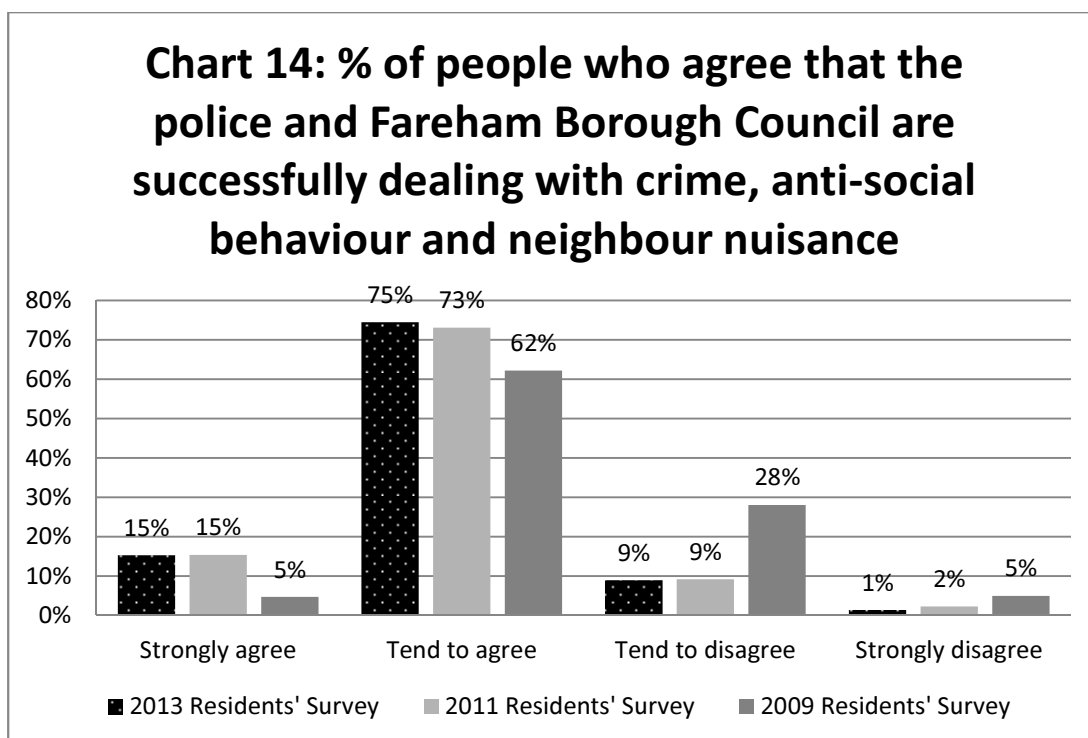


20. COUNCIL PRIORITY 3: A SAFE AND HEALTHY PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

20.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 3: A safe and healthy place to work and live.

21. Question 9: More people agree that the police and Fareham Borough Council are successfully dealing with crime, antisocial behaviour and neighbour nuisance

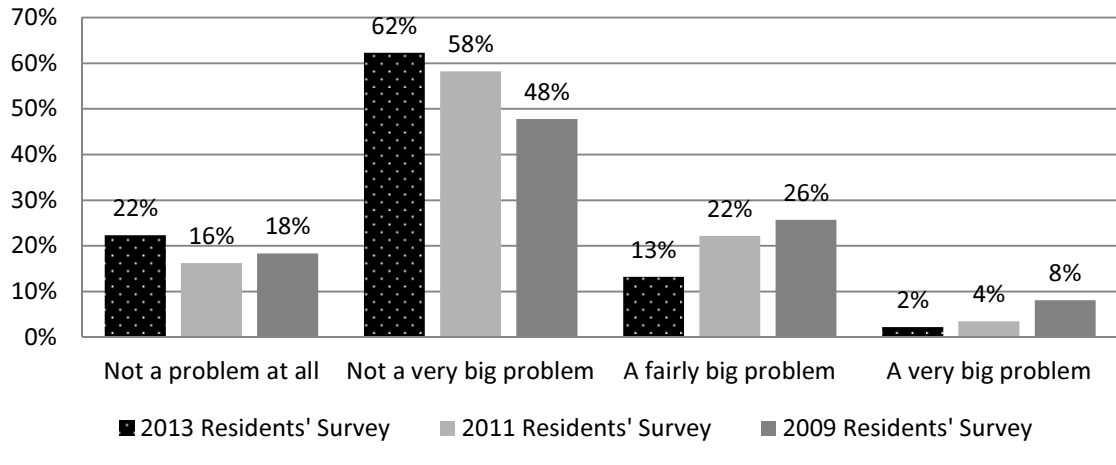
21.1. As Chart 14 shows, there was a 23% increase in the percentage of people who agreed that the police and Fareham Borough Council were successfully dealing with crime, antisocial behaviour and neighbour nuisance between 2009 (67%) and 2013 (90%). Within this, there was a 2% increase of people who agreed between 2011 and 2013.



22. Question 10a: Less people think that teenagers hanging around in public places is a problem

22.1. As can be seen in Chart 15, there has been a change in residents' perceptions about teenagers hanging around in public places. 34% of people thought that this was either a fairly or very big problem in 2009. This dropped by 8% to 26% in 2011 and by a further 9% to 15% in 2013.

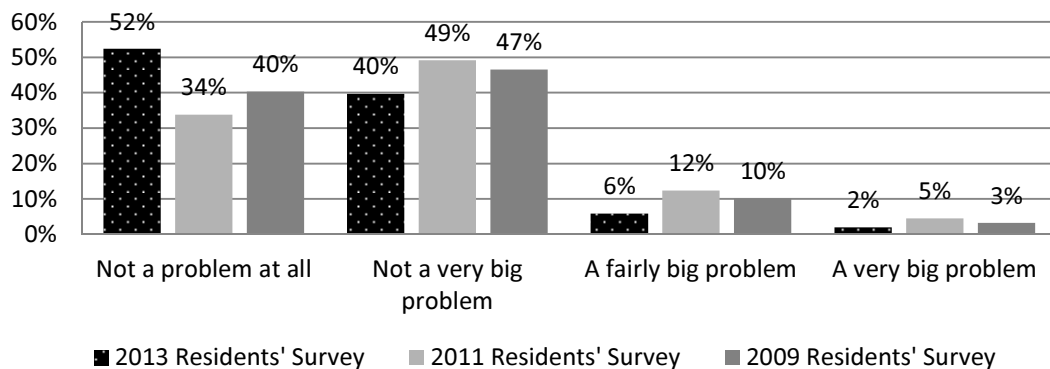
Chart 15: % of people who think that teenagers hanging around in public spaces is a problem



23. Question 10b: Less people think there is a problem with people using and dealing drugs

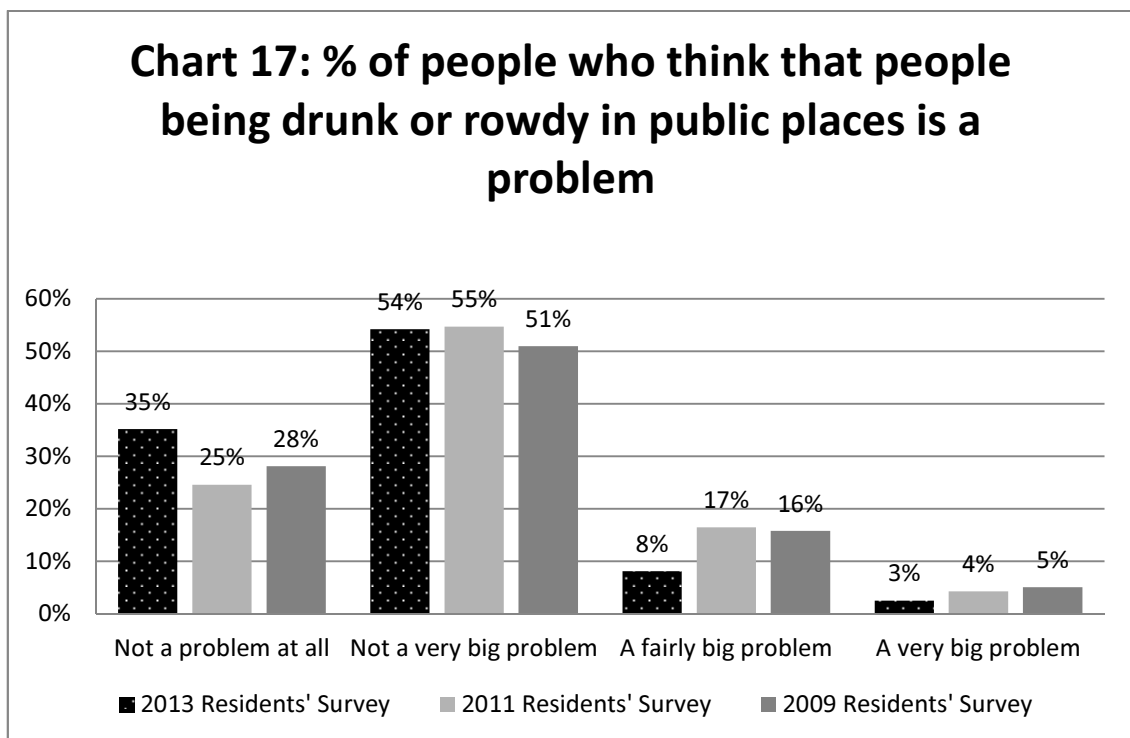
23.1. The majority (92%) of respondents do not think that there is a problem with people using or dealing drugs in the Borough. This means that there has been a decrease of 9% in those who perceive a problem between 2011 (17%) and 2013 (8%).

Chart 16: % of people who think that there is a problem with people using and dealing drugs in your neighborhood



24. Question 10c: Less people think that there is a problem with people being drunk and rowdy in public places

24.1. 89% of respondents did not think that there was a problem with people being drunk and rowdy in public places. As Chart 17 shows, there was a 10% drop in people perceiving a problem between 2009 (21%) and 2011 (11%).



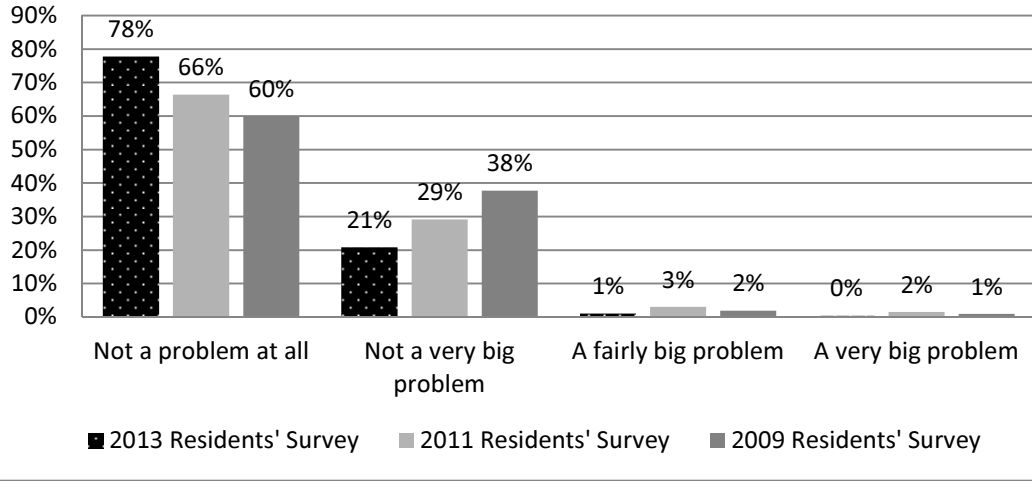
25. Question 10d: Most people feel safe on a night out in Fareham

25.1. This was a new question for the 2013 Residents' Survey. The majority of residents (84%) believed that feeling unsafe on a night out in Fareham was not a big problem.

26. Question 10e: More people do not think there is a problem with abandoned or burnt out cars

26.1. The vast majority (99%) of respondents did not think that there was much of a problem with abandoned or burnt out cars in the Borough. This is a 4% increase since 2011. Within this, 12% more people did not think it was a problem at all in 2013 (78%) compared to 2011 (66%).

