

Help clean up the bloomin' litter

This spring, Farnham Town Council is supporting Keep Britain Tidy's 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick.

The campaign aims to encourage a country-wide tidy up in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in June.

Farnham's litter pick will take place on Saturday 5 March. Anybody who would like to help tidy up Farnham town centre is invited to meet at the Council Offices in South Street between 2pm and 4pm.

Councillor Stephen Hill, Lead Member for Community Enhancement says: "Many hands make light work so we would love to see a good turnout for this royal litter pick! We will provide all litter-picking equipment and will point volunteers in the direction of areas that could benefit from some special attention."

To take part, volunteers are asked to [register their interest](#).

Saturday 5 March will also see the launch of the Big Pick Week, which is organised as part of Farnham in Bloom.

This biannual event will be held from Saturday 5 to 12 March 2016 and is aimed at getting together local groups, organisations, schools, businesses, residents' associations and individuals to litter pick in their local area.

Councillor Stephen Hill says: "Big Pick Week is suitable for people who want to tackle a particular 'grot spot'. In the past, we have had groups of children tidy up the area outside their school and somebody else who clears up the discarded litter from around a particular area where she is fond of sitting. The litter picks do not need to cover a vast area as every piece of rubbish picked up will make a big improvement to the appearance of the area. Big Pick Week is always well supported and I would like to thank in advance anybody who is planning to get involved."

To take part in Big Pick Week, participants will need to choose a day for their litter pick and email the details to Farnham Town Council at bloominlitter@farnham.gov.uk. The Town Council will then provide all the necessary equipment and make arrangements to pick up the sacks of collected rubbish.

New Residents' guide 2016

The 2016 Official Residents' Guide has been delivered to homes in Farnham.

The Guide is packed full of useful information including details about events, councillors' contact details and how to enjoy the best of living in Farnham. It also includes information about the services provided by Farnham Town Council

and how it spends its share of the council tax.

Councillor John Ward, Leader of the Council says: "In 2016/17, £59.83 of the council tax paid by people living in a Band D property will come to Farnham Town Council. We aim to spend this money on continuing to deliver quality services to residents and enhancing the town so it continues to be a desirable place to live.

"I often feel that the Town Council is in the enviable position of being responsible for providing the services that really do add to people's quality of life. For example, I know from conversations with allotment holders how rewarding they find it to be able to grow their own produce and how much visitors enjoy our beautiful floral displays and the variety of events we put on. The events form a large part of what we do and there is no doubt in my mind that the thousands of people who attend contribute greatly to the local economy."

The Residents' Guide details Farnham Town Council's aims for 2016, which include continuing to work with the community towards the completion of the town's neighbourhood plan, supporting community organisations and improving the environment with the town's entry into South and South East and Britain in Bloom.

Anybody who hasn't yet received a copy of the Residents' Guide can see it [online](#) or request one by emailing customer.services@farnham.gov.uk or calling 01252 712667.

A first for Farnham

Representatives from the suppliers of Farnham Town Council's new electric hybrid vehicle have visited Farnham to see the vehicle in action.

Farnham Town Council is the first council in the country to have ordered a Goupil hybrid electric utility vehicle, which was supplied by Dorset-based Locators. The new vehicle is fully operational and is being used to reach parts of the town's cemeteries and allotments, which are only usually accessible on foot. The tipper-style truck allows for the easy transportation of materials needed for repairs and maintenance as well as bulky items such as gazebos, chairs and equipment for outdoor events.

To highlight the work of Farnham Town Council, the main body of the vehicle has been wrapped in vinyl, which has been overprinted with photos illustrating the range of services supported by the vehicle. The vinyl wrapping was carried out by specialists City Dressing.

Both representatives from City Dressing and Locators were impressed by what they saw. *Symon McDowell* Regional Sales Manager at Locators said he thought the vinyl wrapping was 'very effective' and *Ian Hearsey* Production Manager at City Dressing expressed his surprise at the compactness of the vehicle.

The vehicle combines an internal combustion engine with an electric motor. As well as being environmentally friendly, it is also very cost effective as it is exempt from road tax and uses very little fuel.

Caption: Left to right – Michal Lagiewka and Kevin Taitt from Farnham Town Council; Ian Hearsey, City Dressing; Cllr Stephen Hill; Symon McDowell, Locators and Cllr John Ward.

New stallholder at the market

A new stallholder will be making an appearance at the Farnham Farmers' Market on Sunday 28 February.

Bilton Demon will be selling biltong, which is described as a healthy and nutritious energy snack made from the finest silverside cuts of New Forest beef.

