

NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 29th August 2017 at 8 pm

Present:

Dennis Banks
Penny Marriott (PM)
Keith Miller (KM)
Julie Russ (JR)
John Williamson (JW)

Apologies: Stephen Spence, Stewart Edge, David King

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes for the AGM and the committee meeting before it are not yet available.

Treasurer's report: (DB)

The balance of the business account is £5,362.69 and that of the treasurer's account is £260.48. The AGM took £262.10 and £31.20 was spent on nibbles. Website costs of £50.99 have been paid and £14 has been deposited in the bank.

Website news (KM)

The website is occasionally updated but there is little to go on to it. It is worth having as a resource and about 100 a people a week visit it. It was not possible to persuade local schools to use it as a platform, eg, for advertising school events. Reports of meetings of the Farnham Society would be useful as would a link to the Town Council website and for the Town Council to have a link to ours. It was suggested that our meetings could be advertised in one of the free magazines, but the details would have to be sent off one month in advance.

Collectors and New Members

We could do with new members and collectors and it would be useful to have a list of members' e-mail addresses. It was suggested that we could try and get new members by dropping cards through doors and these could also request e-mail addresses. It is quite complicated to send postcards through the post office and it is easier to deliver by hand. PM will draft a card and send it to the committee for comment. A request could be put on the website for existing members to let us have their e-mail addresses so that the newsletter and information about meetings, etc, could be sent by e-mail. There would have to be an assurance that addresses would be used for this purpose and no others and would not be given to other people/organisations. A form could be put on the website for members to complete.

Autumn Meeting

Dave King has spoken to the Air Ambulance service and they said they would be willing to provide a speaker for the meeting, but it needs to be confirmed. PM will obtain the confirmation. PM will produce a newsletter and get it to DB at least a couple of weeks before the meeting to allow sufficient time for it to be delivered.

Local Plans and the Neighbourhood Plan (JW)

The Neighbourhood Plan went through a referendum and 88% of people voted in favour of it. On 28th July it was accepted by Waverley Borough Council and now carries full weight. The Waverley local plan was inspected by the inspector who recognised that Waverley Borough Council contributes to the housing quota in the area made up of Guildford, Waverley and Woking. Guildford is behind Waverley because of problems with roads and Woking is 1,440 short of its quota. The inspector said therefore that Waverley will have to include those 1,440 houses in its local plan. The inspector's points have been accepted by Waverley Borough

Action

PM?

PM

PM

Council and the Council has said that, as the plans for the Dunsfold site are being reviewed, the rest of the Borough will have to take these 1,440 houses with Farnham taking another 450. A press release was issued which went to the executive last Monday. The motion to the executive was to note the comments and agree that they have gone out to consultation. The decision on the location of the housing will not be made by Waverley, but by the inspector. It has not been identified where Farnham's extra 450 houses will be built and, although Farnham already has a plan, developers will be pushing to build this extra quota. JW said that he and 2 other councillors would call in the motion for scrutiny. A lot of people around the Borough will have issues with extra housing quotas. We could be sacrificing greenfield sites in order to meet a hypothetical housing figure and the sensible thing to do would be to build them at Dunsfold. Many things can happen over 15 years, but this would give some certainty.

JW

The whole of Farnham needs to speak with one voice and support the Neighbourhood Plan. A list of points could be made and Residents Associations and the Town Council should be brought on board. Until the Local Plan gets made the Neighbourhood Plan has full weight, but when the local plan is made it could be over-ridden. The views of Farnham residents on the housing numbers should be made known to the inspector and, hopefully, the extra housing will be sited at Dunsfold.

The detailed application for the Hop Fields is going to the next joint planning committee, which may be in September, but there are still problems and Surrey is holding up some information. This will be for the full, final planning permission. The Folly Hill and Waverley Lane applications are still with the Secretary of State.

A planning application for a house situated opposite Keith's property comes before the planning committee tomorrow. It is in direct conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan.

There has been a lot of discussion about pedestrianisation in Farnham. A small scheme, which is not 24 hour, has been supported by Jeremy Hunt. The scheme was passed to SCC to see if it could work and they promised that they were considering it. There is now a document which bears little resemblance to the scheme that was voted on. The new scheme directs traffic coming into Farnham into car parks. This will create issues for people travelling around Farnham, for example, to get to the station from the west of Farnham one would have to travel along the bypass to the Shepherd and Flock, go right around the roundabout and back to turn left. Lorries will not be able to get into the town. The scheme would make Farnham into a destination town for shopping, etc. A local committee formed of Surrey and Waverley councillors, asked why Farnham should go ahead with a consultation on a pedestrianisation when there is no money available for the scheme. The money should be available before the consultation is carried out.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 16th November at JR's house, 66 Crondall Lane.