



CONSULTATION
FTC TOPIC PAPER NO. 7



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Introduction

1. This topic paper deals with the subject matter of consultation between Canterbury City Council and Fordwich Town Council (FTC) and Fordwich residents on the Canterbury and District Local Plan
2. There has been a lack and unreasonable delay to engagement with Fordwich Town Council and Fordwich residents. FTC arranged to meet CCC on 30/11/22 but CCC officers cancelled this meeting with less than 24 hours' notice (see timeline below). This meeting was then postponed for 6 weeks until 11/01/2023, a week before the end of the consultation period. On 15th/12/2022, CCC agreed to an extension for FTC but not for residents at this stage. CCC delayed offering Fordwich residents an extension until 09/01/2023, Many residents did not get this extension in time and so had responded with a lack of information.
3. FTC requested information from CCC on 21/11/2022, treated by CCC as an unreasonable request, and FTC had to chase a response which was not forthcoming until 22/12/2022 (4 weeks later).
4. There was then a reluctance to extend the consultation for residents, this was not announced until 09/01/2023, a week before the deadline of 16/01/23.

Timeline exhibits

11/10/2022 e mails from FTC seen a copy of Canterbury Draft Local Plan 2045 FTC to set up meeting with CCC representatives for November TBC

13/10/2022 e-mail from Mike Bailey CCC Engagement to all parish clerks, informing that CCC Cabinet seeking approval to consult on Local Draft Plan to 2045 on 19/10/22. If approved consultation will begin on 24/10/2022 for 12 weeks until Monday 16th January 2023. Parish Councils will be briefed on 02/11/2022 at The Guildhall

14/10/2022 e-mails from Chair of FTC Cllr McCarthy with a link to the Draft Local Plan that has been published and CCC Cabinet to vote on 19/10/2022 whether to go out to consultation. Fordwich is directly affected by the new preferred route of the Eastern Movement Corridor which will dissect the parish of Fordwich and pass through the ancient woodland of the Parish of Fordwich.

19/10/2022 CCC Cabinet approve consultation on Draft Canterbury Local

Plan 12 weeks 24/10/2022 – 16/01/23

24/10/2022 Friends of Old Park and Chequers' Wood hold a meeting at Canterbury Golf Club brief other ward councillors present

26/10/2022 FTC Meeting Ward Councillor Louise Harvey-Quirke briefs meeting that she has fed back concerned comments from residents to CCC Cabinet. FTC plan briefing for briefing residents on 10/11/2022 and 12/11/2022

31/10/2022 Friends of Fordwich Meeting School Hall Fordwich

opportunity for residents to discuss Draft Local Plan and express their concerns. Well attended c 30+

02/11/2022 CCC holds briefing for Parish Councillors Meeting lead by Peter Davis, Andrew Thompson and Leo Whitlock CCC representatives

FTC Councillors McCarthy and Green attended. Spoke to Andrew Thompson Why have Fordwich not been consulted?

CCC agreed to come to FTC to discuss the Draft Plan on 02/12/2022

10/11/2022 and 12/11/2022 FTC briefed residents on Local Plan

Annex A A 21/11/2022 Letter to Mike Bailey CCC requesting information see attached letter sent 24/11/2022 sent on behalf of FTC from James Smith Planning Law Services

28/11/2022 Extraordinary FTC Meeting to consider urgent issue of Canterbury Draft Local Plan

Annex B 28/11/2022 FTC ask Peter Davies Director of Strategy CCC for a response from a letter requesting information

29/11/2022 Peter Davies CCC states not received a letter from FTC/James Smith. FTC send again

Annex C 29/11/2022 14.48 Peter Davies CCC CANCELS MEETING for FTC and CCC Officers scheduled for 30/11/2022 *'We wish to postpone meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening so we can fully review and respond to the formal EIR request as per the letter from James Smith on behalf of FTC'*

FTC try to ensure it can still go ahead , ask ward councillors to help. Peter Davies adamant that it cannot go ahead FTC losing valuable consultation time.

Annex D 30/11/2022 FTC sent e mail to Peter Davies requesting he reconsiders cancelling meeting.. emphasising meeting is between FTC and CCC only

30/11/2022 Peter Davies e mail confirms cancellation

12/12/2022 FTC e-mail Peter Davis requesting a date for rescheduled meeting first 2 weeks in January .. all FTC Councillors are available on 03/01/2023 but CCC officers cannot make a date until 11/01/2023 a week before the consultation closes and 6 weeks after the cancelled meeting. FTC ask for an extension

Annex E 14/12/2023 Ben Fitter-Harding Leader of CCC cancels meeting with FTC scheduled for 09/01/2023 reason 'As FTC will not have discussed the draft with officers prior to the meeting I do not feel it would be appropriate for me to attend' B F-H rescheduled for 02/02/2023

15/12/2022 FTC requested extension to 13/02/2023

15/12/2023 Peter Davies agrees to an extension for FTC to Monday 13th February but no extension for residents

20/12/2023 Greg Jones requests meeting with ward councillors. Louise Harvey-Quirke agrees to meet with Greg Jones on 29/12/23 No response from Georgina Glover

Annex F 22/12/2022 CCC respond to request for information see e-mail attached

09/01/2023 Louise Harvey-Quirke still unclear whether an extension to response applies to residents

Annex G 09/01/2023 15.48 Ben Fitter-Harding offers an extension for residents to **MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2023**

10/01/23 FTC organises workshops for residents to guide on completing responses.

11/01/2023 CCC officers (Peter Davies Director of Strategy and Ruth Goudie Director of Transport) Louise Harvey-Quirke, Georgina Glover meet with FTC Main points Stantec was not an original thought Ruth Goudie drew the 3 routes proposed to Stantec November 2021 The middle route rejected as goes through SSSI (Old Park) The Fordwich route does not appear to have been looked at in-depth no regard for Ancient Woodland or internationally renowned archaeological findings in the area.

17/01/2023 Special Meeting of the CCC Joint Transportation Board to discuss Local Plan Greg Jones KC (resident of Fordwich) speaks for 3 minutes as a member of the public to say that this is the worst Local Plan he has seen in his career in Planning.

02/02/2023 FTC meet online with Ben Fitter-Harding

FTC expressed how unhappy they were at the lack of communication by CCC and its officers given that Fordwich was severely affected by the proposals of the Draft Local Plan that dissects the parish of Fordwich. FTC lost at least 6 weeks of the consultation period and had to strongly request an extension and fight for an extension for residents.

BF-H would like to see communication improved!