

FLEET & YATELEY

NEWS & MAIL

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In brief

Police warning to site trespassers

TRESPASSERS at the construction site of the new Hart Leisure Centre in Hitches Lane, Fleet, are putting their lives at risk, police have warned.

PCSO Darren Guy, of the Fleet Neighbourhood Policing Team, said a border fence was cut open, fire extinguishers let off and graffiti sprayed on the walls at the site some time between 7pm on Thursday and 7am the following morning.

"As a result, we are appealing for witnesses who were in the area at these times," he added.

"As this is a construction site there are lots of uncovered manholes, sharp tools, hanging wires and unfinished floors and stairs which could cause life threatening injuries to trespassers, particularly at night. Security guards and CCTV is now installed throughout and we will be proactively patrolling the area and bordering fences until the site is finished."

Witnesses should call 101 quoting 44160206673.

New homes: Winchfield in the firing line

by Stephen Lloyd
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NEARLY 60% of people have backed plans to build a Winchfield new town in a consultation described by one campaigner as like 'two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch'.

Hart District Council has published the results of its recent Refined Housing Options consultation, with 2,625 people (approximately 59%) voting for a new settlement in Winchfield.

David Turver, of the We Heart Hart campaign, said the analysis of the responses show it is clear there was 'very strong' support for a new town in Winchfield from people in Hook and Fleet.

"This is analogous to two wolves and a lamb getting together to vote on what to have for lunch, as there are clearly fewer people in Winchfield to vote against the proposal," he added.

Mr Turver also pointed out there was 'clearly very strong opposition' to the Winchfield new town from Hartley Wintney residents.

He said there was a strong second preference support for the 'dispersal' and 'urban extension' options outlined in the consultation, with a

'very mixed bag of opinion' on how to combine the options.

"As we have said before, these results are largely irrelevant now that the Pyestock, aka Hartland Village, brownfield site has come forward with capacity for around 1,500 homes," said Mr Turver.

"Hart Council have said that brownfield development will be the preferred strategy over any greenfield development. Not only that, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment will be revised soon and we hope the overall numbers will be revised downwards.

"However, we must be vigilant because at least three developers are arguing that our housing target should be revised upwards by a very significant amount."

Fleet and Church Crookham Society pointed out the majority of responses supported its views and returned an overwhelming 'no' to urban extensions to Fleet, Church Crookham and Hook as being the answer to the future housing needs for the district.

It added the consultation attracted the largest ever response to any previous council consultation, with 4,480 replies.

Phill Gower, of the Fleet and Church Crookham Society, said: "More than half of Hart's residents live in the rural areas and the smaller towns and villages, such as Hartley Wintney and Winchfield.

"It is therefore particularly significant that there was such a huge majority favouring Winchfield new settlement as the first preference to satisfy Hart's future housing needs, attracting almost one-and-a-half times the number of all the other first preference votes put together.

"While the new settlement will take several years to deliver, the recent proposal for 1,000 homes at Pyestock and the newly announced brownfield register should provide the stop-gap until the new settlement starts to meet the current and future housing need.

"We hope therefore that Hart Council can move swiftly to get the much needed Local Plan preparations in place now that it has such clear guidance from the people of Hart.

"In so doing, we hope the council is able to avoid central government intervention in deciding Hart's future housing supply."

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