The market will also welcome back regular stallholders Pure Delights, Mapleleaf and Ted's Gardens who are returning after a short new year break.

Farmers' Markets are a great way to support the local economy. Councillor Jill Hargreaves, Lead Member for Tourism and Events says: "Despite it being winter, there will still be lots of tasty and fresh local seasonal produce direct from the producer at the Farnham Farmers' Market. February is the season for Bramley apples, cauliflower, kale and early spring lamb – the perfect ingredients for a warming Sunday roast!"

Many of the stallholders will have samples so that shoppers can try before they buy. February's charity tea tent will be hosted by the Abbeyfield Society and local musician Patrick Webber will be playing guitar.

The market will take place between 10am and 1.30pm at Central Car park. More information can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk/farmersmarket.

Through to Britain in Bloom

Farnham Town Council is celebrating the news that Farnham in Bloom has again been nominated to take part in this year's Britain in Bloom UK finals.

South East in Bloom nominated Farnham to the national finals of the competition following the regional stage of judging in 2015. Farnham is the only town in Surrey to be taking part and will be representing the south east.

This is the second time in three years that Farnham has been selected to take part in the Royal Horticultural Society's competition, which aims to find the highest examples of environmental responsibility, community participation and horticultural achievement. The theme for this year's Britain in Bloom

is 'greening up' grey spaces and the focus will be on how gardens and green areas can support health and happiness.

Councillor Stephen Hill, Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom says: "We are thrilled that Farnham has been chosen to enter Britain in Bloom 2016 and are honoured to be able to show not only what we do but, more importantly, the contribution made by the wider community.

"Although I am sure that nobody would disagree that the flower containers and hanging baskets enhance the town centre and surrounding villages, Farnham in Bloom is about so much more than flowers. Over the past 26 years, one of the major benefits we have seen grow is pride of place. Through the efforts of volunteers, less desirable areas of land have been tidied up and enhanced by the planting of trees and spring bulbs. Wildlife havens have been created and a cross-section of the community has had the opportunity to learn new skills and be part of something positive. We have many ideas for this year's entry and would like to see lots of people getting involved."

Anybody who is interested in being part of this year's entry is invited to an information event at Farnham Town Council on Thursday 25 February between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. To register, interested parties should email lara.prior@farnham.gov.uk.

Other towns taking part in the Large Town category include Ryde, Congleton and Kendal. The Britain in Bloom judges will visit Farnham in August.

Transport review: have your say

Surrey County Council are holding a public consultation on [proposed changes](#) to local bus services. Residents and stakeholders can have their say on these proposals until Monday 14 March 2016 when the consultation closes.

Over the next few weeks, a team of officers from Surrey County Council and representatives from service operators will be taking [a roving bus to locations in Surrey to meet residents](#). This will give residents an opportunity to find out about the proposed changes to local bus services. The team will be handing out consultation brochures and encouraging residents to submit their views on how the changes might affect them.

The bus will visit four locations in Surrey all in areas where there are proposed changes to services including Farnham.

Friday 26 February 2016

13:30pm- 15:30pm Farnham – Bus Stop C, West Street, by Holland and Barrett

Residents can also take part in the consultation.

- Online at surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview
- By phoning 0300 200 1003 (SMS 07527 182 861) to request a copy of the questionnaire sent straight to their door, including in large print and easy

read formats.

- By picking up a copy of the questionnaire from libraries and local council offices in all areas of Surrey where there are proposed changes to services.
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Fresh ideas for breakfast

The [Farnham Farmers' Market](#) will be held on Sunday 24 January and will offer shoppers fresh, healthy food to enjoy during Breakfast Week, which is the last week of January.

Research shows that during the week, people are more likely to eat wholegrain cereal followed by toast with spread. To provide shoppers with quick to prepare, tasty, healthy and satisfying alternatives, Farnham Town Council will be giving away free breakfast recipe books at its information stand.

Councillor Jill Hargreaves, Lead Member for Tourism and Events says: "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and offers many health benefits yet it is the one meal that most people skip.

"Breakfast Week is a chance to sample and enjoy some of the wonderful breakfast ingredients produced by our [Farmers' Market stallholders](#). Delicious pork sausages, plump rashers of bacon, free range eggs with a deep yellow yolk, fresh bread, fruity jam, porridge and muesli made from fresh nutritious grains are just some of the ingredients guaranteed to give you a good start to the day."

The Farmers' Market will be held in Central Car Park from 10am to 1.30pm. The charity tea tent will be hosted by the 2nd Ash Vale Guides and music will be played by Kai Jensen. More information can be found on the [Farmers' Market pages](#).