



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

B

Notes Environment Working Group

Time and date

November 29th 2024

Place

Council Chamber

Environment Working Group Members Present:

Councillor Mat Brown (Lead Member)
Councillor Alan Earwaker
Councillor George Hesse
Councillor Mark Merryweather
Councillor White (present but not a member of the group)

Officers: Iain Lynch (Town Clerk) and Iain McCready (Business and Facilities Manager)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Jackman.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Notes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th September was agreed.

Hive Helpers

The Working Group received an informative presentation from Hive Helpers. This organisation works hard to improve wellbeing in the community through beekeeping and nature conservation activities. Hive Helpers were asking for the Councillors support with a Farnham Bee Trail showcasing and creating awareness of pollinators and their habitats.

Members agreed for Officers to meet directly with Hive Helpers to see how they can work together on this project.

4. **Farnham in Bloom**

The Working Group covered several important topics related to Farnham in Bloom and community activities:

Proposed dates for 2025: Councillors agreed the proposed dates for 2025.

Farnham in Bloom Celebration: The group members agreed for officers to arrange the Farnham in Bloom celebration in December to thank volunteers, community groups, sponsors and businesses for their contributions towards another successful year.

Proposed South and South East in Bloom entries for 2025: Members agreed to enter all of the proposed categories for 2025 and it was noted that the Town Centre Category may need to be withdrawn at a later date if the planned FiP (Farnham Infrastructure Programme) works disrupt the judging route.

Contracts: The group noted the additional contract supplying floral display to the not-for-profit organisation InOdiham.

Recommendation: Councillors agreed to enter all five categories in the South and South East in Bloom Awards and to withdraw the Town Centre if needed due to the planned FiP (Farnham Infrastructure Programme)

5. **Parks and Open Spaces**

The Working Group received and welcomed the officers' report, acknowledging the seasonal planting and the tree planting taking place on the 6th December. It was noted that the Riverside pathway improvements had been postponed until January. Members have also agreed to 5-metre heritage style lighting columns along Riverside.

Officers informed the group that all Farnham sites with Green Flag status will be judged in April except Hale Cemetery which will be mystery-shopped. Members noted the ongoing discussions with SCC regarding the management of Library Gardens.

6. **Street Scene**

Graffiti

The Working Group were informed graffiti had been removed from the entrance to The Chantrys, training for the Councillors to remove graffiti and the retendering for the cleaning contract will take place in the new year.

Benches

Following on from the vandalism of some wooden benches in Gostrey Meadow, Members would like officers to bring some alternative metal bench examples to the next working group meeting.

Notable names of Farnham

Councillors noted the information regarding the nomination for Roger Remmington, the Leader will do some further research and bring his findings to the next meeting.

Bus stops

Following on from the boarding up of the brick bus shelter, members requested that the sign on the metal boards be removed.

Litter Picking

The revamped Bloomin' Litter Campaign will be launched at the Farnham in Bloom Community Day in March.

7. Climate Change

Members agreed to take part in Surrey County Council's Parish Pilot Engagement project where officers will be supported to develop a climate and nature action plan. This will start in December.

Recommendation: For Farnham Town Council to take part in the Parish Pilot project to support the development of a climate and nature action plan.

8. Cemeteries and Burial Matters

The Working Group noted the current burial figures and that the Cemetery Officer will be visiting Brookwood Cemetery to share best practice.

Members noted that a member of the Outside Workforce had accidentally clipped a memorial stone when they were cutting the grass. It was agreed that the repairs would be completed at a cost of £220 and members applauded the honesty of the staff.

9. Allotments

Councillors noted the current position with regards to the vacancies and that 6 of the 7 vacant plots had been allocated to new plot holders. Following a series of harassment incidents at one of the allotment sites, it was agreed that the Town Clerk will be inviting the Site Rep and the allotment holder in for a meeting.

Recommendation: For the Town Clerk to invite the Site Rep and the Allotment Holder in for a meeting.

10. Date of next scheduled meeting

The date of the next meeting is the 5th February 2025.

The meeting ended at 6.32 pm

Notes written by Iain McCready