



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

B

Notes Community Working Group

Time and date

1.00 pm on Wednesday 27th March, 2024

Place

Council Chamber - Farnham Town Hall

Community & Culture Working Group Members Present:

Councillor Alan Earwaker (ex-Officio)

Councillor Andrew Laughton

Councillor Brodie Mauluka

Councillor Kika Mirylees

Officers: Oliver Cluskey and Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Dixon.

2. Disclosures of Interests

None were made.

3. Notes of the last meeting

The notes to the last meeting were agreed.

4. Recent Events

Members discussed previous events:

a) Music in the Vineyard

The January and February events had been up to capacity at the Vineyard Centre and there had been good feedback from those who attended. The March date had not been scheduled due to a clash with Easter Sunday.

b) Farnham Literary Festival

Members discussed The Literary Festival which was held between 1st and 10th March 2024.

Members were informed that an estimated 1500 bought tickets to events with a further 2000 children participating in the Schools programme. Feedback from public and authors was extremely positive. Popular events had been performance based, panel events, celebrity guests and 'influencers'. The Festival had been successfully completed within budget.

Members noted the disappointing challenges faced dealing for the Farnham Castle History Day. It was agreed that the Lead Member would contact the Chairman of the Farnham Castle Trust. Members were also disappointed that the Maltings had not offered more events for the Castle.

Highlights included:

School's Programme and youth events:

- 2,000 children and 9 Schools in Farnham received author visits.
- There was a number of workshops/storytime sessions for those aged between 2 and 16.

Sold Out Events included:

- Author Talk: Hugh Bonneville
- Author Talk: Louise Boyce
- Performance: Rudyard Kipling – Something of Myself performed by Jonathan Jones
- Panel: Let's Talk About the War – Oxfam Books & Music
- Movie Night: Blue Bear Bookshop – Slumdog Millionaire
- Author Talk: Local Authors at Farnham Library (60)
- Pub Quiz
- Performance: Macbeth: – A Quantum Theatre Production. Frensham Heights.

13 Events were held in the Farnham Council Chamber.
5 competitions took place.

Members were informed that the current co-ordinator, Sue Keogh would not be continuing in the role. Members thanked her for her hard work over the last 3 years.

Members suggested graphic artbooks, political cartoonists and illustrators for 2025.

c) Vegan Market - 17th March 2024

The Vegan Market was well attended and many stalls had sold out of goods. There had been no complaints from residents regarding access.

5. Future Events and Projects

a) Walking Festival Saturday 11th May – Sunday 2nd June

Members were informed that despite efforts, no volunteer co-ordinator or walk enthusiast had been found to help support the Festival. Over 20 walks had been confirmed to date with over 30 targeted.

The Events Manager suggested that Councillors could lead walks in their own wards offering the chance for constituents to meet their councillor and discuss any issues in a social environment. This was agreed. **Cllrs Laughton and Mirylees offered to help co-ordinate** as the print deadline was impending.

Ukraine Day – 12th May

Members were informed that there was a Ukraine Day event planned in Gostrey Meadow on 12th May supported by Farnham Town Council. The day would have music and activities funded by a previous donation (in the reserves).

b) Sustainability Festival – 19th May

Members were informed that 30 stalls had been confirmed.

c) Music in the Meadow

Members were informed that the Band and Charity spaces were almost complete (list in the agenda).

Members discussed the Folk day on 23rd June and suggested a May pole could be hired from The Wyke School in Normandy. **Events Manager to make contact.**

Date	Band	Charity
26-May	Missy Nelson Band	TBC
02-Jun	Vic Cracknell Swing Band	Farnham Lions
09-Jun	Stem	Farnborough and District Samaritans
16-Jun	The Replays	Hale Community Centre
23-Jun	Farnham Folk Day	Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society
30-Jun	Proms and Pop in the Park	Woodlarks
07-Jul	Kindred Spirit	Farnham Andernach Friendship Association
14-Jul	Revivals	4th Farnham Tongham Scouts
21-Jul	Fabulous Funky Funks	Hedgehogs
28-Jul	Young Artist Showcase	Farnham Assist
04-Aug	Hollie Hunt	Bake, Natter and Roll WI
11-Aug	World Music Day	Farnham Fundraising Group for Marie Curie
18-Aug	Squeezebox	St Peter's Church
25-Aug	TBC	Friends of guiding in Hale
01-Sep	TBC	Brightwells Gostrey

d) Chillout Picnic

The alternative 'Ibiza Chillout' Dj dates were confirmed as:

