



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL



## Notes Community & Culture Working Group

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### Time and date

10.30 am on Wednesday 10th July, 2024

### Place

Council Chamber - Farnham Town Hall

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### Community & Culture Working Group Members Present:

Councillor Alan Earwaker  
Councillor Andrew Laughton  
Councillor Kika Mirylees (Lead Member)  
Councillor Graham White

Officers: Oliver Cluskey, Megan Cross (Events Assistant) and Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Sally Dickson.

#### 2. Disclosures of interest

None were made.

#### 3. Notes of the last meeting

The notes to the last meeting were agreed.

#### 4. Recent events

##### a) Markets

West Street Markets were still proving popular with increased footfall on those weekends. With future road closures after July denied and uncertainty over future FIP phasing, the events team had contacted WBC to enquire after the usage of Central Car Park in the space used for the Farmers' market. At that point there had been no response. Members considered different options and favoured Upper Hart Car Park. Members were informed that WBC were considering keeping Brightwells for two years. With SCC managing the Central square, Brightwells could be a challenge. Members agreed that Brightwells should not be ruled out.

b) Farnham Walking Festival - 11 May–2 June 2024

Many of the Farnham Walking Festival walks attracted over 20 walkers with weekend walks being most popular. Councillors discussed the Councillor Ward Walks and agreed to not repeat in 2025. Members suggested that they could do a joint walk which as not promoted as an opportunity to talk to the councillors. Alternatively, members should consider bringing back coffee mornings with Councillors in the winter months, which had historically proved popular.

c) Sustainability Festival - 19 May 2024

Members were informed that there were over 40 stalls and the event was well attended with good feedback. Members agreed to continue supporting the event.

d) Music in the Meadow - May – 1 September 2024

Music in the Meadow had been well attended and the first Farnham Folk Day (an extended Music in the Meadow, 1-5pm) was a success with up to 1000 attendees mid-afternoon. Members noted that the extended Music in the Meadows cost an estimated £1000 rather than an average £300. This was covered by having two principal summer sponsors for 2024-25. Members agreed to look at a July date for Folk day in 2025 due to congested events in June.

e) D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations - 6 June 2024.

Members pleased with how the commemorations went and noted that the beacon lighting worked well in Gostrey Meadow and that the layout looked good. Members noted that it would be 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day in 2025 (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May).

Members discussed the Town Crier's uniform and agreed to look into renewing via the Town Crier's honorarium

f) Proms and Pop in the Park - 30 June 2024

Members were informed that the Stage and sound company hired for carnival weekend left site at the end of Carnival on the Saturday. SSL had been hired as Jigsaw events were not available. The Events team managed to hire another sound company and used the Events Manager's stage that was stored at West Street depot. The event went extremely well and was well attended. Members noted that SSL was only paid a deposit and would not receive any further money.

g) Events supported by FTC

Members noted the support given by FTC to events such as Ukraine day, Chillout picnic and others supported with FTC infrastructure.

## 5. Future events and projects

a) Music in the Meadow

Members discussed World Music Day and were informed that the Mayor's Charity would be in attendance potentially running a Pimms tent alongside an info tent. Members suggested bhangra, Bollywood dancing and steel drums for the final remaining space of entertainment.

b) West Street Markets

Was discussed earlier in meeting.

c) Farnham Food Festival

Members were informed that the road closure had been approved and that stalls were almost at capacity. Members discussed the possibility of having a full time fruit and veg stall somewhere in Town but agreed this should be something the BID should lead on.

d) Update of Discover Farnham app and tourism leaflets.

Members were informed that the current trail leaflets were being updated and were shown design concepts. Members suggested and agreed that each leaflet were numbered.

## 6. World Craft Town

Members agreed that a central hub for craft was needed. Members welcomed WBC's focus on craft in their economic strategy and agreed that there should be pressure to utilise unused buildings such as in Waggon Yard. Members agreed that craft should be more visible in the centre and that there should be more signage at the entrances to Farnham.

**Action: Cllr Mirylees to talk to Debbie Smith re Waggon Yard.**

**Action: Officers to work with other partners to create a hub.**

Members agreed to investigate the Surrey County Council policies on having a sculpture on Coxbridge roundabout to highlight Farnham as a World Craft Town and a destination for Craft.

**Action: Cll Mirylees to speak to Cllr Martin regarding roundabout sculpture.**

Members agreed to display Fiona Bryne's work, made during the Farnham Craft Town residency, in a glass cabinet in the Tindle Suite at Farnham Town Council.

**Recommendation: To purchase a display for the reception area**

Farnham Lantern Festival: Members were impressed with the lanterns that were shown.

## 7. BID

Members were reminded about the benefits of the BID and that the FTC loan of £30,000 was to fund the early stages of the BID and would be repaid once levy funds had been received. Members agreed that it was disappointing that quick wins were not in place before the bills were received. The Events Manager was progressing Christmas collaboration. The BID had accepted an invitation to be on the Christmas Lights task group.

## 8. Sponsorship

Members welcomed the current sponsorship position:

Sponsorship Confirmed for 2024-25

Principal Summer: £3,000 Kidd Rapinet

Principal Summer: £3,000 Shaw Gibbs

Gold Proms and Pop in the Park: £750 Leightons Opticians and Hearing Care

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

Gold Food and Drink Festival: £1,000: Bush Hotel

Silver October Craft Month: £500 Frensham Heights

Principal Christmas: £2,500 Leightons Opticians and Hearing Care

Gold Christmas Market: £1,000: Kidd Rapinet

Gold Farnham Literary Festival: £3,000 Frensham Heights

Gold Farnham Literary Festival: £2,500 Leightons Opticians and Hearing Care Farnham Literary Festival: Panels Sponsorship £500 - Moonflower Books

2024-25 target: £19,250 Current Total (as of July 2024): £18,750

**9. Budget**

Members noted the current position.

**10. Community Update**

Members were informed that Community Grant projects were now under way and cheques were being presented.

The Younger People Task Group was scheduled to meet on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**11. Items for future meetings**

Members discussed Councillors attendance at events. Members agreed that there should be a rota for larger events and that there should be a comments book for smaller events like Music in the Meadow and Farmers' Markets.

**Action: Officers to purchase comments book for events.**

Members discussed the possibility of a sports event and possibly have a Community Sports day.

**Action: Officers to approach Sports Council**

Members to discuss busses to events at next meeting due to FIP.

**12. Date of next meeting**

The date of next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 10.30am

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm