

Have Your Say! – New Harlington Centre Proposal

Fleet Town Council (FTC) has proposed to build a new Harlington Centre on Gurkha Square, leaving the old building almost empty and asking Fleet households to pay more than £2,000 each. If this happens, we will lose 50% of Gurkha Square impacting on how its currently used.

You will receive an 8-page brochure (which you're paying for) from FTC to persuade you that this plan is a good one. We're a group of Fleet residents who oppose the plan and want to make some of the facts clear. We've personally paid for the leaflet you are reading so that you can make a more informed choice.

If you do NOT want the new Harlington Centre built on Gurkha Square you need to say NO when you are asked by FTC, and vote NO at the upcoming Parish Poll on 13th September between 4pm – 9pm at your normal polling station

- 1. Why does FTC want to build on Gurkha Square?** The Harlington building either needs money spent on it, or it needs to be replaced. FTC and Hart District Council cannot reach agreement, and FTC have decided that you want a new building on Gurkha Square, losing most of the parking space, amenities and the trees.
- 2. What is the full cost?** FTC will spend almost £600,000 every year for the next 45 years building and subsidising the new building. Each Fleet household will pay at least £2,000. Your taxes were increased in 2017 to fund this.
- 3. Why are only Fleet households paying?** No-one else in Hart agreed to raise their taxes to pay for the new building.
- 4. What happens if the costs for the new Harlington rise?** It is likely that Fleet residents' taxes will increase.
- 5. How will FTC manage the project?** They will employ management consultants which were not in the original cost of the project.

As Fleet residents, we have tried to find a compromise with Fleet Town Council but to no avail. We are convinced that a better solution can be found. Fleet needs a new community facility but not at the financial costs or the cost of losing Gurkha Square, all the events held there and all the businesses surrounding it. We will be saying 'No' to Fleet Town Council's question. We will also vote 'No' when Hart arranges a proper official vote via a Parish Poll on 13th September from 4pm – 9pm at the normal polling stations in Fleet.

Signed, Tim Smart and a group of Fleet residents