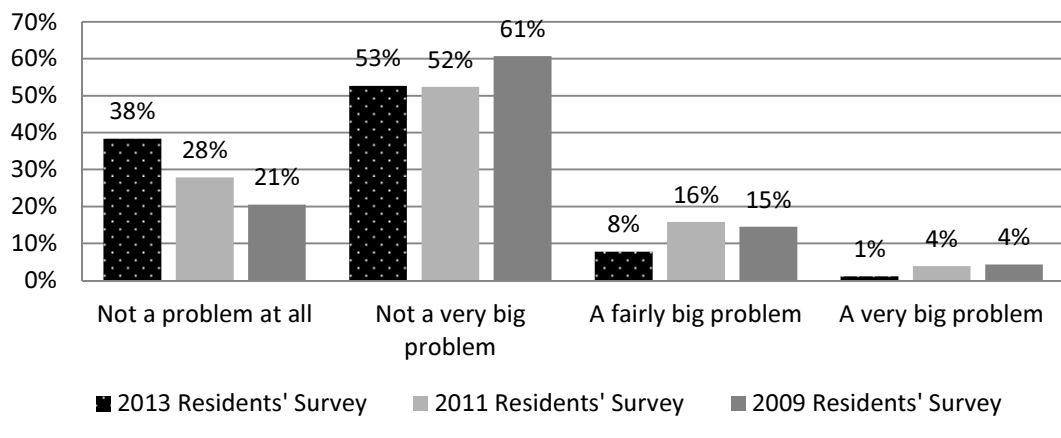
Chart 18: % of people who think that there is a problem with abandoned or burnt out cars



27. Question 10f: Less people think there is a problem with vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles

27.1. Since 2009, there has been a 10% drop in the people who perceive a problem with vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles. 19% felt this way in 2009. As Chart 19 shows, this increased to 20% in 2011 but dropped to only 9% in 2013.

Chart 19 % of people who think there is a problem with vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles



28. Question 11: Just under half found it easy to book an appointment within a reasonable time at their GP practice

28.1. The following three questions were asked on behalf of the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Respondents were first asked whether they could easily book an appointment within a reasonable time at their GP practice. 49% of respondents said they could, whilst 51% said that they could not.

29. Question 12: Most people are satisfied with the service they get from their GP practice

29.1. Three-quarters (75%) of people were happy with their GP practice. This is an interesting result when taking into account the 51% of respondents who had difficulties in booking appointments within a reasonable time.

30. Question 13: The majority of people did not know about their local patient participation group

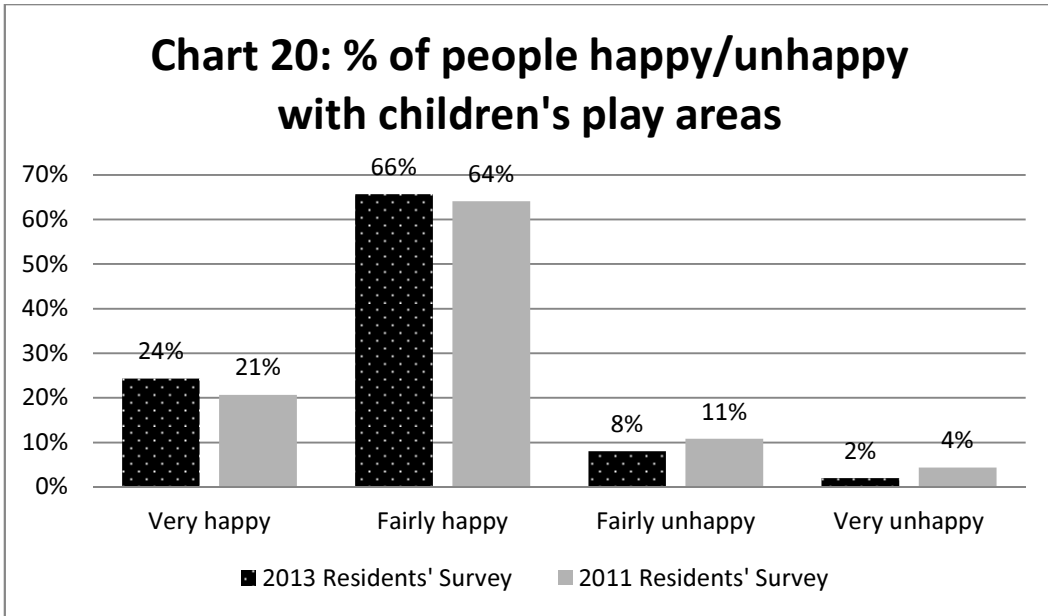
30.1. 71% of respondents did not know that their GP practice had a patient participation group that they could join.

31. COUNCIL PRIORITY 4 - LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AND FUN

31.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 4: Leisure opportunities for health and fun.

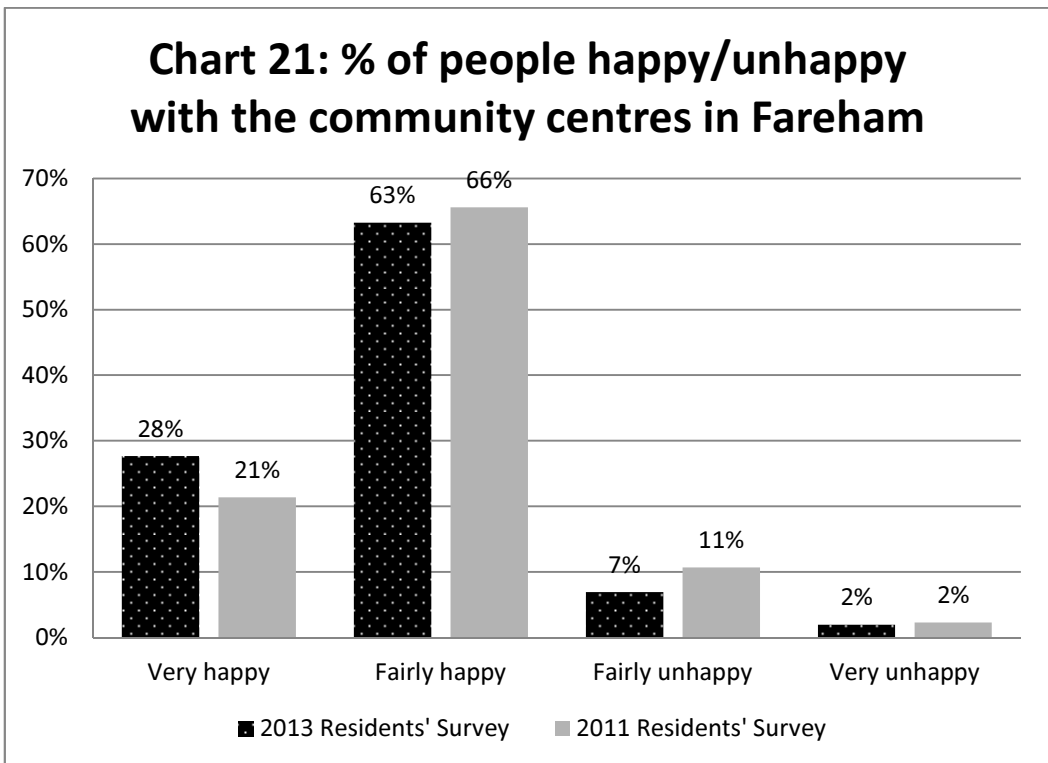
32. Question 14a: More people are happy with children's play areas in the Borough

32.1. As Chart 20 shows, there was a 5% increase in the respondents who were happy with the children's play areas in the Borough between 2011 (85%) and 2013 (90%).



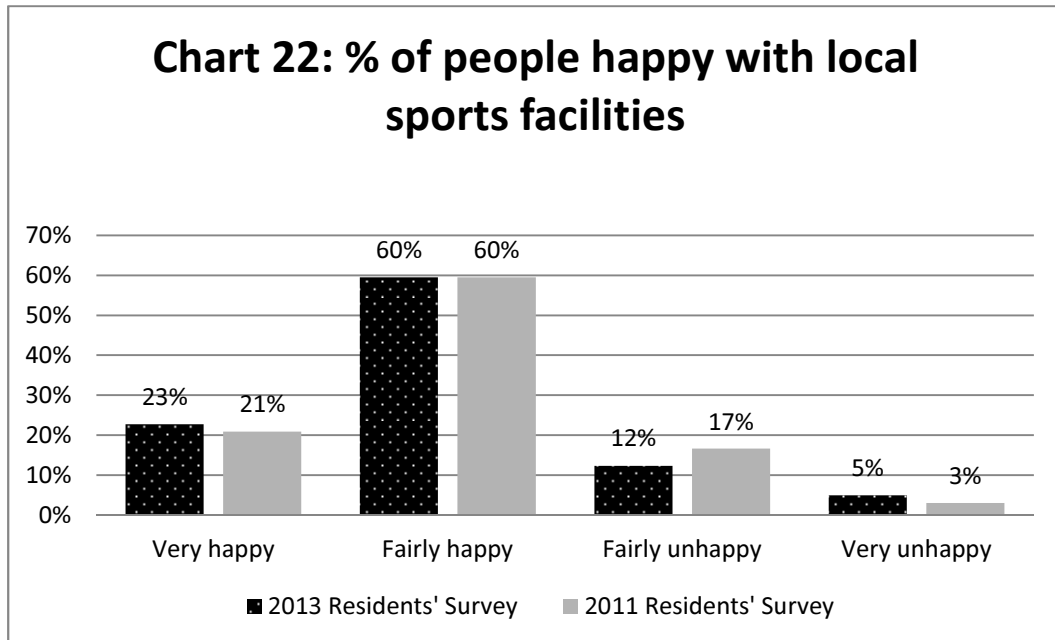
33. Question 14b: More people are happy with the community centres in Fareham

33.1. 91% of respondents were happy with the Borough's community centres in 2013. This is 4% more than the 87% who felt the same in 2011. Within this there was a 7% increase in those who were very happy and a 4% decrease in those that were unhappy.



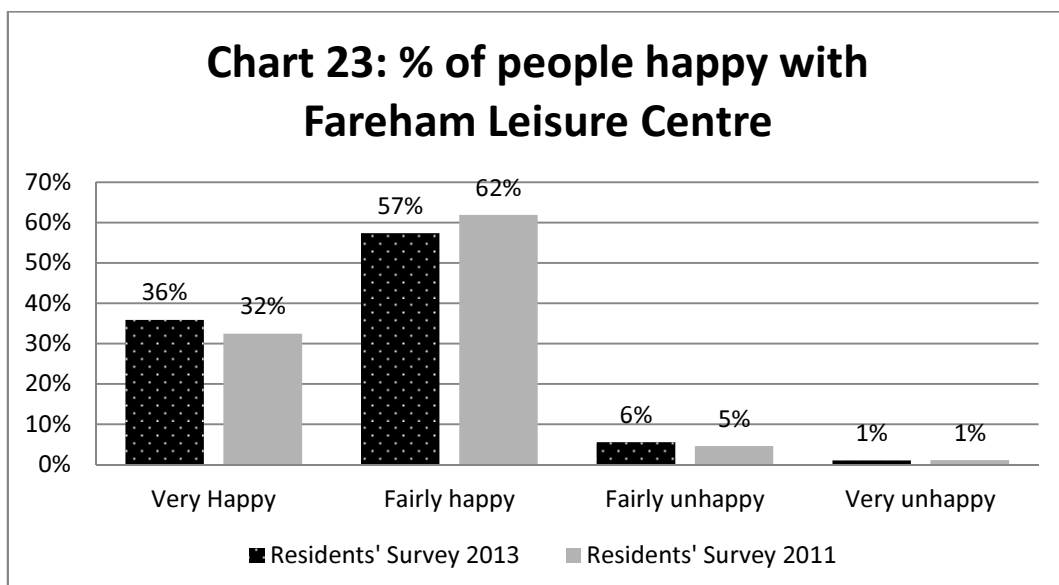
34. Question 14c: Slightly more people are happy with local sports facilities

34.1. As Chart 22 shows, 83% of respondents were happy with their local sports facilities including pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens. This is 2% more than in 2011 (81%).



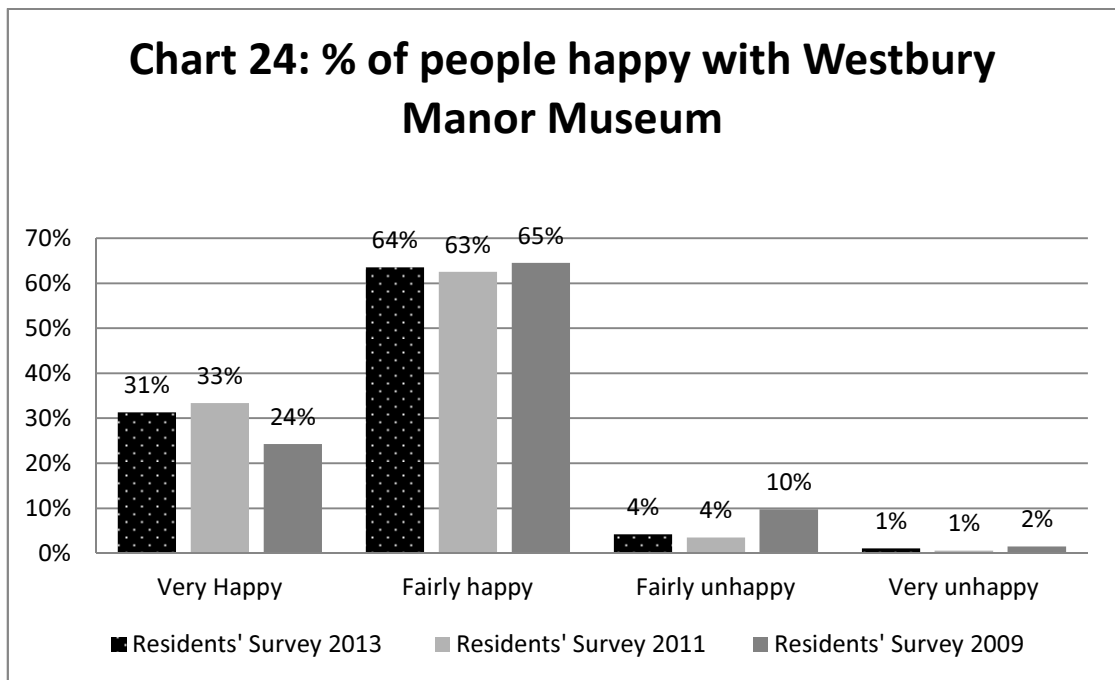
35. Question 15a: The vast majority of people are happy with Fareham Leisure Centre

35.1. Chart 23 shows that 93% of people were happy with Fareham Leisure Centre in 2013. This is a small (1%) decrease from the 94% who felt the same in 2011.



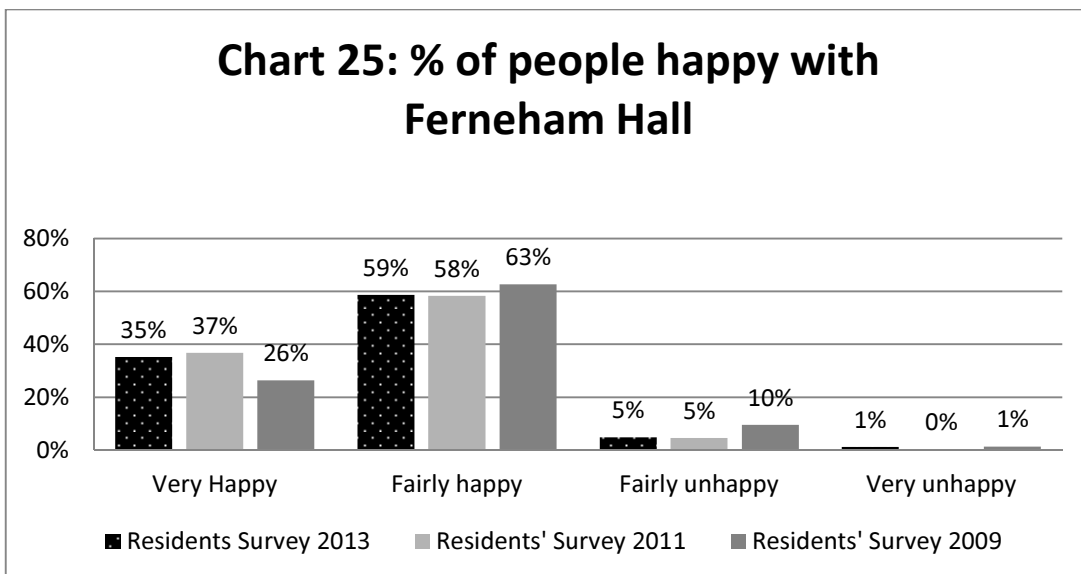
36. Question 15b: The majority of people are happy with Westbury Manor Museum

36.1. Chart 24 shows that 95% of respondents said that they were happy with Westbury Manor Museum in 2013. This is 1% less than the 96% who said they were satisfied in 2009, but 6% more than those who said the same in 2009.



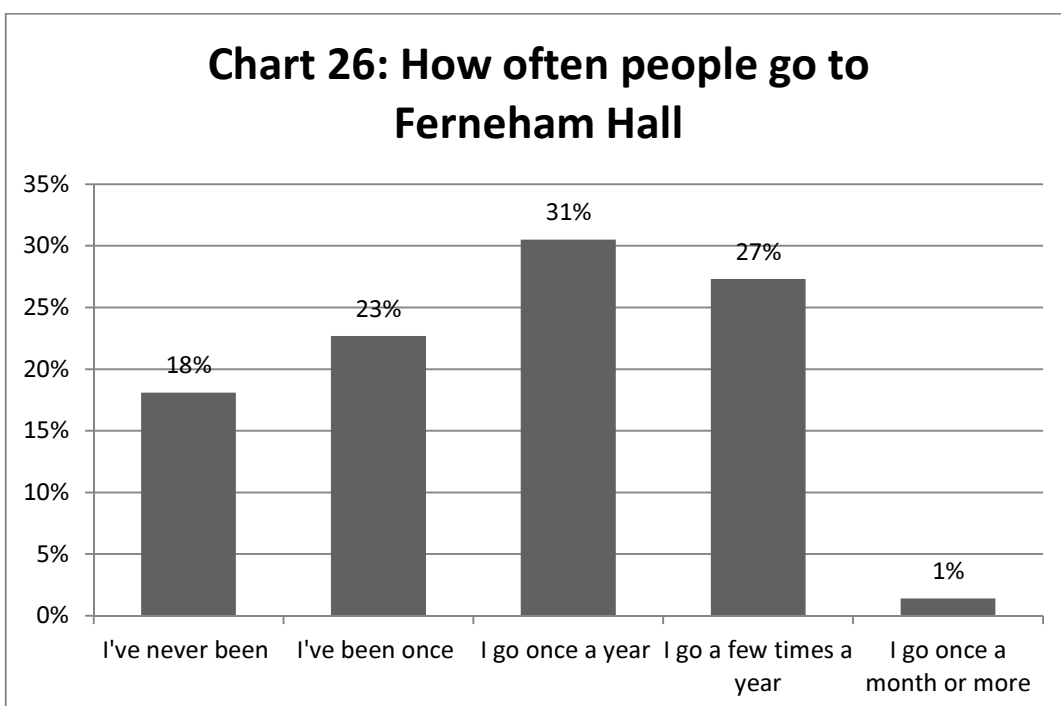
37. Question 15c: The majority of people are happy with Ferneham Hall

37.1. 94% of respondents were either very or fairly happy with Ferneham Hall in 2013. As Chart 25 shows, this was small decrease of 1% compared to 2011 (93%) but a 5% increase since 2009 (89%).



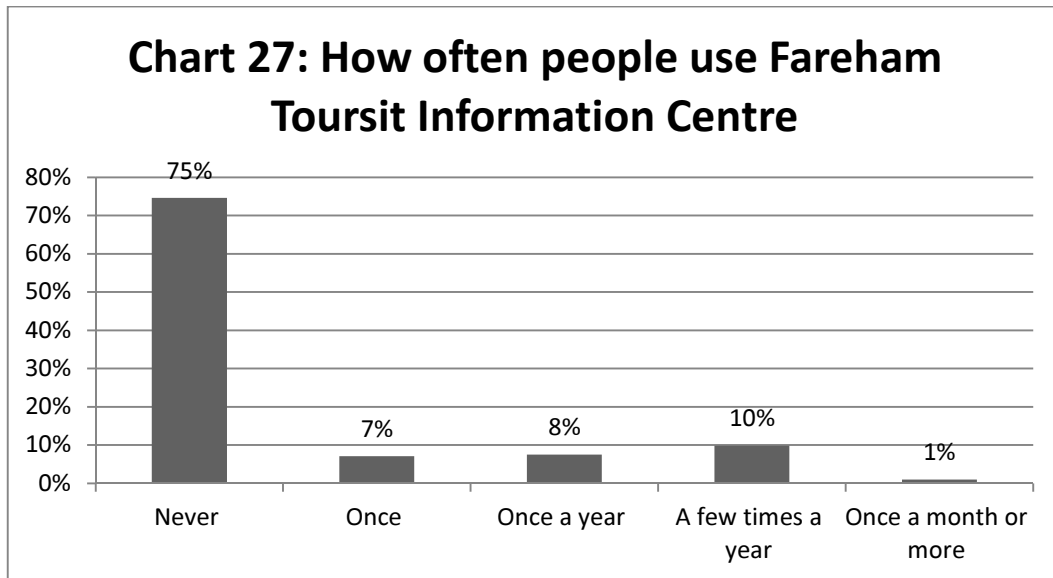
38. Question 16: More than half go to Ferneham Hall at least once a year

38.1. This was a new question for this year's residents' survey. 31% of respondents go to Ferneham Hall about once a year, whilst 27% go a few times a year. However, 18% have never been and nearly a quarter (23%) have only been once.



39. Question 17: Most people have never used Fareham’s Tourist Information Centre

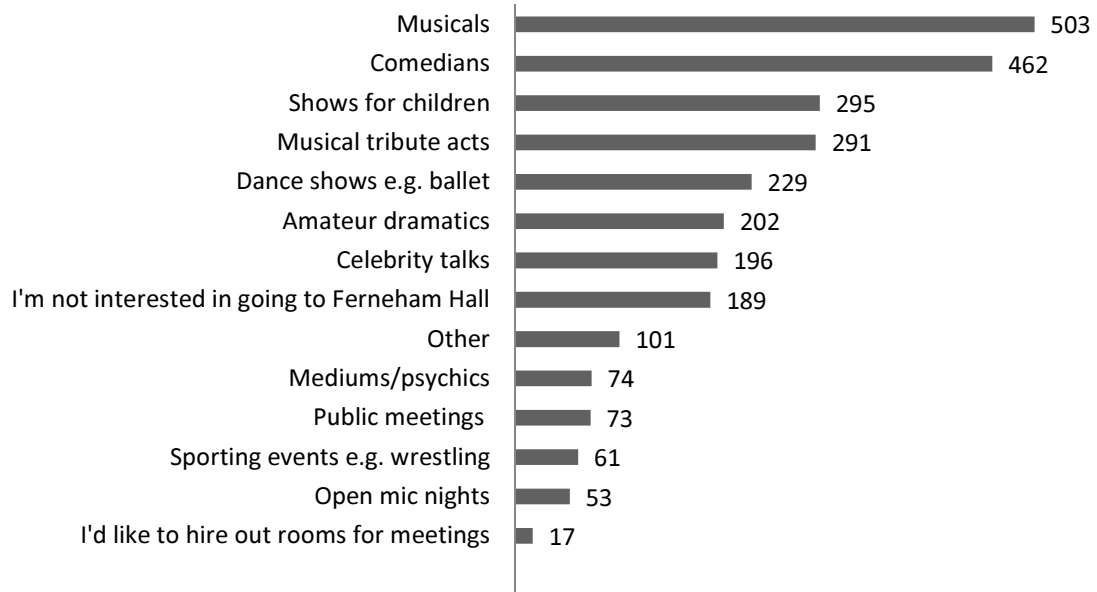
39.1. This was a new question for this year’s residents’ survey. 75% of respondents had never used the town’s Tourist Information Centre. Of those that did use it, only 11% of people used it more than once a year.



