

North West Farnham Residents Association

Autumn Meeting and Talk

'William Cobbett - A Farnham Man'

By Dr. Richard Thomas

**Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 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 Farnham's most famous sons in the year before the 250th anniversary of his birth. Dr. Thomas is a member of the Cobbett society and a well known lecturer. There will be lots of activities regarding Cobbett going on in the next year so please come along, find out what it is all about and enjoy what should be a very interesting talk. As usual there will be an open session afterwards so that we can hear your views on other matters and discuss the latest news. This should start at around 8.45 – 9.00 pm. 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

As you know the new Localism Bill is now in place alongside the National Planning Policy Framework. 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 Beavers Road Hop 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, CON 016 (the college or Beavers Road Hop fields), and CON 73 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 from Waverley Borough Council, the Town Council's local or Neighbourhood Plan and also any future planning applications. We won't know until the publication of the final LDF what the designation of the Beavers Road Hop fields will finally be but even if their development is not policy it does not mean that the developers cannot put in applications so we will have to watch the planning applications very closely over the next few years.

We still need to make our feelings known in writing, via post or email, to our local representatives and 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 in or near the centre will put an intolerable strain on the already creaking infrastructure of the town. We need to voice the idea that development **should not** take precedence in planning matters. The more people who write stating their views the more ammunition it will give to your representatives to put these views forward in the council and parliament. I would like encourage all members contact our local government representatives to urge them to place some protection on the areas of North West Farnham that are under threat under these new conditions. Our historic green spaces make ours a green and pleasant area and we must fight to keep it that way. The addresses are shown below.

It continues to be important to make your feelings known to those you chose to represent you.

Jeremy Hunt (MP)	Paddy Blagden (Waverley and Farnham Town)	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

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 24th.

Penny Marriott

September 2012.