

North West Farnham Residents Association

Autumn Meeting and Talk

'The Castle

Past, Present and Future'

By Jeff Toms

**Wednesday 5th October 2011 8 pm
St Francis Hall (off Three Stiles Road)**

Dear Member

We are very lucky this year to have a talk about one of the Treasures of our area, the Castle. Jeff Toms is Marketing Director and has been at the Castle for 12 years and he is in a really good position to tell us about the present developments at the Castle and what they have in mind for the future. It should be a very interesting talk so please come along and also let us know your thoughts in the following discussion. The cost is £2.00 per head including wine.

Anyone who would like to come but needs some extra help or transport can phone our secretary, Harriet Ellis, on 01252 714480.

Chair and Committee Report

Almost everything that we said about planning and the fields has been overtaken by events in the 4 months since the last Newsletter. The Draft Local Development Framework or LDF which will be the basis for planning and development in Farnham and the rest of Waverley in the next years has been sent back to the drawing board in the light of the new Localism Bill which the coalition is putting forward. It is impossible to overestimate the impact that this will have on development in this area and especially for the green field sites such as the College Fields. If the bill goes through as expected at present **the presumption for every planning application that goes into Waverley will be to allow development unless a local plan is produced which protects the area.**

As previously reported the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment included several sites within North West Farnham which have been identified as shown in their consultation report. The areas of contention, CON016 (the college fields), and CON73 and 77 on the Coxbridge entrance to Farnham are already in this assessment and so we will have to continue to be super vigilant about the final development plan and also any future planning applications. We won't know until the publication of the final LDF what their designation will finally be but even if their development is not policy it does not mean that developers cannot put in applications so we will have to watch the planning applications very closely over the next few years.

We need a two pronged attack.

Firstly we need to make our feelings known in writing to our MP Jeremy Hunt. I think it is ironic that a government policy to give more power to local people seems to result in completely the opposite effect on such an important matter. Anyone who has tried to get a child into a school or travelled along the potholed roads or been involved in the daily traffic queues in our area will not need telling

that almost any new housing will put an almost intolerable strain on the already creaking infrastructure of the town. It is not sufficient to put all the burden of protection on the local authorities in order to protect us from a government law. Surely the government Law should protect us and the local government should implement this. We need to voice our concern over the idea that development should take precedence in planning matters The more people who write stating their views the more ammunition it will give to Mr. Hunt to put these views forward in parliament. Secondly I would like encourage all members to contact our Waverley local government representatives to urge them to place some protection on the areas of North West Farnham that are threatened under these new conditions. We are a green and pleasant area and we must fight to keep it that way. The addresses are shown below.

It has never been more important to make your feelings known to those you chose to represent you.

If you have any other matters you would like to raise at the meeting please let us know and I am looking forward to seeing you all on October 5th.

Penny Marriott

September 2011.

Jeremy Hunt (MP)	Paddy Blagden (Waverley)	Ian Sampson (Waverley)
2 Royal Parade Tilford Road Hindhead, GU26 6TD huntj@parliament.uk	3 Old Compton Lane Farnham GU9 8BS patrick.blagden@waverley.gov.uk	18 Kiln Lane Lower Bourne Farnham Surrey GU10 3LS ian.sampson@waverley.gov.uk