

## Clerk's report for Council 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Below is a summary of some meetings I have attended since the last Council and any other pieces of information which I think you might find interesting.

### SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) branch meeting

An update on 'hot topics' was given by Roger Taylor of Wellers Solicitors who specialise in supporting the Local Council sector. They have just taken on two additional solicitors to support their practice as there are a lot of issues arising at the moment:

Pre-determination – they are seeing a significant number of judicial reviews of decisions made where councillors did not declare an interest or were pre-determined. This is costly and time consuming for everyone involved and only result in the decision coming back to Council to be considered again.

Asset transfers – Councils need to ensure that they have the power, will and resource to take on additional services. Legal advice should be sought.

### Allotments –

- These can be hugely time consuming to manage and the trend is to allow allotment associations to manage themselves with little input from Council.
- The Labour Party are suggesting in their manifesto that Councils will be compelled to provide an allotment for everyone who wants one. This is something to bear in mind given our current waiting list.
- All plot holders need to hold PL insurance, this can be done as a blanket cover via the National Garden and Allotment society.
- It is not illegal to charge more for the provision of allotments than they cost, however any surplus rent raised from allotment fees must be ring-fenced to be spent on them in future (a practice HTC follows).

### PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) meeting – antisocial behaviour focus group.

I was invited by the West Sussex PCC to join the group as I wear dual hats of being a West Sussex resident and also Clerk to an adjoining parish. Many local councils, including Lynchmere, were represented as well as West Sussex police. It was very interesting that W Sussex seem to be about 18 months behind Surrey in bringing back a level of engagement with local Councils and I was able to give examples of how our relationship with the Police is growing in a positive way.

There was discussion on the level of drug taking amongst local youth, across the whole country but really prevalent in Surrey and West Sussex where the 'County Lines' trade is rife.

Interesting to note that both Surrey and West Sussex are looking to recruit a significant number of more PCSOs / locally based police.

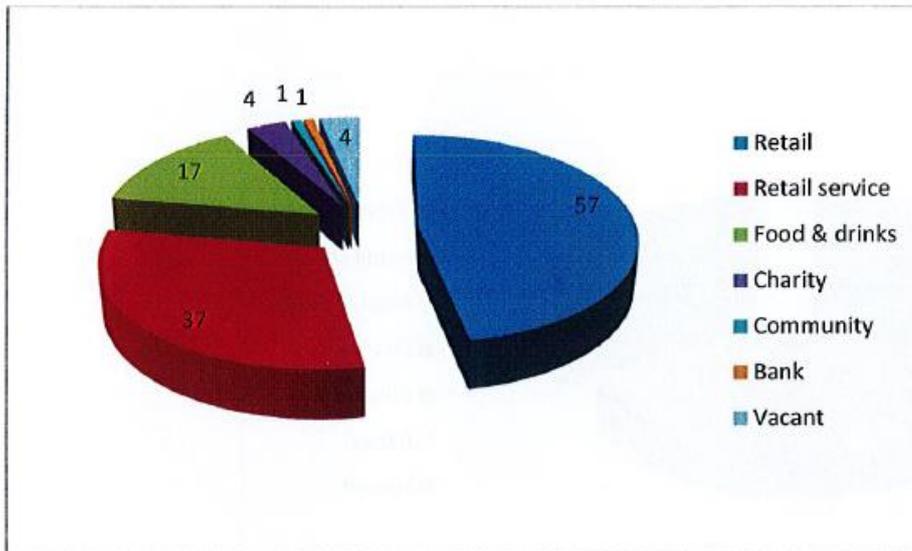
### Clerk's Economic Development meeting – WBC

The Clerks of Haslemere, Godalming, Farnham and Cranleigh meet quarterly with the Economic Development team from Waverley to discuss and move on local issues. The portfolio holder used to be Jim Edwards, the new one is John Neale who as well as being WBC portfolio holder is leader of Farnham TC.

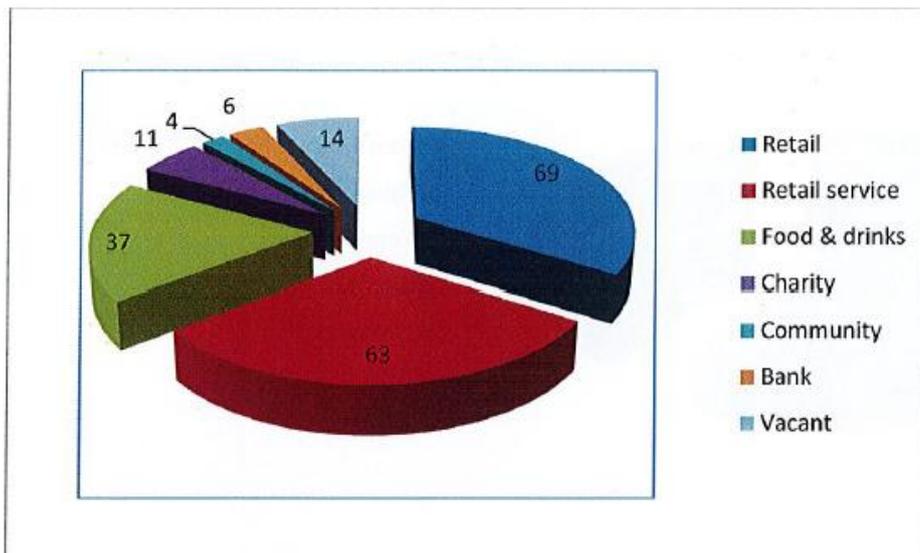
Article 4 direction – all Clerks expressed their frustration at the amount of time taken to implement an Article 4 direction and apparent lack of communication on the subject (myself and the Mayor have raised this separately with Waverley. Cllr Neale agreed to look into this.

