



WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL
Serving Whitehill & Bordon



Whitehill Town Council and Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company

Wednesday 16th March 2021

Pre-recorded interview with community questions

INTERVIEW CAN BE VIEWED AT: www.whitehilltowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Andy Tree, Leader of Whitehill Town Council (right) interviews James Child, Project Lead, Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company. Screenshots taken from meeting held remotely through Zoom software.

Introduction from Whitehill Town Council

Dear residents,

Following the local election in May 2019, we committed to improving communication between those in power and residents. We have hosted 'public interest' meetings with the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company, NHS CCG and the Police. Sadly, Covid restrictions mean we currently cannot hold such meetings, but this does not stop us asking questions and seeking answers.

Following my face-to-face interview of James Child (Project Lead, Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company) in September 2020, which followed social distancing rules at the time, I decided to interview him remotely over 'zoom' this time. Thank you to everyone who sent in questions over email or through Facebook. We did not guarantee that every individual question would be answered but I asked the regeneration company to answer them all, with the answers given in this document.

The recorded interview can be viewed online at www.whitehilltowncouncil.gov.uk.

As your most local 'grassroots' council covering Whitehill & Bordon, we do not control the development but we can and will fight to ensure your voice is heard. Thank you to residents who left kind comments directed at me personally and to the town council. As a volunteer, it is much appreciated!

Cllr Andy Tree

Leader of Whitehill Town Council

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



QUESTIONS TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK COMMENTS

Q. What plans are there for the site of the old Furniture Helpline building Hampshire House? On one set of plans it shows a school which seems utterly ridiculous when it's only a few hundred yards from Bordon Juniors and infants! What is the future for Martinique House and surrounding buildings , not to mention all the trees in that area? Haven't enough trees been cut down already?

A. The area is earmarked for future residential development. This is a few years away in our plans. Furniture Helpline have moved to Bordon Enterprise Park, which we also manage, and we have taken the opportunity to take down the old buildings. Martinique House will also be redeveloped for housing in the future. SIGNAL moves to a new facility in the new town centre before this happens.

Q. This is the question I would like answered as well . Fingers crossed we get to hear some news. Do you happen to have a link or photo of the plans that show the building to be a school.

A. Please see the latest version of the plan for the growth of the town at www.princephillipark.co.uk . The plan shows the areas earmarked for future schools in purple colour.

Q. Where and when is the promised supermarket? What else realistically will be in the town? What is happening with all the old maisonettes-are they being knocked down?

A. Most of the old maisonettes are owned by Annington. We are not aware of their plans. Annington are successfully refurbishing properties at St Lucia and we hope that they do the same with the old maisonettes.

Q. In addition, have we got confirmation of which supermarket?

A. We will announce the foodstore operator in May. We are currently negotiating terms with them.

Q. With over 5000 people objecting to further tree removal for the Bosc village (change.org) why is the regeneration company failing to listen to the community they are supposed to be supporting. There is a very clear objection looking at the planning application there are 0 comments of support and 158 objections. Why are you continuing to push this through against the desires of the communities in Bordon and Whitehill ?

A. The area around BOSC Pavilion has always been part of the outline permission granted for 2,400 homes in 2015 in the town. We are continuing to develop in areas where we have permission to do so.

Q. When will we get the cinema we were promised?

A. Development of a multi-screen cinema was hit by Covid 19. Development of a new multi-screen cinema is not currently viable. We have therefore started with a drive-in cinema which we hope to open in July which will have two showings a day. Plans for the new Mess building in the town centre will also include a screen for films. We have moved a multi screen cinema into the next phase of development of the town centre from 2025.

Q. Are we still getting a cinema? If not will you be looking at any other entertainment for the community? Is the shed the only thing opening for Easter? Will there be other shops other than food? We have food takeout everywhere in Bordon as it is! Will there be another supermarket? What is happening in Bordon for the teenagers? How many more houses are still to be built and where? Have all the future houses got planning permission? Why is the council allowing boarded uphouses on the A325 to be like this till 2023? Thankyou

A. Please see above in relation to the town centre. The Shed is working closely with The Phoenix to bring live performance to the venue including comedy and theatre. The Shed is not just a food and beverage destination.

