

FHDC HTC ATM Report 2021

Housing

Management of council housing brought back in house in Oct 2020. Focus on tenant engagement. Currently carrying out a stock survey of all the housing. New Homelessness Prevention Strategy adopted.

Climate Change

Climate emergency declared in July 2019 and 2030 set as the target for the council's estate to be net zero. Carbon Action Plan adopted Feb 2021. Biggest emissions are from gas heating in sheltered housing. Need to wait for the results of the housing stock survey before we can address that. Looking at alternatives to the Civic Centre partly in response to the fact that it too has high emissions. Action Plan has 3 levels of actions - immediate, short term and medium term. Currently working on immediate measures including staff training and also working on a climate impact statement so all council decisions will be assessed for their effect on carbon emissions. Starting to think how we can work to influence the emissions of the wider district and are working with the climate change team at KCC.

Glyphosate

Motion passed in 2019 to phase out the use of all pesticides and weed killers in council owned parks , gardens and play areas. (not that there were exceptions [Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 20th November, 2019, 7.00 pm - Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](#))

Trials into alternatives were due to start last year but had to be postponed due to Covid. Nevertheless the use of weedkiller along the north bank of the canal is extremely worrying.

Recycling/Litter

Latest KPIs show that recycling rate was 46% for the quarter ended 31 Dec 2020. This is a slight reduction on the previous quarter 49% probably due more garden waste being produced in the summer.

Litter was a huge problem last summer due to the influx of visitors. District Council are expecting similar challenges this summer.

Veolia have just been awarded a new 8-year contract for waste collection and street cleaning and that some collection days will change as from May to enable more efficient routes thus saving fuel.

Prince's Parade:

The contract to construct the Leisure Centre and the moving of the road to facilitate the development of Prince's Parade. The contract has been awarded to BAM a large Dutch engineering company. The contract is a two-stage agreement, the first stage has a fixed price of £2.5M for investigation works, these investigation works have commenced. The price for the second stage; the construction works will be agreed after the investigation works have been completed so both parties are aware of what is involved and how much it is going to cost.

There has been a great deal of tree felling and clearance works along the North bank of the Canal which has caused much concern to local people. Live and healthy trees have been cut down to create an area which FHDC hope to transfer the reptiles displaced from Prince's Parade onto this piece of cleared land. The principal concern is the tree felling took place at the very end of March and the beginning of the bird nesting season.

Otterpool:

The Otterpool development process continues, with consultations, briefings and meetings. Local people still have great concerns about infrastructure, transport, ecology,

water supply and design. The FHDC design team are hopeful to bring the scheme to the Planning Committee this year. [Probably worth mentioning that the Planning Inspector has not yet approved the Core Strategy Review.](#)

Trees:

Working with FHDC as partners, HTC have been very successful in delivering their promise of planting over 1,000 trees in Hythe. We have planted almost 500 at Eaton Lands, almost 500 in Horn St, almost 500 along the Canal at Seabrook (working with FHDC). We are hopeful that more trees can be planted on the edges of Green (working with the Hythe Green Preservation Society) and Brockhill (working with KCC).

Planning:

The development pressure on Hythe is immense, developers know that a home in Hythe is sought after, our planning system is under significant pressure, with a number of significant development sites coming through the system: The Portex site, Foxwood School site, Prince's Parade will all add homes into Hythe. Meanwhile to the East, the development of Shorncliffe Barracks continues and on our Western Boundary a further phase of the Martello Lakes development is likely to come through the planning system shortly. Central Government have imposed a minimum target of 760 homes per annum on FHDC and it is this target that is causing this wave of development. The FHDC planning department have worked hard to meet this challenge with additional recruitment.