

Agenda Item 4



The Farnham Considerate Communities Group has been formed with an aim to raise awareness of, and attempt to start to change, inconsiderate and intolerant behaviour across the Farnham and villages area.

Originally instigated as a result of the very familiar, but always contentious issue of parking, the longer-term aspiration is to start to change attitudes, and encourage the community to be more tolerant and understanding of each other's perspectives.

With the support of Farnham Town Council and The Herald, the plan is to run a weekly column (in the Herald), highlighting areas where things are particularly troublesome, and to encourage residents to become involved with recognising and changing inconsiderate behaviour.

With the initial focus planned on parking, it's recognised that this is a real bone of contention for many residents. For some, it's such a significant problem, it prevents them from leaving their homes. People with disabilities such as sight loss or mobility can struggle to use pavements and cross roads with ease. Cyclists and pushchair users also have issues with cars parked inconsiderately. Drivers often park in a way that they feel is doing the best thing for other drivers, but not always with great thought towards pedestrians and cyclists.

It's recognised that parking issues are not easy, nor even sometimes possible to solve. There are simply too many vehicles for the roads, which are not designed to cater for them. Enforcement is a tool which can be effective, but not always one that is an available option, through lack of Police and Local Authority resources. However, sometimes, lateral thinking and community effort can work wonders in resolving what can seem impossible problems!

Initial publicity will highlight recent changes in the Highway Code, which has significantly shifted the bias of Highway users towards the most 'vulnerable' taking priority. The community will be encouraged to suggest the most problematic areas of inconsiderate parking across Farnham and villages, and further volunteers will be sought to become part of the Considerate Communities Group. Experiences of different highway users (partially sighted, disabled etc) will be published to provide a different perspective on the everyday local environment.

Support from local organisations and individuals will be welcomed as this work gets underway, and hopefully starts to make a difference.

Please get in touch, an email address has been set up for contact with the group:
farnhamconsideratecommunities@gmail.com.

Thank you

Catherine Powell and Sue Lampard

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