



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Notes

Community Enhancement Working Group

Time and date

14:00 on Wednesday 4th September 2019

Place

Byworth Room - Town Offices

Attendees:

Members: Councillors Sally Dickson (Lead Member), John "Scotty" Fraser, Michaela Gray, George Hesse, Michaela Martin, Pat Evans

Officers: Iain Lynch (Town Clerk), Iain McCready (Business and facilities Manager), Lara Miller (Community Enhancement Officer)

1. Apologies

POINTS	ACTION
Apologies were received from Cllr Dunsmore	

2. Declarations of Interest

POINTS	ACTION
There were no declarations of interest.	

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2019

POINTS	ACTION
The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.	

4. Farnham in Bloom

POINTS	ACTION
i. Members noted that a representative of the Farnham in Bloom Community Group was unable to attend the meeting. Members also noted that Martin Billett, Chairman of the group, was standing down imminently as he was moving away from Farnham after being an integral member of the group for 11 years and its Chair since 2014.	

<p>Members also noted that Bloomin' Friends would be planting out around 9,500 plug plants in the coming week.</p> <p>ii. Members received feedback from officers on the regional and national judging that took place in July. Officers felt on the whole that the judging had gone well, with only Gostrey Meadow causing any real concern to the judges for its horticultural element.</p> <p>iii. Members noted arrangements for this year's Farnham in Bloom Awards at Squire's Garden Centre on Thursday 10 October with invitations being sent out to all Councillors to both the School & Community Award Ceremonies.</p> <p>iv. Members noted that this year's Autumn Big Pick Week would fall 12-19th October, with the Town Centre litter pick being held on Saturday 12th October at 10am at the Council Offices, with refreshments being served after the event. Councillors were encouraged to participate.</p>	
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5. Allotments

POINTS	ACTION
<p>i. Members received an update on Farnham Allotments waiting list numbers, vacant plots and outstanding rents.</p> <p>ii. Members noted there was still no update on Farnham Town Council taking over the lease of Weybourne Allotments from Waverley Borough Council.</p> <p>iii. Members noted that the new-format Allotment Show that was held in conjunction with Music in the Meadow worked well with some very good entries.</p> <p>iv. Members noted that some tenants on Six Bells allotment were unhappy due to an increase in deer eating the produce on their plots. Officers to look into deer fencing at the site but this could be very costly and would not prevent all deer.</p>	

6. Famous Names Wall

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Members reviewed a submission for the Famous Name wall on South Street for Brenda May Simner, who was born and grew up in Farnham and went on to become a very successful ballroom dancer and competitor as well as going on to open her own Dance School. Members voted in favour of Brenda Simner being allocated a plaque on the wall.</p>	

7. Improving the Town Centre Environment

POINTS	ACTION
<p>i. Members discussed encouraging the greater use of public transport within the town to reduce car use. Stagecoach is the current provider of the buses and it was noted that although they have an app so you can see if your bus is running on time, this was not advertised on all the town's bus stops and nor was there digital signage at all stops. Members agreed it would be useful for the relevant officer or portfolio holder at Surrey County Council or Stagecoach to attend a future meeting to ascertain their plans for Farnham. Members noted that the responsibility of such provisions should be provided by Surrey County Council and that they had most influence over Stagecoach. Farnham Town Council is responsible for cleaning all the bus stops in the town. Farnham Town Council could produce stickers to promote the Stagecoach app if Surrey are unable to arrange this.</p> <p>ii. Members noted a report on carbon-adsorbing plants for the town, noting that the best plants were house plants and not suitable to be grown outside, however, all plants and trees help reduce carbon from the air.</p> <p>iii. Members discussed an issue with Surrey County Council cutting down diseased trees and leaving behind large unsightly stumps which are 2-3ft high and not replacing the trees, and so ruining the street scape in the process. It was agreed that this matter should be raised at Council and with Surrey County Council.</p> <p>iv. Members reviewed a new initiative from Squires Garden Centre called 'Love Where You Live', whereby they would donate silver birch trees to communities. Members discussed potential locations for the trees including by Hickley's Corner and in the Council's cemeteries.</p>	<p>Recommendation to Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 SCC should remove trees completely not leave unsightly stumps when trees were diseased. 2 Council officers to write a letter to Surrey County Council about this issue.

8. Biodiversity Action Plan

POINTS	ACTION
Members reviewed the recent activity of the Biodiversity Action Group, noting that they had made very good progress to date.	

9. Bins by Boots Opticians

POINTS	ACTION
Members noted that Officers had met with the new owner of the Bush Hotel last month and renovations were now complete. The Bush Hotel had been very supportive and had offered to pay for half of the bin storage unit/area which will be on their land for other neighbouring businesses to use. Members noted that the Outside Services Team were currently working on this areas.	Members noted that the shop owners whose bins were causing issue should be contacted to explain the new arrangement.

10. Street Furniture Update

POINTS	ACTION
<p>i. Members noted that Waverley Borough Council had recently been in touch to request that Farnham Town Council install a bin in a litter hot spot by an alley between Fox Yard and Potters Gate School that had been requested by a resident. The bin had now been installed and Waverley would be emptying the bin as part of the existing rounds.</p> <p>ii. Members felt that the Farnham in Bloom banners covering the railings in strategic locations in the town were very effective and felt more should be produced for the winter and spring promoting Council events and encouraging people to shop local.</p> <p>iii. Members noted that the Outside Services Team had a purge on graffiti ahead of this year's In Bloom judging, including a large piece on the underside of the South Street bridge, which had to be painted to prevent chemicals from going into the river. A recent partnership has also been set up with Berkeley Homes whereby they will pay Farnham Town Council to remove any graffiti on their hoardings.</p>	

11. Proposed Climate Emergency

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Members discussed a report on a proposed Climate Emergency Declaration which would be considered by Strategy & Finance M. Members noted the work undertaken by FTC in recent years.</p> <p>Members agreed there were certain commitments that could be made such as helping to cut emissions and raising awareness with the public and also by using and encouraging a reduction in the use of single-use plastic. The Council could also encourage the use of public transport and walking. However, other considerations such as 'Refitting the council building to run-off renewable energy source' and 'switching to renewable energy were deemed to have a potential cost to Farnham electors that would need further research.</p> <p>It was agreed that decisions on national infrastructure required additional national infrastructure investment from government.</p>	<p>Members agreed that the Working Group's comments be fed into the Strategy & Finance Working Group.</p>

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

POINTS	ACTION
Tuesday 23 rd October 2019 at 4pm	

Meeting finished at 4:00pm. Notes by Lara Miller