



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

# B Notes

## Community & Culture Working Group

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### **Time and date**

10.00 am on Wednesday 8th January, 2025

### **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 Cllrs Dickson and Martin.

#### **2. Disclosures of interest**

None were made.

#### **3. Notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October were agreed.

#### **4. Recent events**

##### **a) October Craft Month**

Members were informed that there were over 80 events throughout the month with 34 free of charge. Social media had seen a 400% rise in growth from 2024 with 850 new followers on Instagram in October.

The Working Group was extremely pleased with the success of the first Farnham Lantern Festival. 600 lantern kits were distributed and over 1000 members of public turned up for the event in Gostrey meadow on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

It was agreed that the Lantern Festival should be an annual event and to be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Members of the public should be encouraged to create their own designs (Social Media campaign).

**Action: Events manager to get a quote from Anna McCallion to create two new designs**

The Working Group discussed the resource needed to create the lantern kits and whether this was through staff (as in 2024), volunteers or purchasing kits. It was agreed the Events manager would look at alternatives with the aim of purchasing the kits during the current financial year. It was agreed that the cost of the kits would need to be increased and a suggested rate of £5 was proposed to keep the kits affordable.

**Action: Events manager to look into getting prices for kits to be made.**

b) Christmas Lights switch on

Members noted that the event was a success with over 550 children performing on stage. It was also noted that there had been a complaint about the use of animals for the Farmyard Nativity on the basis that it may be distressing for the animals as the event was busy and loud. It was agreed not to book the farm animals for the 2025 switch-on but to have the Nativity scene at the Christmas market where it was quieter.

Members advised that it was difficult to hear the singing and speaking on stage when stood further back in Gostrey Meadow. The Events Manager agreed that the sound system (PA) used needed to be larger but would cost more money. Members agreed that reducing some elements such as the farm animals would allow an increase the budget on the PA. Members also discussed the changeover time for the final band resulting in a gap in entertainment with people leaving. It was agreed that the final band should be playback to reduce the changeover time.

**Action: Events Manager to book an improved sound system for 2025**

c) Christmas Market

The Christmas market was cancelled due to high winds and storm Darragh. The Working Group noted the indicative budget in the agenda and congratulated the events team on minimising the cancellation costs.

## 5. Future events and projects

a) Farmers' Market and other Markets

Members noted that the Farmers' Market would continue on the fourth Sunday of the Month and that because of the Farnham Infrastructure Programme the alternative 'West Street Markets' had moved to Central market for the last three markets in 2024. The dates requested of Waverley for use of the Car Park in 2025 were:

April 13th	Antiques & Vintage
May 18th	Artist & Makers Market
June 15th	Antiques & Vintage
July 6th	Vegan Market
Sept 21st	Antiques & Vintage
Oct 5th	Artist and Makers Market
Nov 30th	Antiques & Vintage Market

Members were informed that WBC had charged £100 per market which was similar to the cost of implementing the road closure required for West Street. Members noted trader concerns that the market would not be as busy as on West.

b) Music in the Vineyard

Members were informed that Abbeyfield Wey Valley had agreed to sponsor the event. Their sponsorship would cover the cost of the bands:

Jan 26th – Out of the Shadows (Tea stall by Bake Natter and Roll)

Feb 23rd – A-Train (Tea stall by Abbeyfield Wey Valley TBC)

March 30th – The Beat Tones (Tea stall by Farnham Rotary)

c) Literary Festival

The Working Group noted that the Literary Festival programme was almost complete apart from a small number of events from partners waiting to be received and two events where a venue was sought. Members were very happy with the diverse offering. Tickets were about to go on sale. Members expressed disappointment that Reel had not yet become involved and Cllr Mirylees agreed to follow up with them.

d) Summer Events Schedule

Members were informed that at a recent meeting, the FIP had confirmed that all 2025 events would not be affected and all planned road closures could go ahead. The Lions had confirmed they would not be part of Carnival, the Hedgehogs would take the lead.