40. Question 18: Musicals and comedians were the shows people wanted most at Ferneham Hall

41. This was a new question for this year’s survey. Respondents were asked to pick their favourite 3 types of show that they would like to see at Ferneham Hall. As Chart 28 shows, musicals and comedians, followed by shows for children and musical tribute acts received the most responses. The least popular types of events were open mic nights, sporting events and public meetings. There was also little interest shown in hiring out rooms for meetings.

Chart 28: They types of shows people would like to see at Ferneham Hall



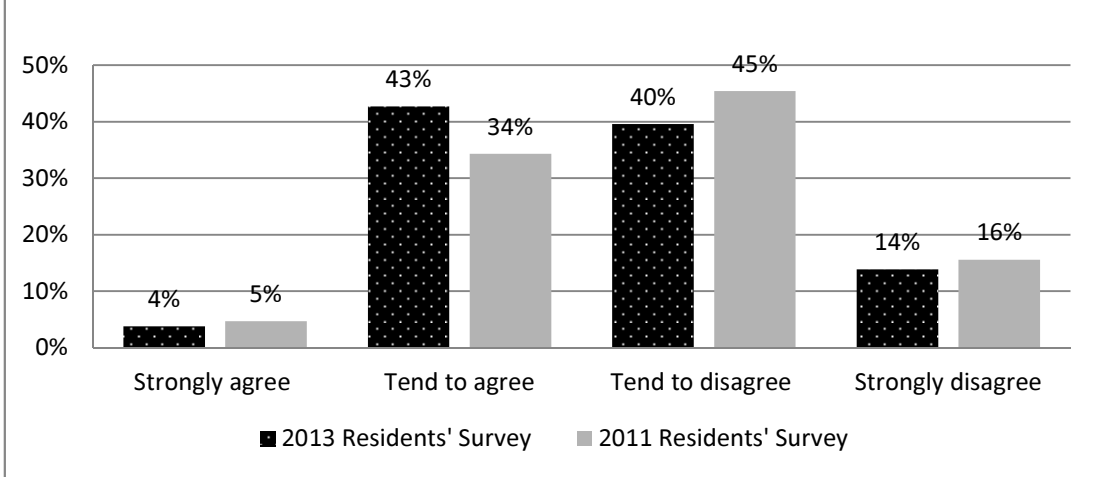
42. COUNCIL PRIORITY 5: A BALANCED HOUSING MARKET

42.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 5: A balanced housing market

43. Question 19a: The majority of respondents think there are not enough opportunities for young people to buy and rent locally

43.1. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement, 'there are enough opportunities for young people to rent or buy a home in Fareham'. Chart 29 shows that the majority (54%) of respondents did not agree with this statement. However, this is 7% less than those who said the same in 2011 (61%).

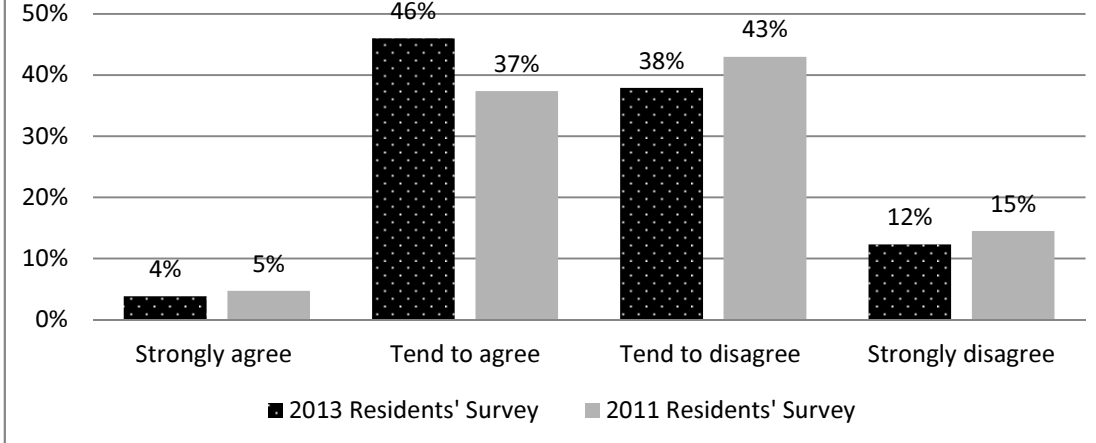
Chart 29: % agree/disagree that there are enough opportunities for young people to rent or buy a home in Fareham



44. Question 19b: Half do not think there are enough opportunities for young families to rent or buy a home in Fareham

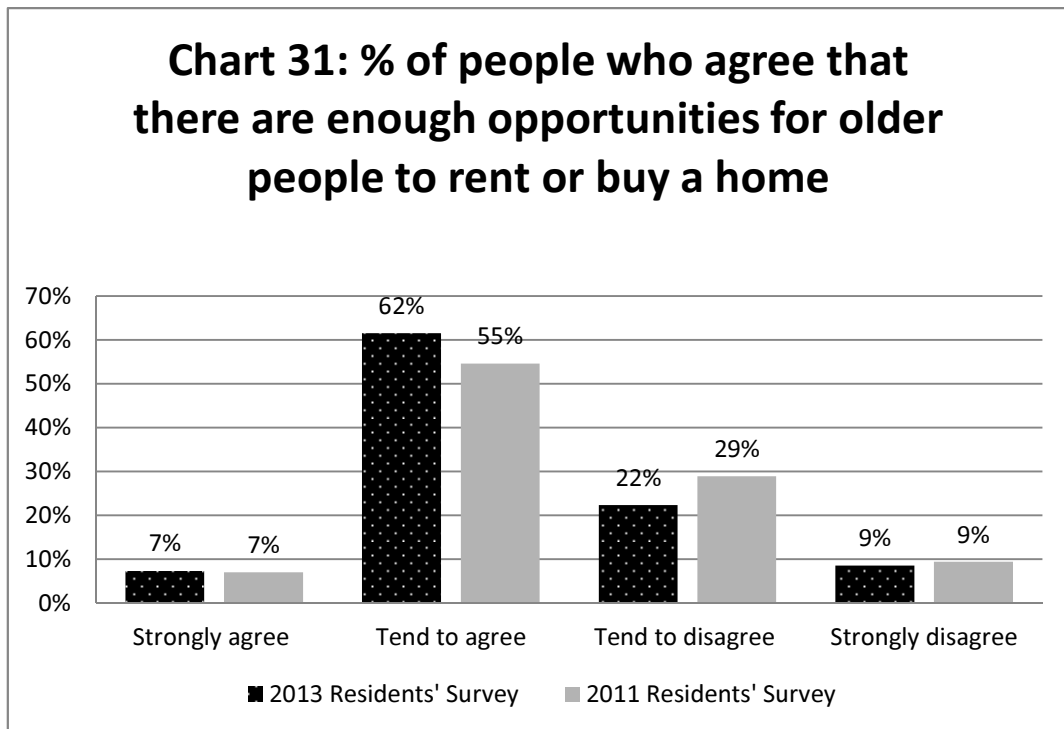
44.1. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement 'there are enough opportunities for young families to rent or buy a home of their own in Fareham. The responses were split down the middle with 50% of respondents not agreeing with this statement. However, as Chart 30 shows this is 8% less than those who said the same in 2011 (58%).

Chart 30: % agree that there are enough opportunities for young families to rent or buy a home of their own



45. Question 19c: The majority of people think there are enough opportunities for older people to rent or buy a home in Fareham

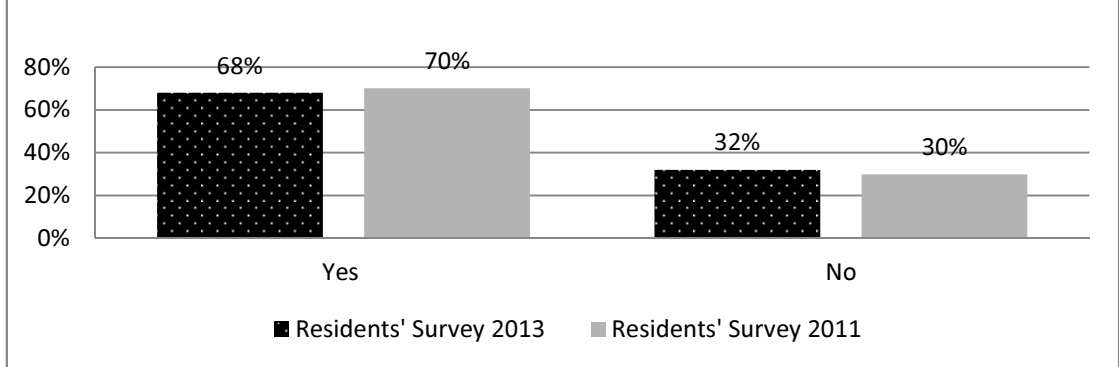
45.1. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement 'there are enough opportunities for older people to rent or buy a home in Fareham'. Chart 31 shows that 69% of respondents agreed that there were enough opportunities. This is 7% more than the 62% who agreed in 2011.



46. Question 19d: Most people think the Council should be doing more to build new affordable homes for local people

46.1. Chart 32 shows that 68% of respondents believed that the Council should be doing more to build new affordable homes for local people. Whilst this is high, it is 2% less than those who felt the same in 2011 (70%).

Chart 32: Should the Council be doing more to build new affordable homes for local people

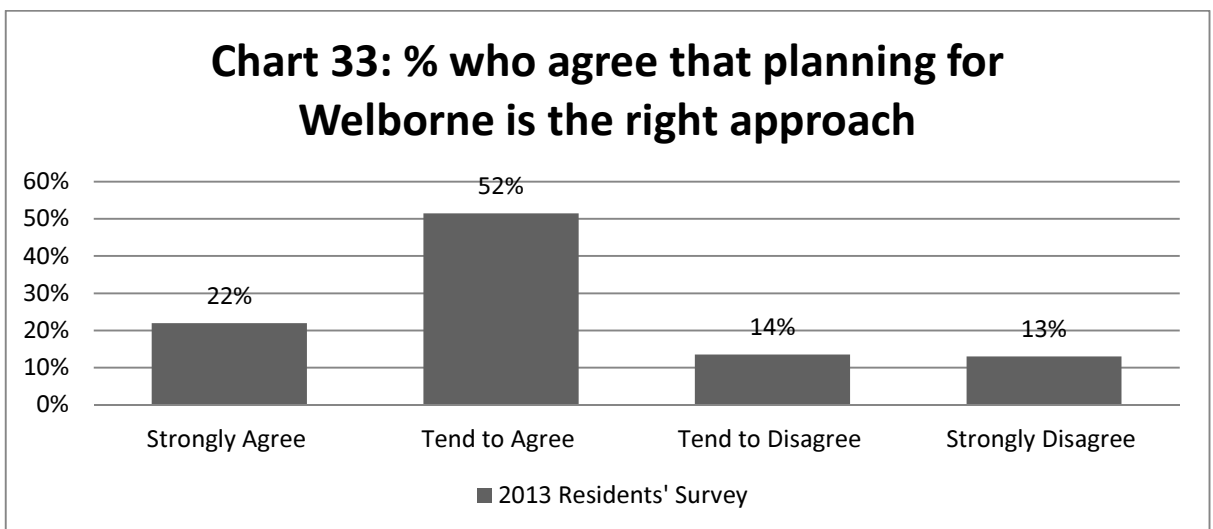


47. Question 20: Most agree that the Council’s decision to plan for Welborne is the right approach to take

47.1. Respondents were presented with the following statement ‘A decision has been taken to plan for Welborne, a new community north of the M27, with businesses, schools, open spaces and local services. It will help meet Fareham’s future housing needs and help stop piecemeal development taking place in the countryside that separates the different communities in the Borough.’ They were then asked whether in principle, they thought this was the right approach to take.

