

# NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of 35th Annual General Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The Chairman, Dr Penny Marriot, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Pat Frost (Surrey County Council) and Councillor Steven Hill (Farnham Town Council and Waverley Borough Council) and also to the members of the Association.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs Yvette Pitt, Mrs Mary Soames, Mrs Anne Tweed, and John and Vera Murray

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were approved as a correct record.

### 3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that this was her first complete year as Chairman and reported that the general overview of the year's activities had been covered in recent Newsletters and that she and the Committee members had had a busy year.

An issue on which the Chairman was very keen to improve, was communication throughout the area of our Association and this was the main motivation behind the introduction of the Association's own website at [www.nwfarnham.org.uk](http://www.nwfarnham.org.uk)

Keith Miller had given many hours to its development and fine tuning and she expressed great gratitude to him for this. Dr Marriot requested that now it was up to the members to give feed back about the site and about what they would or wouldn't like to see and know about, and generally any ideas on how to improve the site to everyone's liking.

The Chairman was hopeful that in the very near future a Notice board would be installed in a corner of the Waitrose car park which would be useful in informing residents about the latest news and other notices.

### The Development of the Fields

Waverley has had to produce a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

They have identified two designated areas, firstly the Field behind the University of the Creative Arts or UCA, and secondly two fields which would extend the Chantry's estates westwards.

The Chairman explained that designation does not mean that houses WILL automatically be built there but once an area has been designated there is an increased likelihood and also that it is very difficult to retract that status. The Chairman urged the residents to be very vigilant over any planning applications as our green space needed to be preserved. She went on to say that historically the Fields behind the UCA are very important. They were once a medieval deer park, it has pre-historic track ways, part of the old pilgrims way and there have always been footpaths across it. She felt that we definitely wanted to avoid any building of 400+ extra houses as we had enough already.

(Matthew Elliot was given the floor to explain further. He said that Wimpey has an option on the Field until 2018. They were given a long period by the landowner. The trick was to try to convert agricultural land valued at £2,000 per acre into residential land valued at £2,000,000 per acre. He suggested that Wimpey will have been lobbying Waverley Borough Council very hard. He advised

the residents to make a huge, huge fuss now before it is almost residential land. 'He who makes the most fuss wins'.

He suggested that the residents should object on various technical grounds and get campaigns going in newspapers or with marches through the Field. These forms of objections tended to bring the community together. Wimpey will be working on the presumption that the local community wouldn't be able to get the protest together. Now is the time to fight – a lot of energy would be needed and it would take hard work, in order not to be steam-rolled.)

The Chairman agreed that we needed to write *now* and the suggestion from one of the residents that a draft letter be added to the website was a good idea. We needed a ground-swell opposing any hint of activity and change. Residents should also bombard the local MP – Jeremy Hunt – with 200 letters. These would take a lot of answering and so would surely get his attention. It will be too late once a decision has been taken. The local media should be involved in the protection of the Field. Another resident suggested all users of the Field should keep a keen look-out for any unusual wildlife which could be used to advantage in preserving its status. The two Committee members monitoring the Fields are Dave King and Mark deQuervain.

Residents' email addresses would be collected after the meeting.

### **Farnborough Airport**

TAG was appealing against Rushmoor's rejection decision. Committee member, Graham Leach, explained that this appeal started on 28<sup>th</sup> May but with the appointment of the new government and new ministers being involved, this decision could well be delayed. Some members of the meeting felt the expansion was for the good, with local employment, and others felt it was inevitable. The most vociferous objectors were the Mytchett and Church Crookham residents. Mark de Quervain suggested we should add to their objections.

### **Speedwatch**

Committee Member Tony Ostime suggested that the question needed to be asked whether or not the residents wanted the scheme to carry on and if so that more volunteers were needed and was there anyone willing to join the team? No one was forthcoming. The matter would be kept under review.

### **Bishop's Meadow**

Committee Member Barry Edwards outlined the background. A Trust had been set up by Sir Ray Tindle to buy, and so protect, the riverside land beside The Wey and local residents and businesses had 2 years to buy it back from him. The initial appeal had raised £50,000. The committee were anxious to support the trust and Mr Edwards suggested that the Association would like to donate £500. Approval for this donation was carried unanimously.

### **Green Issues**

Rubbish and recycling. The local contract would be up for tender again shortly. Councillor Mrs Pat Frost said that Waverley Borough Council would be starting a pilot scheme for a weekly collection of kitchen waste which would initially be collections from people living in flats. WBC is unique in this exercise and it would start on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Committee Member David Hepper was our Green Man.

### **Unadopted Roads**

Chris Rudkin of Waverley Borough Council, is the person to contact. This area is acknowledged to be a legal minefield and a very difficult problem. Dr Marriot said there were many unadopted roads in our patch and that the legal issues needed to be ironed out and clarified. Again, residents were urged to write to their local MP Jeremy Hunt, asking for clarification on these legal implications. Councillor Mrs Pat Frost suggested residents could go to his surgery.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr Barry Edwards, presented the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

He reported that the Association had had another satisfactory year but the Association was in surplus of only £51. This reduced amount was due in the main to the economy and very low interest rates but also there had been a higher expenditure due to the costs of the installation of our website. The Autumn Meeting also incurred a higher outlay as the Association made a donation to the speaker. The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards for auditing the year's accounts.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed and this was seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### 5. Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected:	Chairman	Dr Penny Marriott
	Treasurer	Mr Barry Edwards
	Secretary	Mrs Harriet Ellis
	Committee	Mr Mark de Quervain
		Mr David Hepper
		Mr David King
		Mr Graham Leach
		Mr Tony Ostime

These were all proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected.

#### 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business  
The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Dr Penny Marriott opened the question and answer session by inviting the Town Mayor, Councillors Mrs Pat Frost, and Mr Steven Hill to answer questions from the residents.

**Q** Dennis Banks from Blenheim Mews, Beavers Road, asked if a specific sum of money was compulsorily set-aside to make good after developers had completed their development? This concerned the state of the pavements and drainage around his and his neighbour's homes.

**A** This would be found in the original agreement and contract of works.

SH said he would take a look at the site and at the drainage problems a resident was experiencing, with sand bags needed for the serious flooding which is now occurring.

PF said the specification on the original planning application was important.

The Community Highways Officer would look into this as soon as possible.

One of the residents, Mr Robert Golding, had been talking to Cllr Lucinda Fleming, but there had been no resolution yet.

PF said that flooding was a Waverley issue.

**Q** David King asked why the speed signs on Crondall Lane were not working.

**A** PF asked him to send the case number to her and she would ask the Community Highway Officer to look into it.

Robert Golding commented that the plastic soffits and window surrounds on the sheltered housing opposite the Art College were filthy and in need of attention.

**Q** Why were such massive lorries and their trailers allowed to drive through Farnham Town Centre?

PF said there were two issues. The signage, directing vehicles away from the town centre and LORRDs – Lorries Off Rural Roads campaign.

Signs as far afield as Odiham were in place to try to direct vehicles away from the town centre and on to alternative routes, but the roads through the town centre were A roads and major highways.

Re: LORRs, evidence needed to be collected to provide proof that there was a problem. Residents could approach SCC to do that.

**Q.** A resident complained of about the parking at night on both sides of West Street, saying that it made navigation very difficult.

**A.** PF said they would be reviewing the parking at the end of the year. Residents should let PM, the Chairman, know of any observations.

**Q.** Why were so many of our roads not cleared in the snow this winter?

**A.** Farnham had had the heaviest snow-fall in the borough.

P1 roads were kept open. (A3 and A31 have to be kept clear).

P2 roads are roads which are kept clear by decisions made by traffic people in Kingston. However, they do not necessarily know the local area hot-spots.

Local councillors had not been consulted which P2 roads were the most important.

Surrey was well stocked with salt but the Government requisitioned this reserve for redistribution around other areas in the UK.

The outcome of a survey taken by Surrey C.C. was that for an improved service, there would be more consultation with local representatives and councillors.

**Q.** Was WBC compensated?

**A.** Probably not!

**Q.** Matthew Elliot asked how the East Street Development was progressing.

**A.** SH said that the developers were having difficulty raising the money. Once funds are more readily available, Farnham Town Centre is high on the list.

Mr Miller challenged this statement. He asked if it was a good thing.

PF reminded the audience that the developers had planning permission.

Asked about a time limit, SH said that the long stop date was being renegotiated.

Not everyone was happy with this state of affairs.

**Q.** Why was there such a dreadful stench from the sewage works?

**A.** This is an on-going saga and Thames Water has not carried out the necessary maintenance.

They are under pressure from WBC to rectify this situation.

DH commented that the level of effluent was added to by Bordon Eco Town which did not have appropriate capacity to cope.

PF said that all the local councillors are united in talking to Hampshire about funds and money for increased local infrastructure and support, once development of the Bordon Eco Town begins.

PF cautioned every one of the smells that the proposed composter and recycling plant in the Sands would emit and how this would affect the whole of the Farnham area.

She said the plant would cover a 12 acre site, would be the largest plant in the UK and involve a huge number of heavy goods vehicles every day. It would impact on Farnham enormously.

**Q.** BE asked if the recycling of plastic bottles could be clarified and simplified.

He suggested the 'numbers' of the bottles (found on the base of the bottle) that were acceptable for recycling could be clearly identified.

DH suggested these numbers might be writ large on the sides of the refuse lorries.

One problem is that there is inadequate facility for the volume involved.

Dr Marriot closed the discussion at 9.15 pm and thanked the Town Mayor and Councillors very much for their contribution and for attending.