18th May, 15th June, 20th July, 17th August

e) D-Day Celebration – Thursday 6th June

Proposed schedule was:

8am – Proclamation by Town Crier in Castle Street

11am – Wreath laying with School children

7.30-9.15pm Beacon Lighting and event in Gostrey Meadow

Members discussed the evening event to be held in Gostrey Meadow between 7.30pm and 9.15pm which would end with a beacon lighting. Initial suggestions were to have music in the band stand, Beacon lighting on the Bowling green and old clips of BBC radio being played before the lighting of the Beacon. Members suggested an 'Andrews sisters' band, siren sounds and searchlights. Official celebrations included a fish and chip supper (as it was National Fish and Chips day). **Local Fish and Chip shops would be contacted.**

Beacon

Members discussed the possible choices:

- 1) Farnham Society Brazier. Farnham Society had hoped to install a brazier in Farnham Park but were not permitted. Members suggested the **Events Manager contacted Richard Hunt to discuss.**
 - 2) Official 80th anniversary Gas fuelled Beacon (Purchase price was £549 + VAT).
 - 3) Use existing gas fuelled brazier.
- f) Proms and Pop in the Park – Sunday 30th June
Woking Wind Orchestra had been confirmed. A Taylor Swift Tribute act had been provisionally pencilled in and members agreed to **proceed with booking.**
- g) West Street Market
Confirmed dates were:
Antiques and Brocante: April 14th, June 9th
Arts and Craft: May 19th, October 20th
Ethical Vegan market: July 21st
- h) Film and Gaming Festivals
Members discussed the possibility of co-ordinating a Film and Gaming Festival. Members agreed that they should be separate festivals rather than combined. Members agreed to put a recommendation to council regarding funding although capacity was considered to be limited with the amount of events currently in the calendar. Members agreed for officers to progress with establishing potential partners and proposed September 2025 for the date. Officers had already met with Reel Cinema who were keen to be involved. Cllr Laughton offered support.
- A Gaming Festival was also discussed with potential external contributors suggested.
Officers to progress.

6. World Craft Town

Fiona Byrne Residency

Members were updated on the Craft Town Residency which took place between 19th February and 15th March. The residency, funded by the South Street Trust was the first of its kind for Farnham World Craft Town, and deemed to be a huge success. A film of the month was being edited and due to be finished mid-April. The final piece, created by Fiona Byrne and gifted to the South Street Trust, was due to be exhibited in the Craft Study Centre. The intention was for it to be exhibited elsewhere as well. It would be the first in a collection made by future resident artists on an annual basis.

Lantern Festival

The Events Manager informed Members that plans were underway organising a Farnham Lantern Festival for October 2024. The artist, Anna Accalio had been approached to create lantern templates and lead workshops with community groups. Further funding would be required and an application to the South Street Trust was being made as it was a community focussed project that required funding for materials and tutoring. It was suggested that the event should be held

on 31st October to mark the end of craft month, which would also be after the clocks went forward and the week of Diwali.

7. BID

Members noted that the BID Manager was yet to be confirmed. A loan agreement was yet to be received by FTC and the Bid Board were still waiting for the Waverley BC operating agreement.

8. Sponsorship

Members noted the final sponsorship position for 2023-24.

Confirmed sponsors for 2024-25 were:

Principal Summer £3000: Kidd Rapinet

Food and Drink Festival: Gold £1,000: Kidd Rapinet

Food and Drink Festival: Gold £1000: Bush Hotel

Christmas Market Gold £1,000: Kidd Rapinet

Farnham Literary Festival: Panels sponsorship £500: Moonflower Books

Members noted the current position for 2024-25 and other discussions underway.

Christmas Lights:

It was suggested that a task Group was set up regarding the Christmas Lights which were due to be tendered. Members suggested more lighting could be considered further down West Street near the Museum.

9. Budget

Members noted that there would be potential adjustments to the budget at year end but were pleased to see it was in a very healthy position.

Civil War Event:

Members discussed the proposed Civil War Event on Farnham Park but agreed that there was no budget allocated this year and no capacity to add to the programme. It was suggested to re-consider next year once a proposal had been received.

10. Community Update

SLA Agreements:

Positive meetings had been held with 40 Degrees and The Jubilee Church. A meeting was scheduled with Hale Community Centre. SLA agreements were to be agreed next week.

Community Working Group name change:

Members agreed to change the name of the group to Community and Culture Working Group.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm

Notes written by Oliver Cluskey

Date of next meeting 5 July 2024