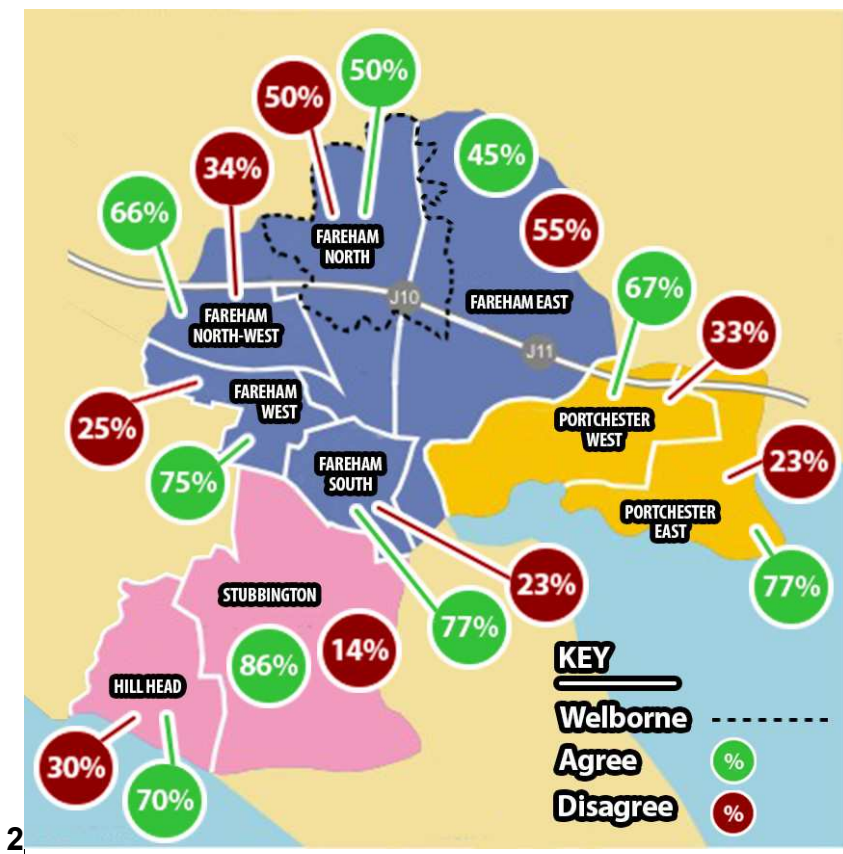
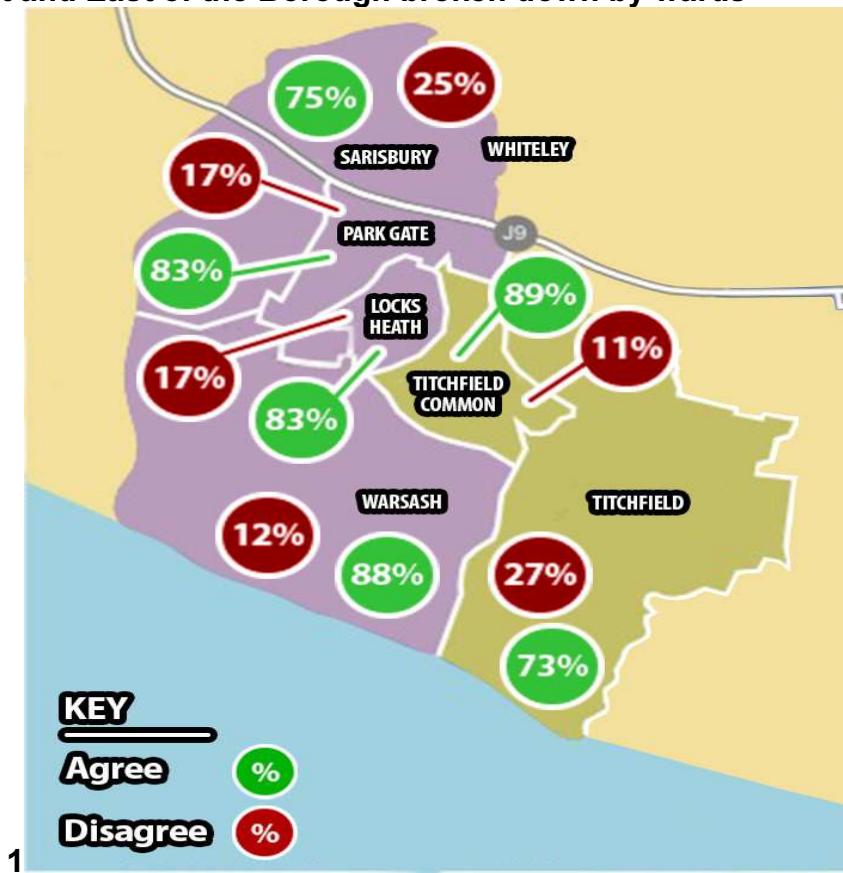
47.2. Chart 33 shows that nearly three-quarters (74%) of the respondents agreed with the approach. Of these 22% strongly agreed.

Chart 33: % who agree that planning for Welborne is the right approach



47.3. As the two maps show below, the majority of residents across the Borough are in support of the Council's approach. As would be expected, there are some geographical differences in the amount of support expressed, with wards such as Warsash and Titchfield Common expressing particularly strong support with 88% and 89% in favour respectively. However, it is interesting to note that there is still a substantial amount of support in wards close to the Welborne site, with 45% in Fareham East and 50% in Fareham North in favour of the Council's approach.

Maps 1 and 2: Support for the Council's approach to planning for Welborne in the West and East of the Borough broken down by wards

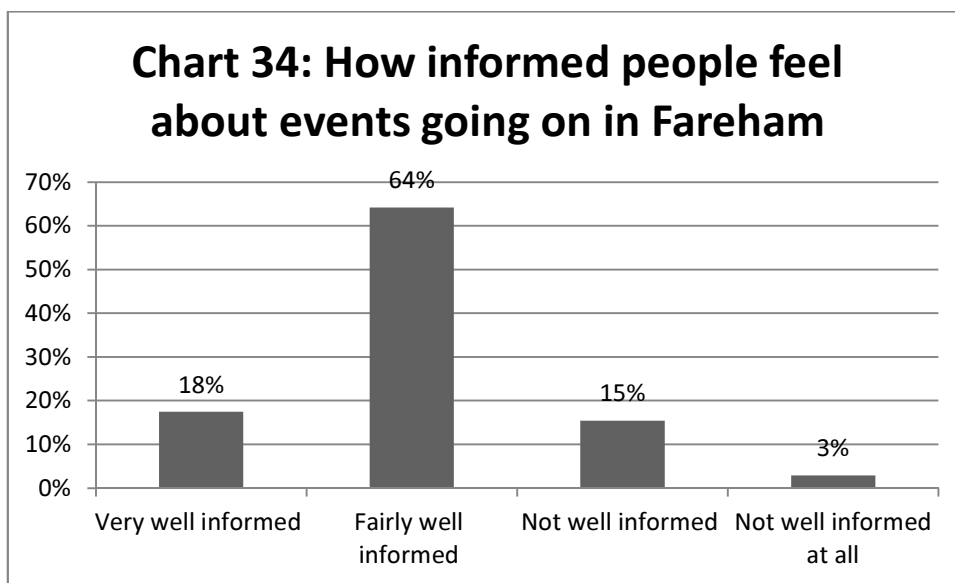


48. COUNCIL PRIORITY 6 - STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

48.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 6: Strong and inclusive communities.

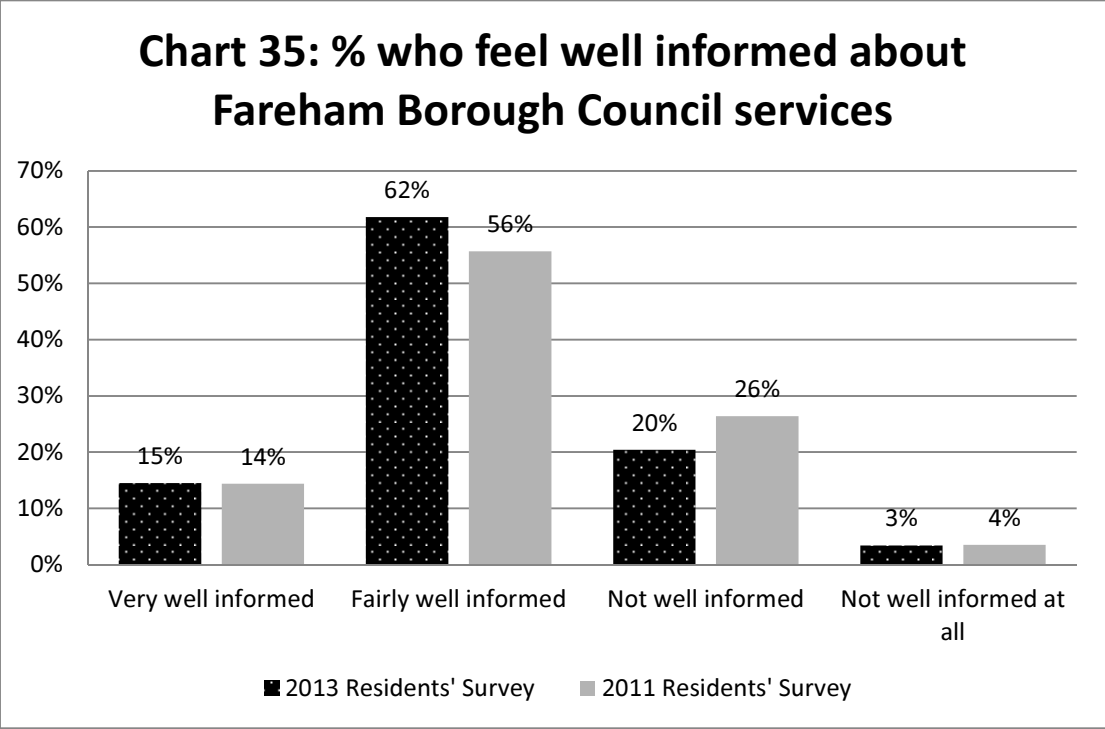
49. Question 21a: Most people feel well informed about events going on in the Borough

49.1. This was a new question for the 2013 Residents' Survey. Respondents were asked how well informed they felt about events going on in Fareham. 82% said they felt informed; of these 18% said they were very well informed.