Q. When do you propose to install effective traffic calming and or cameras along the A325 Templars way. It seems to be used as a race circuit particularly at weekends and often late into the evening which is not only incredibly dangerous but also extremely noisy. Vehicles also regularly jump the red lights at the junction with Dukes Quarter. Twice now my wife and I have nearly been wiped out by this practice. If nothing is done then lives will inevitably be lost! Surely when planning a new town for families safety for our children should be paramount!

A. We will take this up with East Hampshire District Council who are the traffic enforcement authority.

Q. My question would be, as to date only "The Shed" has been achieved in the town centre area by WBRC, are we realistically going to have a proper town square or is that going to be it? Thanks.

A. We are announcing the food store operator in May. Planning applications for the next 3 buildings in the town centre are targeted for submission in July. If approved, the next buildings in the town centre will start on site in the autumn this year. The town park and new town square will launch in the summer

Q. When will the town centre be finished completely? Are we having a cinema anymore? If not what other leisure facility will you be including? Bowling perhaps?

A. The first phase of the town centre will be finished by Easter 2024. A new building in the town centre will be opened every 6 months from October 2022. We do not have plans for bowling at the moment but we will look at this for the next phase of the town centre to be delivered from 2025 onwards.

Q. When will we now be told which supermarket will be in the new centre .How much have the plans changed since the first mock up of the new centre which was shown to us in Prince Philip Barracks a long time ago .

A. See above

Q. Should WBRC be building on common land ? There is currently an application at HCC to correct the mistake that was made regarding Alice Holt and woolmer forest as they were in fact one forest the MOD land was vested to them ! Can we see proof of ownership of land ?Can WBRC make sure no building is to commence until said application is dealt with
Thankyou Indeed what has happened to democracy ?

A. We cannot develop in the town without planning permission. (The Planning Authority is East Hampshire District Council.)

Q. Obviously still looking for their update re which stores/cinema are coming to the new town centre and firm dates please? Their timeline doesn't provide enough factual detail. Thank you Andy for representing us all so well 😊

A. See above

Q. I have recently posted a question to the Shed Facebook Messenger service. Some days later I still have no response. Is this indicative of how much the development company care about the public in Whitehill & Bordon?

A. There was a problem with the Facebook messenger link to our team - we have fixed this now and responded to the enquiry.

Q. Are we ever going to get some joined up thinking about the redevelopment of Bordon. Why are we having to suffer, yet another half baked Town Centre in yet another location. How does the regeneration company think it's going to encourage new business to establish in Bordon when the Viking Park area is still pretty much undeveloped after more than 10

years vacant. When will we get some infrastructure in a town that has a growing population but is shedding the base needs of society (Doctors, Health & Police) at a pace?

A. Viking Park is owned by another land owner - we do not know their future plans. We continue to develop on the land previously known as Prince Philip Barracks. Focus is now on the new town centre. This includes a new health hub. We have already delivered on many new facilities for the town including Hogmoor Inclosure, skate park, BOSC Pavilion and cricket facilities. Oakmoor School is also open. There have been many public consultation events and Q&A sessions on the plans to date. We will continue to hold these and our plans have been shaped by what people have told us.

Q. Are they going to be cutting anymore trees down during the bird nesting season ? I noticed some tree work being done on the land next to Oakmoor School at the end of last week ? Please tell me you will not be chopping down the big oaks on the edge of that site ?

A. No trees are being felled in the bird nesting season.

Q. When is the planning application for the additional 1300 houses and SANGS going to be processed, exact date please, and will we get to see it in time to comment before it's approved? Why can't they tell us in detail how they intend to create the SANGS, and if it will involve the destruction of more trees and wildlife habitat to create recreational areas for the inevitably increased population, and finally why have they knowingly placed one SANG, the Gibbs lane SANG, so close to a SSSI, which will obviously impact on the SSSI. Why not make the Slab common SANG bigger instead?

A. You are referring here to the Local Plan process. East Hampshire District Council are running this process and we are told that the new proposed Local Plan is likely to be ready for Inspection early next year. We will not be putting forward any new proposals relating to the additional 1,300 homes until after the Local Plan is approved.

Q. Can you please publish in a local newspaper the full exact plan where and when trees in Bordon and Whitehill area will be cut down.

A. We will be planting double the number of trees that are removed across the site. We will be publishing progress on the removal and replanting of trees (for which have planning approval) on a quarterly basis. (Note: in the interview Andy Tree asked James Child to publish a 'plain english' document to show any future tree felling plans.)