With Carnival scheduled to go ahead in 2025, members agreed to hire a smaller stage to reduce the costs of Carnival weekend. The money saved could then pay for the three extended Music in the Meadow events on the last Sunday in the month:

May – Folk Day

June – World Music Day (Carnival Weekend)

July – Young Persons showcase

August – TBC

Cllr White suggested that the FTC Information tent could be enhanced with the provision of a video screen and information about the council and events. Concern was raised about the difficulty of viewing such screens in sunshine but costs would be sought

**Action: Officers to get quotes for outdoor screen to go in FTC Tent.**

e) Food Festival

Members agreed that with the FIP news, the food Festival would go ahead as planned.

f) Farnham Film Festival

The Working Group received the notes from the first Film Festival Meeting held in October and were informed that a second meeting was scheduled. Members agreed that it would be best to have a smaller meeting with organisations with venues – The maltings, UCA and Reel. Members agreed that a long weekend in February would be the preferred time to hold the Festival. Members noted that there was a net budget of £10,000 agreed

**Action: Events Manager to confirm weekend with venues before holding a meeting with wider group.**

g) VE Day 80 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Members agreed to fund an event with £3,000 within the existing budget. It was noted that there was a national programme of events being proposed.

**Action: Events Manager to develop a proposal**

**6. Business Update**

a) BID

Members were updated on BID matters. The Events Manager, Town Clerk and Cllr Murray had been present at board meetings. The Working Group welcomed the new BID branding of 'Make it Farnham'. It was noted 90% of the BID levy had been paid by businesses to date. Tenders had been received for Street wardens.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the internal auditor had drawn attention that there had been no formal Council resolution for the £30,000 BID Loan that had been discussed and agreed through Working Groups to help get projects underway before the Levy was received. This was to be reported and resolved at the January Council

b) Museum

Cllr Mirylees updated the Working Group with the current position of the Museum. The Museum needed investment in technology to modernise after the refurbishment. Members agreed that if FTC were to support, a clear vision and plan should be set out by the Farnham Maltings who were managing the Museum and FTC should have a 'seat at the table' if it were being asked to commit funding. Members noted the aspiration that the Museum should aim to be self-funded eventually. A meeting was scheduled on 14<sup>th</sup> January with representatives from WBC and Farnham Maltings to discuss collaboration and the way forward.

**7. Sponsorship**

The Working Group received an update on sponsorship for 2024-25. Figures slightly differed to actual budget due to coding error which would be adjusted.

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

Music in the Vineyard: £1000 Abbeyfield Wey Valley

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: £19,750 (£21,815 on journal)

Members were informed that the target had been increased for 2025-26.

## **8. Financial Update**

Members noted current position.

## **9. Martyn's Law**

The Working Group was made aware of the emerging Martyn's Law, also known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, aimed to improve safety by making public spaces and events better placed for terrorist attacks. This came about after the Manchester Arena bombing.

Key points:

- An advanced terrorism risk assessment would be required for all events over 800.
- Terrorism protection training would be needed for staff at events.
- A designated senior officer would be responsible (could be different for premises and event being held)
- A Security plan would be needed for events.
- For premises where between 200 and 799 people may be present new requirements are to be introduced including putting in place appropriate and reasonable public protection measures and new policies and procedures to improve preparedness and response.

The Working Group noted a further report would be considered in due course.

## **10. Community Update**

The Working Group received an update on the Farnham Support Fund (FSF), noting that the balance was currently £9,731.90.

This financial year the Fund had spent £5,869.57 to date, but when combined with donations from the other charities on the panel, a total of £14,365.11.

Members noted that the Waverley Household Support Fund would be reopening imminently with tranche 6 funding from central government, with £26K available – half the usual allocation. Applicants can apply for up to £250.

### **Recommendations to Council**

**i) Farnham Town Council, in partnership with philanthropic groups, continues to support the residents of Farnham through the Farnham Support Fund as the financial struggles of the past few years are far from over.**

**ii) Farnham Town Council pledge £2,500 to top up the Support Fund once the balance nears £3,000, to be match-funded by partner charities/organisations.**

## **11. items for future meetings**

No items were suggested

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 10.30am

The meeting ended at 2.00 pm

Notes written by

Date of next meeting 26 March 2025