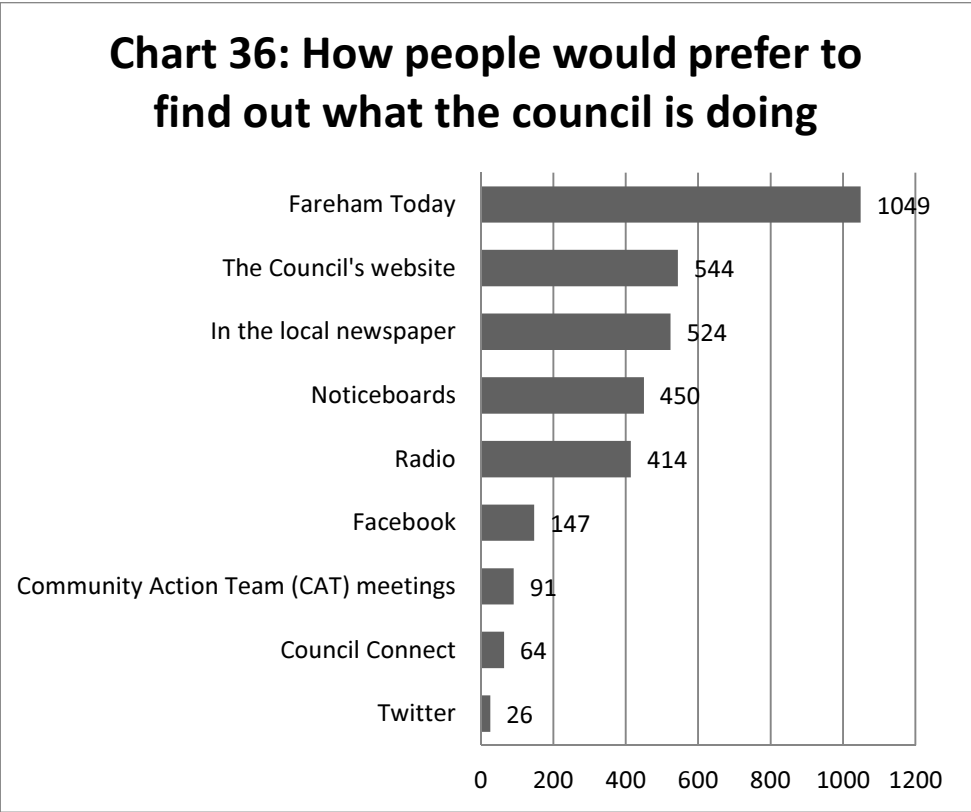
50. Question 21b: More people feel well informed about Fareham Borough Council services

50.1. As Chart 35 shows, there was a 7% increase in the respondents who felt well informed about Fareham Borough Council services between 2011 (70%) and 2013 (77%). This increase is likely to reflect a number of the Council's actions aimed at improving communication with residents that have taken place since 2011. These have included, setting up the new website, Facebook page, Council Connect and improving the content of Fareham Today



51. Question 22: People want to find out what the Council is doing from a variety of sources

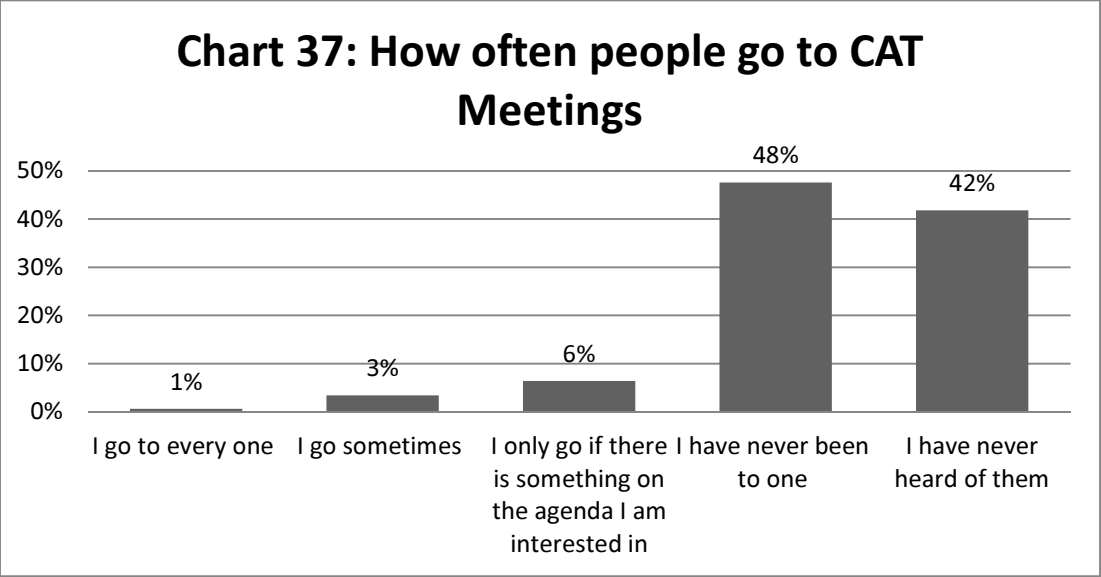
51.1. This was a new question in the 2013 Residents' Survey. As Chart 36 shows, residents prefer to find out what the Council is doing from a variety of sources.



51.2. It is interesting to note that whilst Fareham Today is the most popular way to find out what the Council is doing overall, there are differences depending on the age of respondents. There is a much greater preference for finding out about the Council via the website and social media i.e. Facebook and Twitter from respondents aged 34 and under.

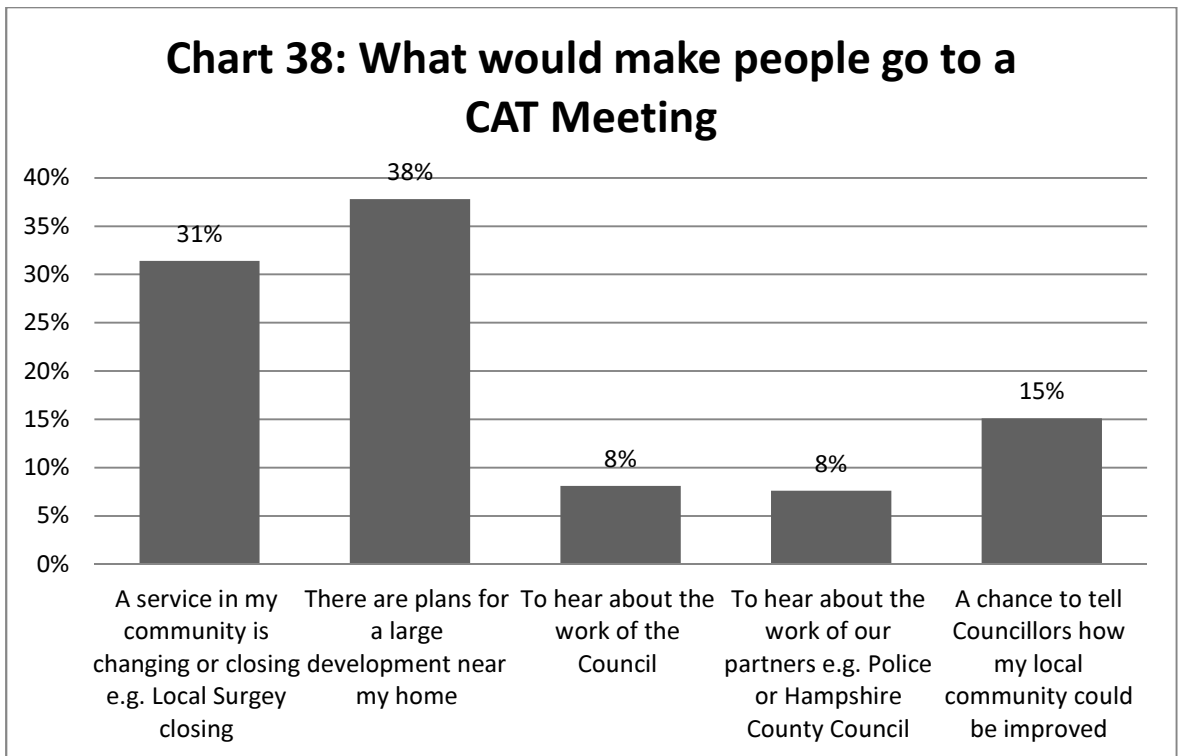
52. Question 23: Most people don't go to Community Action Team (CAT) meetings

52.1. This was a new question in the 2013 Residents' Survey. The aim of it was to find out peoples' awareness of and their interest in CAT meetings. As Chart 37 shows only 10% of respondents had been to CAT meetings. Of these, only 6% go if there is something interesting on the agenda. Of the 90% that had never been to a meeting, 42% had never heard of them despite regular publicity.



53. Question 24: Changes to people’s local area would make people go to a CAT Meeting

53.1. This was a new question in the 2013 Residents’ Survey. It asked people what would make them go to a CAT meeting. The most important topics for respondents were issues that impacted on them and their local area directly. There are plans for a large development near my home (38%) and a service in my community is changing or closing e.g. local surgery closing (31%) were the two most important motivations for people attending a CAT. This is supported by the fact that the CAT meetings that have focused on similar topics e.g. Welborne and the closure of the Locks Road surgery have had a very high attendance and level of engagement e.g. people asking questions.



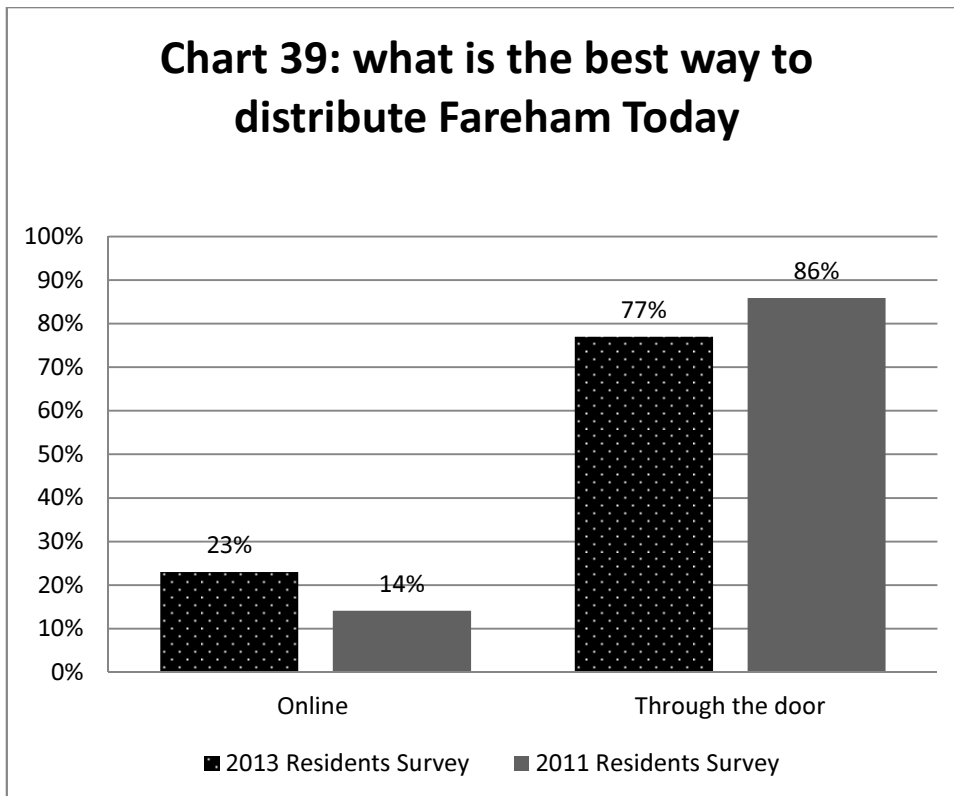
53.2. From the analysis of the results it appears that a review of Community Action Teams would be beneficial.

54. Question 25: The majority of people read Fareham Today 3 times a year

54.1. The majority of respondents (80%) read Fareham Today 3 times a year. However, within this there are some major variations depending on the age of the respondent. Those aged over 85 are most likely to read every edition (90%), whilst those aged between 16 and 24 least likely to (54%). The under 24s are also the most likely to never read Fareham Today, with 23% saying that have not read the magazine.

55. Question 26: More people want to read Fareham Today online

55.1. Residents were asked about the best way to distribute Fareham Today to them. There was a 9% increase since 2009 in the percentage of respondents who wanted the magazine distributed electronically, with 14% wanting it in 2009 and 23% in 2013. This trend is likely to continue as more and more of our residents get online and become used to consuming content in this way.

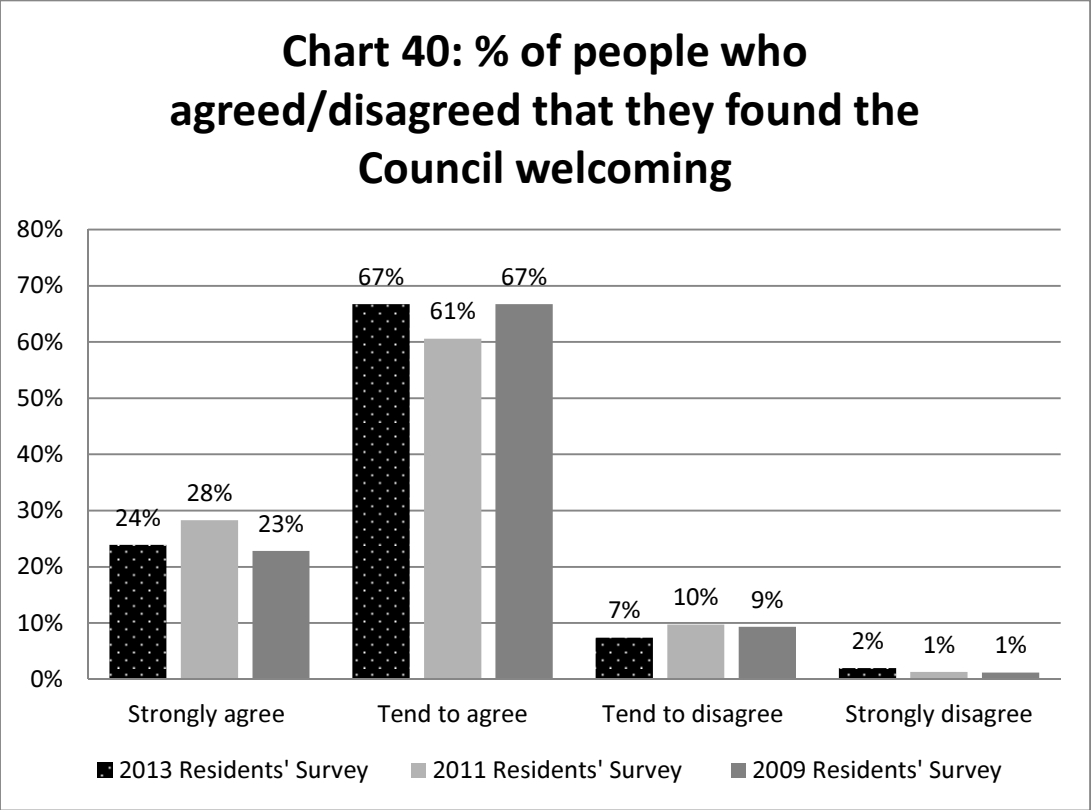


56. Question 27: Residents used a variety of ways to get in touch with the Council during the last 12 months

56.1. This was a new question for the 2013 Residents' Survey. Respondents were asked how often they contacted the Council using a variety of methods. Contacting us by phone was the most commonly used method, followed by website, email, face-to-face and letter.

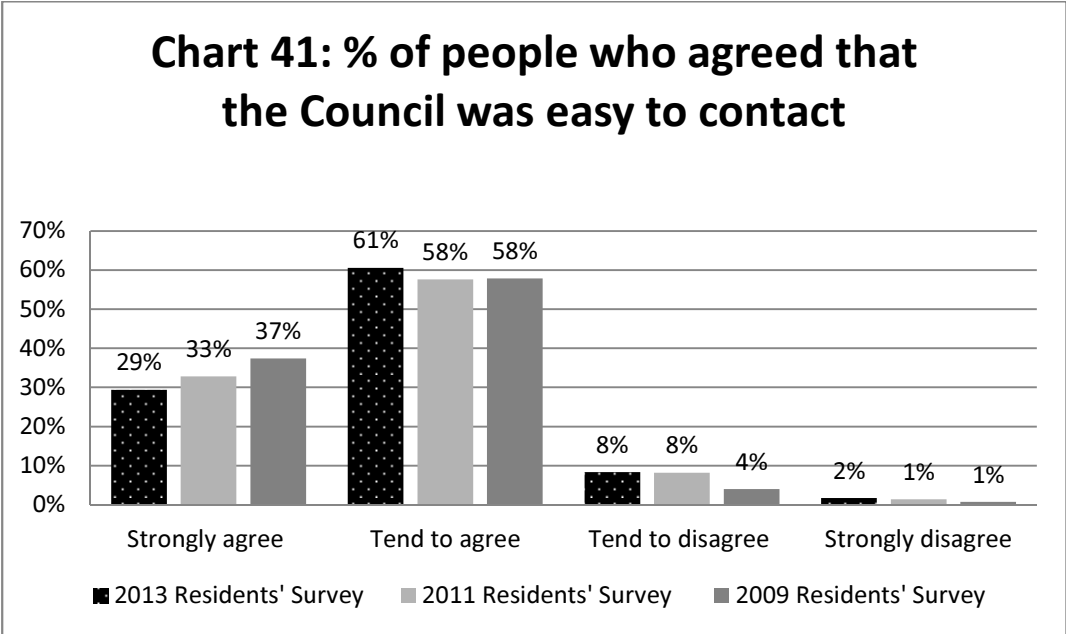
57. Question 28a. More people found the Council welcoming

57.1. As Chart 40 shows, the percentage of people who agreed that they found the Council welcoming when they contacted us increased by 2% from 89% in 2011 to 91% in 2013.



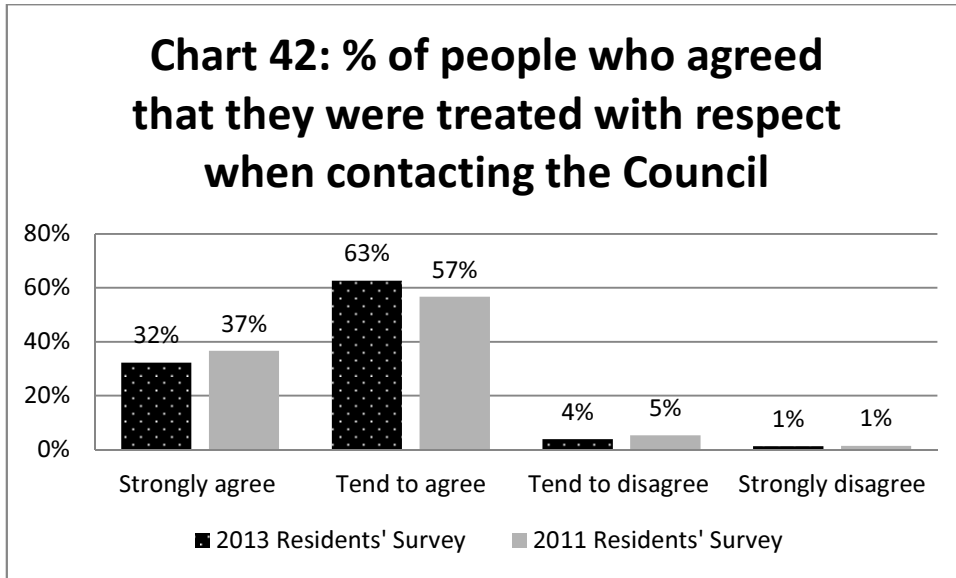
58. Question 28b: Most people found the Council easy to contact

58.1. The majority of respondents (90%) found the Council easy to contact. However, as Chart 41 shows, this was down by 1% on those who said the same in 2011 (91%) and 5% down from the 95% who responded the same in 2009.



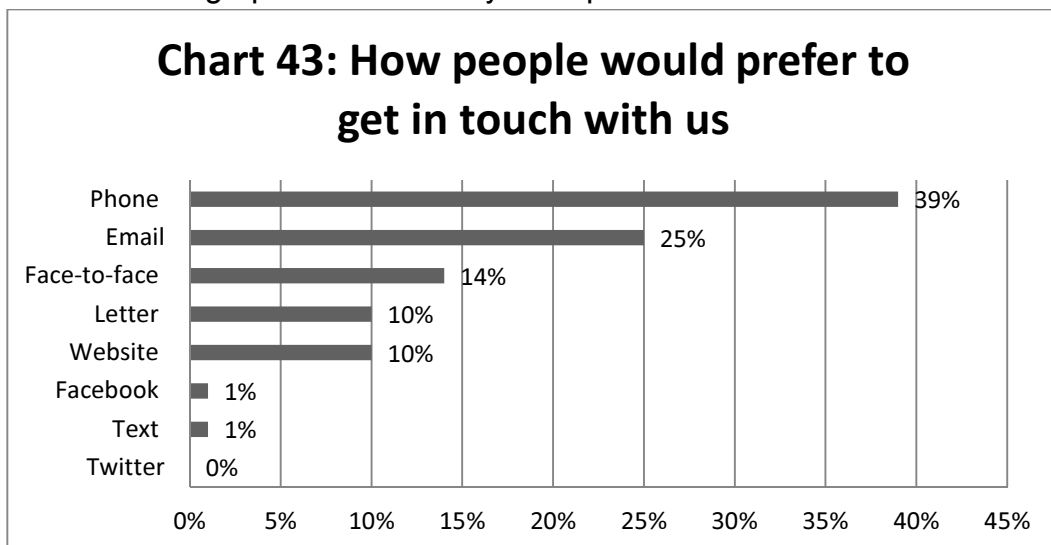
59. Question 28c: More people agreed that the Council treated them with respect

59.1. As Chart 42 shows, 1% more of the respondents agreed that the Council treated them with respect when contacting us. The percentage that agreed in 2011 was 94% and this rose to 95% in 2013.



60. Question 29: The majority of people would prefer to be contacted by letter

60.1. This was a new question for the 2013 Residents' Survey. The aim of it was to find out respondents preferred methods for contacting the Council. As Chart 43 shows, contacting us by phone was the preferred method of contact for 39% of respondents, this was followed in popularity by email (25%) and face-to-face (14%). The low percentages for Facebook and Twitter could be partly explained by the slight overrepresentation of the older demographic in the surveys sample.

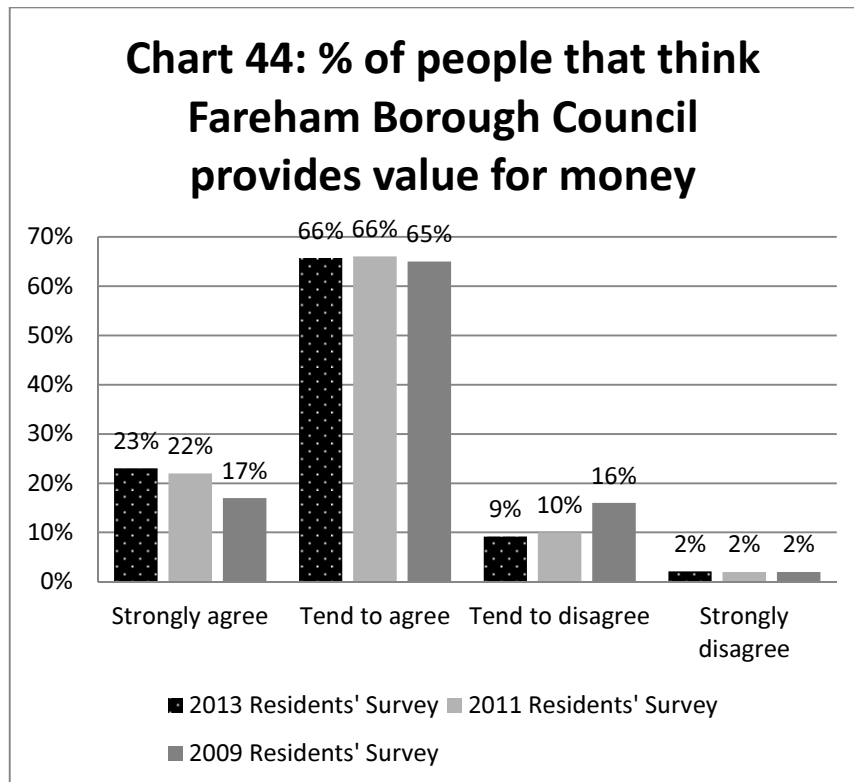


61. COUNCIL PRIORITY 7: TO BE A DYNAMIC, PRUDENT AND PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL

61.1. The following questions in the 2013 Residents' Survey were based around Council Priority 7: To be a dynamic, prudent and progressive Council.