Q. I have some questions I guess - will they be cutting down more trees, if so how many, will they be replanting trees, if so and how many. What will they do to protect wildlife habitats here to avoid us being a concrete jungle. Why is information not put through the doors of the houses close to the works. It seems information if passed to houses that is no where near the

actual activities. Is this there way of avoiding opinion? I have no idea what the new town of Bordon will look like - except a building site. So a better picture needs to be relayed to the residents a I'm sure I'm not the only one. What shops, what facilities will there be (that has been agreed) will be there for all types of families across our area.

A. We will be removing 15,000 trees across the life of the development and planting 30,000 new trees. We will be planting trees which are between 5 years and 25 years old (not just saplings.)

Q. Also how can they justify the removal of so many trees with regard to increased flooding risk? The whole area is made up of streams, rivers, ponds etc, they can't keep redirecting it to build more and more housing, it has to go somewhere! The gullies along Budds Lane and Camp road are often full to overflowing after heavy rainfall!

A. Flood risk has been assessed by the Flooding Authority and our plans take into account water run off.

Q. I would like to know, why the white hill and bordon regeneration company, chose to use a burger company from outside the area, when they knew that we were interested in going into the shed. We have the best reputation, in Hampshire for this kind of service, and we're told, by the regeneration company that we can't go in there as F&B were contracted to go into the Shed. We now know this is not true, in fact it was a lie. We have served the community for eight years, and intended to continue doing so. Who is actually making the decisions, and on what basis, as it certainly isn't for the good of local businesses. I know you have already stated our case to W&B Partnership, but it seems we have been mugged off. Thanks Andy.

A. We have been working with a particular local burger company for a while who has committed to The Shed. We have offered weekly additional stalls to other operators.

Q. This [the Shed] should be for local people

A. All the traders and operators we are bringing to The Shed and the weekly market are local

Q. Any chance of setting up a Museum about Bordon's Military History? I'd love to do something like that but no idea where to begin!

A. We are bringing an arts and heritage gallery to the Sergeants Mess building and will be working with Woolmer Heritage Society on this.

Q. Will there be any traffic calming systems put along Hogmoor road? Especially with the amount of people crossing the road to get into the enclosure and more people expected once all the new houses have been sold ... I have noticed the pneumatic road tubes across the road

just before the golf club end of Hogmoor Road, if these are to measure speed then why have they been put in a place where the traffic is at its slowest?

A. Hampshire County Council are working on this at the moment.

Q. Where is the public transport?? We were sold a greener town yet all they have achieved is adding more pollution due to more houses=many more cars. This is becoming an area you can only live in if you have a vehicle. Not very green at all!

A. We are finalising our proposals for VOCA, the demand responsive service, which we will be submitting to Hampshire County Council early next month. This allows you to travel up to 5 miles for the price of a bus in cars or vans which are booked 'on demand'. We would like to get this service up and running in the autumn subject to approval by Hampshire County Council.

Q. Is Oakmoor School getting a running track stadium or is this just a rumour?

A.This is already set out in the playing fields behind the school.

Q. I would like to ask The Regeneration company if we can have sight of the documents recording air quality, prior to the bypass being built and the ongoing monitoring?

Air Quality from a public health perspective is co-ordinated through East Hampshire District Council: ehealth@easthants.gov.uk .

Air Quality from a highway (roads) perspective is co-ordinated through Hampshire County Council: Eiateam@hants.gov.uk .

A. We are working with Hampshire County Council to monitor air quality. WS Atkins are appointed to monitor air quality over time and assess the volume of traffic using the old A325 and the new relief road. We will publish the outputs of the report when it is complete. We expect that this will not be until early next year because WS Atkins need to cover all seasons.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY EMAIL

Q. To help communication with local residents, can a street map of our new town centre be made available, outlining the location of new facilities and their respective open dates?

A. Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust have supported the launch of the app. Details will be circulated. (Note: Town Council can share these on facebook, once received.)

Q. What measures are being put in place to ensure the 'new village' and facilities including leisure/recreation areas around the BOSC club will be treated as an inclusive part of Bordon

and Whitehill rather than an exclusive area claimed by the new village and village home buyers?

A. Residents near BOSC will rely on the same services and facilities as other residents in the town. BOSC Pavilion and Sports facilities are also open to everyone - there are no restrictions on participation or who can enjoy the facilities there - as with Hogmoor Inclosure.

