

North West Farnham Residents Association

Autumn Meeting and Talk

'Exploring the Solar System Part 2'

By Dr. Penny Marriott

Thursday 20th October 2016 at 7.30 pm, St Francis Hall (off Three Stiles Road)

Dear Members and Local Residents

This year the talk at our October meeting is again given by myself, the chairman, Penny Marriott. As I said previously, I have worked in aerospace for many years, both in the UK and abroad in the US and guested on Woman's Hour. Our view of the Solar system has changed a great deal in a very short space of time and I hope to give everyone a personal view both backwards and forwards to the future of exploration of our own solar system. Please note the slightly earlier than usual start time.

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 refreshments. 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

The Farnham Neighbourhood final proposed plan is now in the public arena so please go to the Farnham Town council website and the Waverley Borough Council website where you can read it. The consultation on it closed on Oct 3rd. NWFRA's comments have been prepared by our planning guru, Stewart Edge, and can be summarized as below.

1. Landscape protection

A wide sweep of land from Farnham Castle across to the River Wey is defined as 'Area of Great Landscape Value' AGLV in the Local Plan 2002. This area was reviewed in a 2008 Surrey Landscape review and specified as 'amber' – meaning that some but not all of the area was of sufficient quality for landscape (AONB) protection. The neighbourhood plan fails to take full account of the landscape assessments of the areas in North West Farnham which have been carried out for Waverley in the August 2014 AMEC Landscape Reviews. These reviews identified AMEC areas FN6 (excluding the Coxbridge development site) and FN7 (excluding the Hopfields development site) as High Sensitivity, which in the AMEC study's own words means that *'the area is unlikely to be able to accommodate development without extensive degradation of character and*

value. Mitigation is unlikely to be able to address potential landscape issues'. An amendment should be made to Policy FNP10 (d) and Map E as follows: Map E be amended to include areas of High Landscape Sensitivity, whether of High or Medium Landscape Value; and in particular the areas defined in the August 2014 AMEC Landscape Study.

2. Housing Site Allocations

The number of houses planned for Coxbridge has increased from 250 to 350 now. We believe that the density will be found to be inconsistent with the design brief for the site – which requires that the existing buildings are maintained; that existing hedgerows are maintained; that buffers are provided on all sides of the site; and that buildings are 2 storey maximum. Also that to be in line with policy FNP27 1 Hectare of open space (excluding children's play areas) should be provided. The plan gives support to a possible Enterprise and Incubation Hub at the University of the Creative Arts, however it allocates no land to the proposal. NWFRA would not support the proposal until it is clear which site is proposed – or if it is of a scale which fits within the previously developed site at UCA Falkner Road.

3. Infra structure Impact

NWFRA applauds the aims of mitigating congestion in the town and preventing worsening of poor air quality but doubts in the light of recent planning decisions that these will be used to stop development – or to delay development until realistic mitigating transport developments are in place. The Coxbridge and Hopfields (already granted) developments alone will add about 1200 people to the area – and at least 15 pupils of each age group to both Potters Gate and Weydon schools. Whilst Surrey CC have said that existing schools can expand on their sites, both schools have recently expanded considerably for existing demand and would seem to be close to their maximums.

The final proposed Waverley Local Plan has also been published and was also open for consultation comments until Oct 3rd. NWFRA have made a comment on Coxbridge similar to that in 2) above and also argued for 3400 houses at Dunsfold Aerodrome in line with Waverley's earlier consultation (with 400 less in both Farnham and Cranleigh).

Both plans will go to a review by a government inspector (probably in early 2017) where the comments should be taken into account. Stewart Edge plans to attend the inspection hearings and argue (in so far as the inspector allows) for the NWFRA changes.

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 22nd.

Penny Marriott

September 2015.