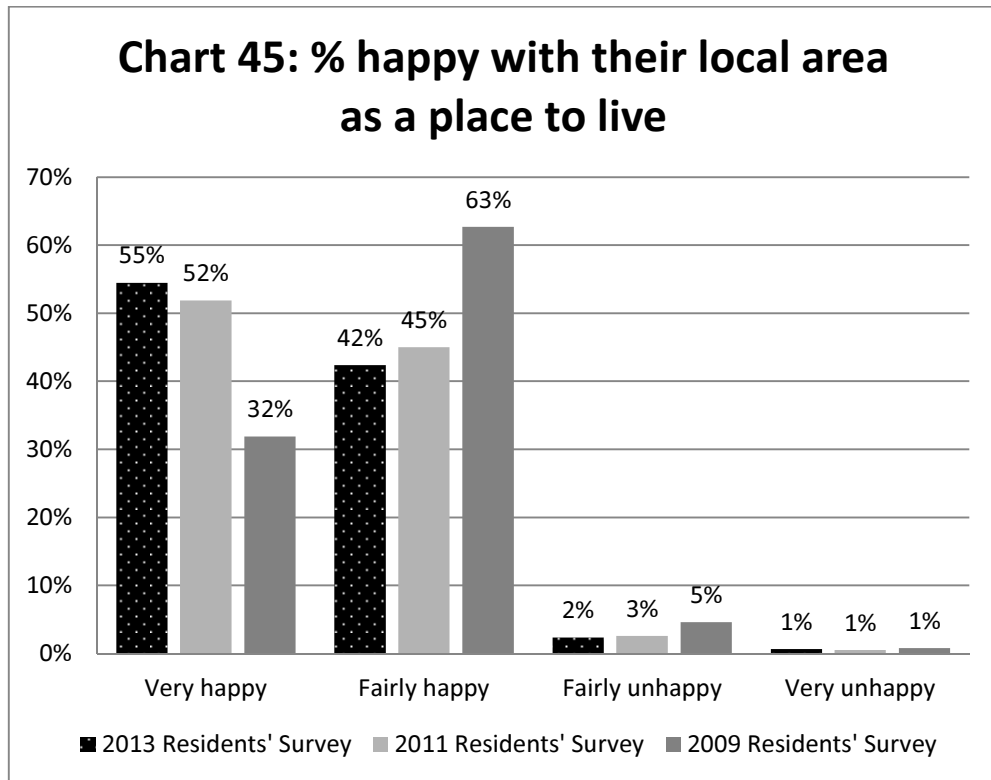
62. Question 30: More people think that Fareham Borough Council provides value for money

62.1. As can be seen in Chart 44, 89% of respondents agreed that the Council provides value for money. This is a 1% increase over the 88% of respondents who felt the same in 2011 and a 7% increase in those who felt the same in 2009 (82%). The biggest part of the increase since 2009 has come from the respondents who strongly agreed that the Council provides value for money.



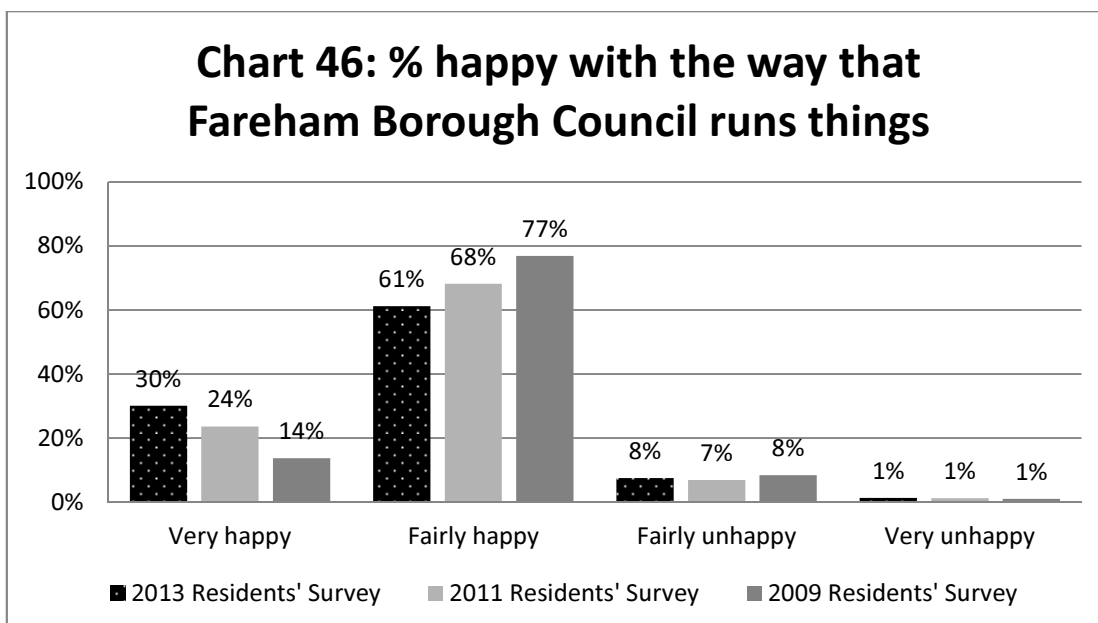
63. Question 31: The vast majority of residents are happy with their local area as a place to live

63.1. According to the 2013 Residents' Survey, people in Fareham are happy with their local area as a place to live. 97% of respondents stated that they were happy with their local area as a place to live, the same as in 2011. As Chart 45 shows, this is 2% more than the 95% who said the same in 2009.



64. Q32: A large majority are happy with the way that Fareham Borough Council runs things

64.1. 91% of residents were either fairly happy or very happy with the way Fareham Borough Council runs things in 2013. This was a small decrease of 1% from the 92% who felt the same in 2011. However, there was a 6% increase in the percentage of people who were very happy between 2011 (24%) and 2013 (30%). It is also 16% more than those who were very satisfied in 2009 (14%).



65. Question 33: Collecting household waste and recycling the most important Council service to residents

65.1. This was a new question for the 2013 Residents' Survey, although a similar one had been asked in 2009. Respondents were asked to tick the 5 services most important to them and their 5 least important services from a list of Council services.

65.2. Table 1 shows the number of high importance and low importance responses each Council service received, followed by the difference (high importance responses minus low importance). It then ranks each service in order of importance to the respondents, with 1 being the most important.

Table 1: Council Services ranked in order of importance to respondents

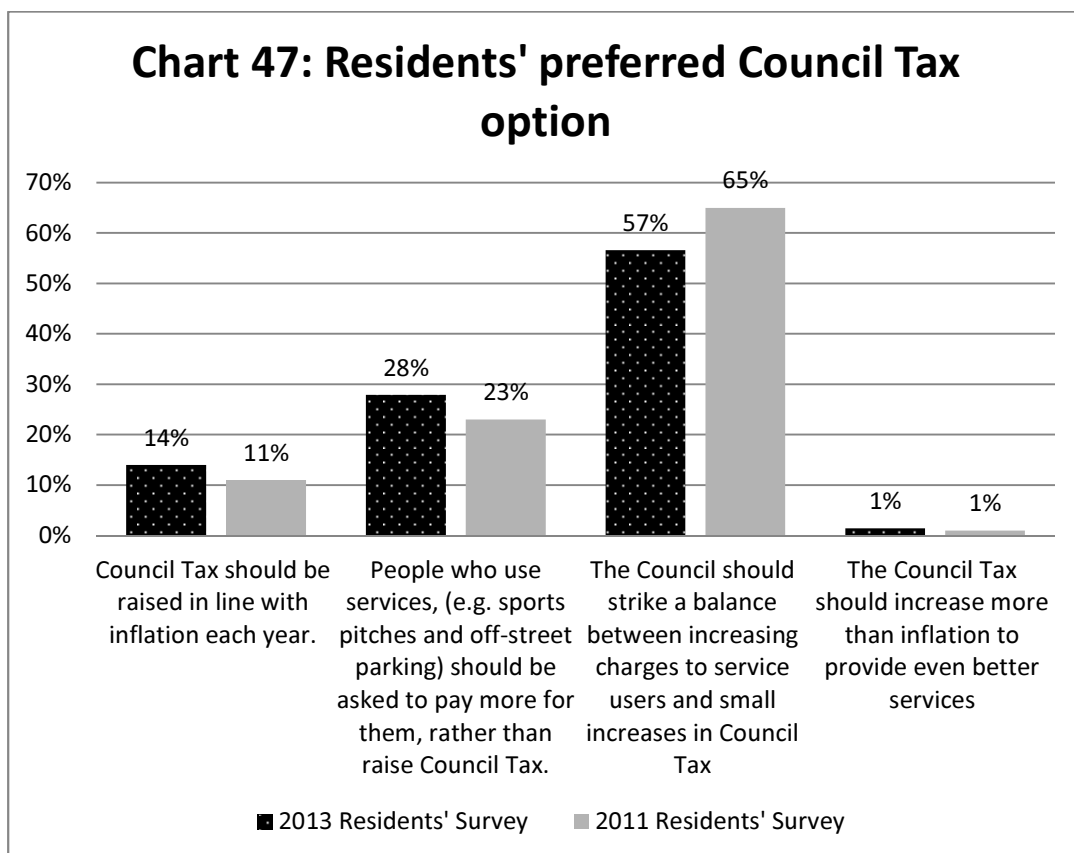
Council Services	High Importance responses	Low Importance responses	Difference	Rank
Collecting your household waste and recycling	1088	15	1073	1
Working with the police to reduce crime	670	27	643	2
Cleaning the streets, providing litter bins, removing abandoned vehicles	663	36	627	3
Providing parks, open spaces and woodlands	627	81	546	4
Providing local facilities to play football, cricket, rugby, tennis and bowls	348	129	219	5

Council Services	High Importance responses	Low Importance responses	Difference	Rank
Mowing the grass in public areas	339	149	190	6
Fareham Leisure Centre	282	103	179	7
Planning future housing and business growth within the Borough	333	157	176	8
Providing children's playgrounds	283	113	170	9
Dealing with planning applications and ensuring that building works comply with safety standards	306	139	167	10
Working with retailers to create an attractive town centre	379	214	165	11
Building affordable homes to rent or buy	375	227	148	12
Public toilets	378	242	136	13
Environmental health inspections	226	126	100	14
Community centres	203	113	90	15
Providing car parks and fining those who park illegally	328	255	73	16
Providing grants to reduce home energy costs & adapt homes for people with disabilities	265	212	53	17
Providing CCTV cameras	285	246	39	18
Ferneham Hall	183	197	-14	19
Providing grants to community groups and voluntary bodies	202	296	-94	20
Pest control and stray dogs	173	276	-103	21
Collecting your garden cuttings	288	398	-110	22
Providing advice to prevent homelessness	183	295	-112	23
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit	219	455	-236	24
Westbury Manor Museum	92	407	-315	25
Providing allotments	131	505	-374	26
Tourist Information Centre	84	473	-389	27

65.3. As Table 1 shows collecting household waste, working with the police to reduce crime and keeping the streets clean were the 3 most important services to respondents. From the number of responses received it is clear that collecting household waste is the most important to residents by some distance. The town's Tourist Information Centre, the provision of allotments and Westbury Manor Museum were the 3 least important to respondents.

66. Question 34: Most want a balance struck between increasing charges to service users and small increases in Council Tax

66.1. The majority of respondents (57%) wanted a balance struck between increasing charges to service users and small increases in Council Tax. However, this was a drop of 8% from those who felt the same in 2011 (65%). As Chart 47 shows, there was a 5% increase in respondents who thought that people who use services, (e.g. sports pitches and off-street parking) should be asked to pay more for them, rather than raise Council Tax. There was also a small (3%) increase in the percentage of people who thought that Council Tax should raise in line with inflation each year.



67. Conclusion

- 67.1. The results of the Residents' Survey shows that the high levels of resident satisfaction within the Borough have been maintained, and in many areas improved, since both the 2011 and 2009 Residents' Surveys. However, it must be noted that within this overall upward trend, there are a few areas where satisfaction levels have dropped slightly since 2011. These few minor reductions in satisfaction must be put into context, as they are still scoring high levels of happiness, just slightly less than in 2011.
- 67.2. The results of the Community Action Team (CAT) questions indicate that not a lot of residents go to the meetings and many were not even aware of them despite widespread publicity. Therefore, it would be beneficial to conduct a review of CATs.
- 67.3. The information given by respondents about the services that are most and least important to them, will be a useful tool in helping to inform future decision making.
- 67.4. It is reassuring to see that there was a strong level of support across the Borough for the development of Welborne. Nearly three-quarters of respondents agreed with the Council's approach to helping meet future housing needs and stopping piecemeal development, by planning for the new community.
- 67.5. Overall, it is clear from the analysis of the 2011 Residents' Survey, that the majority of residents are happy with the services that Fareham Borough Council provides. These high satisfaction levels indicate that the Council is successfully working towards achieving its seven corporate priorities 2011-2017 and ensuring that Fareham remains a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