Q. Can some seats/benches be carved out of the trees which have been felled for walkers to sit on in this BOSC area - similar to those lovely benches at The Butts in Alton - depicting animals. If not out of the trees which have been felled, then out of some other wood. They are so attractive and would fit into the area really well. Chainsaw artists.

A. Yes - we will involve the Future Skills Centre too in this.

Q. are we having a park where families can picnic whilst children play?

A. Hogmoor Inclosure already offers this. The new park which is in construction opposite Oakmoor school will also have picnic and play facilities.

Q. Can a museum or heritage centre be set up in The Shed so residents can see and learn about the history of our area.

A. The arts and heritage gallery will be opened in the new Mess building next to The Shed once it is built - opening is targeted for autumn 2022.

Q. Is anybody collating oral histories from residents of the area for posterity and education? If not, can some start and if so where will they be displayed?

A. This has been one of The Phoenix Theatre projects. We are working with The Phoenix to bring this into the regeneration project.

Q. Can one of the road names of the new village be linked to the poor bank manager who was murdered in Bordon 3 April 1924 - William Edward Hall was the Bank Manager of Lloyds Bank Bordon

A. We will suggest this to the stakeholder committee in charge of street naming

Q. Is a road being put into the trading estate from the A325 to reduce traffic and heavy traffic driving along the old A325?

A. There are no plans for this. (Hampshire County Council is highways authority.)

Q. When the new health hub is opened can a NHS hydrotherapy pool be incorporated?

A. The health hub plans rely on cooperation between Southern Health Foundation Trust and the operators of the Leisure Centre to provide these services.

Q. Will we have a town clock in the square?

A. We are renovating the existing clock tower on the Sandhurst building

Q. Can some attractive signs be made to let people know they're entering/leaving Bordon and Whitehill - such as the signs in Oakhanger

A. We will ask East Hampshire District Council to bring this into their wayfind project.

Q. I attended a meeting three and half years ago, where we were told the name of the Super market would be announced the following month and we would read about it in the Bordon Herald. Since then, nothing and hardly a mention of the Supermarket. My question is, are we actually getting a full sized Supermarket as promised or are we to get fobbed off with a One Stop, a Tesco or M&S mini store or just a corner shop. I've asked this question before but never receive a satisfactory reply.

A. The new food store will be announced in May. It is a large foodstore (over 25,000 sqft) - larger than the current Tescos food store.

Q. We've seen a report indicating the Louisburg Expansion proposal for 2024. We've seen in the same report that part of this falls into an 'Ecological Mitigation Area'. Taking this into account, can you advise if this expansion is confirmed to go ahead?

A. This area forms part of the proposals by East Hampshire District Council to expand the town in the new Local Plan to 2038. Any ecological mitigation has to be dealt with across the town and this has been taken into account.

Q. Why is the bus stop outside Hogmoor Inclosure car park in the wrong place?

This was a mistake by Hampshire County Council and the bus stop is being moved.

Pictures show 'The Shed' due to open in May 2021, as part of the new Town Centre:



Useful contact details

Q - Can I contact the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company by email?

A - Yes you can. Please use community@wbrcompany.co.uk

Q - Who is responsible for the relief road/new A325?

A - Hampshire County Council are responsible for these roads: 0300 555 1375

Q - Who is responsible for the skatepark on Budds Lane?

A - The skatepark is managed by Whitehill Town Council: 01420 473 123

Q - Who manages Hogmoor Inclosure?

A - The Land Trust manage Hogmoor Inclosure –01925 852 005 (Café Hogmoor and community buildings contact details are The Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust: 01420 558 085)

Q - Who is responsible for the Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club (BOSC)?

A - The Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company manage BOSC: 01420 558 086

Q - Who runs the Future Skills Centre?

A - Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) run the Future Skills Centre: 01256 306400

Q - Who is responsible for the 'The Shed' in the new town centre?

A - The Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company will manage The Shed: 01420 489 060

Q - Who manages the Business Hub at Martinique House?

A - SiGNAL manage the Business Hub: 01420 556 335

Q - Who looks after the new leisure centre in the new town centre?

A - Everyone Active will run the leisure centre: 01420 472549

Q - Who manages the Bordon Enterprise Park on Budds Lane?

A - The Bordon Enterprise Park is managed by WBRC: 01420 489 060

Q - Who are the security team at Prince Philip Park?

A - All in Black are the security contractor: 0800 888 6383

ENDS