

North West Farnham Residents Association

Annual General Meeting and Councillors Forum

Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 8 pm

St Francis Hall (off Three Stiles Road)

Dear Members and Local Residents

You are invited to this year's Annual General meeting which will be followed after a short break by a chance to ask questions of your local councillors. Councillors Paddy Blagden (Farnham Town Council and Waverley Borough Council) and Pat Frost (Surrey County Council) are attending so we do have our three councils represented.

Anyone who would like to come but needs some extra help or transport can phone the chairman, Penny Marriott, on 01252 714489.

Chair and Committee Report

Farnborough Airport

Recent information from TAG, the airports owners, seems to indicate that the number of flights over Farnham will increase and bigger planes will be used in the future. There is also a change of flight path so that more planes will pass over North and North West Farnham. The Association has put a comment in to the consultation objecting to this on the grounds of noise and we will be informed of the final outcome. It is not expected that the increase in the number of flights will be rapid but it will still need to be watched over the coming years.

Speed Watch

The Association continues to support the Speed Watch volunteers who continue to brave all weathers to man the speed gun on Crondall Lane. It has been shown the presence of community speed watchers does act as a deterrent to speeding motorists and many thanks go to Chris Cleland, who organises the volunteers. Any new recruits would be welcomed and help keep the pressure off those doing the work at present.

Website and Facebook

The NWFRA website continues to be well used so please help us to tackle issues which matter to you and keep our website current by logging on and sending your comments and observations for inclusion on our committee agenda and on the website. We would particularly like some new photographs for our photo page. Also remember our Facebook page so if you use Facebook please log on and send us your comments. The website has a link to Facebook. The address of our website is **nwfarnham.org.uk**

Many thanks go to Keith Miller, our webmaster, and Guy Stephens, who runs the Facebook page.

Environmental Health

Some of our residents have contacted us over the increase in dog owners who are allowing their dogs to foul the pavements in some parts of our area. It is very difficult to approach some dog owners but allowing your dog to foul footpaths, especially around the school area is an offence and there are two things you can do if it affects your property. One is to put a prominent notice up on your property which can be obtained from Keep Britain Tidy either by letter or from www.KeepBritainTidy.org. If all else fails and you wish to take action against a dog owner who has not cleaned up after their dog, you should note what happened as soon as possible. Include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog, a description of the dog, plus details of the date, time and place of the offence. Contact your local authority (Waverley) and ask for details of their dog control procedures. Clearly describe the place being fouled and ask how the authority takes enforcement action. If fouling occurs at regular times, it may be possible for a dog warden or officer to witness the fouling and take action accordingly. In many cases the local authority will warn the offender before taking legal action and this warning may be sufficient to deter further offences.

Planning

I looked back over what I wrote at the last AGM and I find that I am still writing the same things – but that the risk of greenfield development is now much greater. As we reported last year the new Localism Bill is now in place alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However Waverley's key Local Plan was rejected in 2013 largely because it underestimated 'housing need' and initial indications are that it will have to plan for double the previous number. As every planning application for development that goes into Waverley will be now be judged against the NPPF without the constraints of a local plan – the risk of greenfield developments, on sites which could have been protected by a local plan, is now significantly higher. As previously reported the sites within North West Farnham which have been put forward by the landowners for development include the Beavers Road Hop fields and the entrance to Farnham by the Coxbridge Roundabout. The Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan will be finalized (to be put to a local referendum) soon – and their draft Plan, and the survey which they carried out, suggested that this would probably try fully to protect the Hop Fields and limit any development at Coxbridge. The situation will remain very unclear until Waverley's new Local Plan is established (in 2015): they will be rebuilding this plan from this summer and the committee is watching for proposals vigilantly so as to do what it can to influence these plans. A key issue is to persuade Waverley that they should include the brownfield site at Dunfold Aerodrome in their new plan, and plan to put significant housing numbers there.

Whatever the situation with the development of these local plans, developers can put in new applications so we will all need to continue to watch out for future planning applications and give our comments on these to Waverley as they arise. Many thanks go to Tony Ostone and Stewart Edge who are working very hard to keep abreast of both planning applications in our area and council business so that we are not surprised by anything.

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 June 18th.

Penny Marriott

May 2014.