BID update – at a meeting with WBC last week it appeared that all four Chamber of Trade are keen to progress – it is anticipated that an application will be made in Spring 2020.

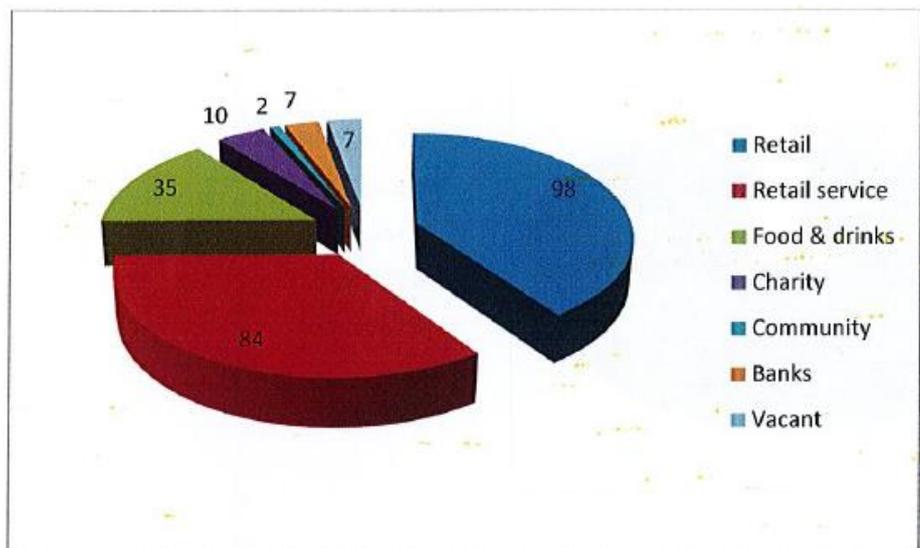
Vacancy rates and retail mix – see below.



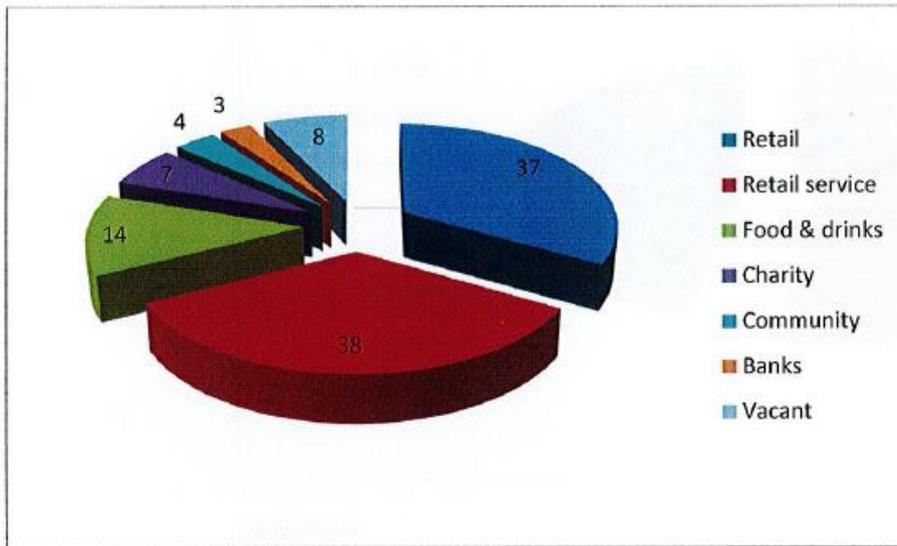
Haslemere



Godalming



Farnham



**Cranleigh**

**Parking**

WBC has commissioned a large Borough wide parking survey. I reported the work that the TC has done regarding parking in Haslemere and all Clerks asked that Towns and Parishes are consulted as part of the process. Cllr Neale is going to find out what the plan is.

**Vox Pop**

WBC has produced a series of videos promoting the large towns in Waverley. Haslemere’s can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_rGGOzsnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_rGGOzsnk)

**Local events**

SCC has a slot on BBC radio Surrey every month to promote local events – we can make use of this, I have the contact.

**CCTV**

There is a budget in the 2019-20 financial year for provision of CCTV within the Town. Cllrs Robini, Dear and Odell and the Clerk have been working on a specification and recommendation and a formal report will come to September Council.