

Neighbourhood Plan hearing

A public hearing will take place on 1 October (10am to 4pm) at Farnham Town Council so that an independent examiner can gather evidence from local representatives, developers and other interested parties about Farnham's revised Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan was reviewed shortly after its adoption in 2017 following the setting of a new housing target by Waverley Borough Council. As part of the review, Farnham Town Council consulted with the local community to identify suitable sites for an additional 450 homes. The amended plan also includes a new end date to make it consistent with the Waverley Local Plan, and some minor text amendments.

At the hearing, which members of the public can attend, the inspector will hear from 12 invited parties. The examiner, Derek Stebbing, makes the decision on who is invited to speak and a full list is published on the Town Council's website. They include representatives from Farnham and Waverley councils as well as a number of property developers.

The purpose of the hearing is to enable the independent examiner to determine whether the changes to the plan meet all legal and procedural requirements. Neighbourhood Plan examinations are usually conducted with written representations and site visits but on this occasion, Mr Stebbing decided that a public hearing is needed to look at some of the issues in more depth and to enable all those with a specific interest in the plan to have their say. The hearing will be held from 10am to 4pm in the Council Chamber at Farnham Town Council, South Street, Farnham, GU9 7RN. Full details of the hearing, including the process of the hearing and background information can be seen on the [Farnham Neighbourhood Plan pages](#).

Mayor visits twin town

Friendship ties with Andernach in Germany have been reaffirmed by the Mayor of Farnham during a recent visit to Farnham's twin town.

The visit by the Mayor of Farnham Councillor Pat Evans and her consort David Evans coincided with the official celebration of the 40th anniversary between Andernach and Ekeren in Belgium.

During her visit, the Mayor experienced Andernach's version of the Farnham Flash

Festival. For one night, Andernach transforms into a cultural hot spot with 24 town centre venues hosting a variety of live performances.

The Mayor also visited Cologne Cathedral with representatives of both town twinning associations, and a local Andernach community development which is a project where residents support each other to build new homes.

Speaking about her visit, Councillor Pat Evans said: "Andernach is a beautiful town in the Rhine Valley and is a similar size to Farnham. We've been twinned since 1992 and I think that perhaps now more than ever, it is even more important for us to maintain and strengthen our friendship links. I was made to feel very welcome and I would urge anybody who is interested in finding out more about this part of Europe to become a member of the Farnham Andernach Friendship Association."

The Farnham Andernach Friendship Association fosters ties between Farnham and Andernach and aims to promote international understanding. There are opportunities for clubs, societies, businesses, families and individuals to build contacts and make exchange visits with the people of Andernach. Each year Farnham Town Council continues to host a visit from Andernach's secondary school.

Through Andernach, Farnham also enjoys informal links with other communities in Europe and beyond including: St Amand-les-Eaux in France, Ekeren in Belgium, Stockerau in Austria, Zella Mehlis in Germany and Dimona in Israel.

A gintastic time is had by all

Gin mixed with a Michael Bubl  tribute band proved to be the perfect ingredients for a good night out at this year's Farnham Gin Festival.

Hundreds of people came along to the two-night annual celebration of Britain's favourite tipple which was organised by Farnham Town Council with support from The Castle Inn.

Over 100 gins were available from national brands through to very local distillers whose artisan product is defined by factors such as their geography, geology and native natural ingredients.

Speaking after the Gin Festival, Councillor Alan Earwaker, Lead Member for Tourism and Events said: "There were so many types of gin, flavoured with every

imaginable botanical – the variety was quite amazing.

“Farnham Town Council aims to hold events that cater for all interests and age groups. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting the Gin Festival. It’s clear that the gin renaissance of recent years is showing no sign of abating in Farnham!”

Throughout the evening, the distillers gave talks about their brand while gin aficionados attended masterclasses to learn more about their drink of choice.

The Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans attended the first night of the festival and was tasked with judging the best dressed stall. She awarded joint first prize to Nibbs Gin and The Gin Kitchen who shared the £150 prize money.

Farnham Gin Festival was supported by gold sponsors Farnham Castle and local accountants the TC Group with bronze sponsors Andrew Lodge Estate Agents and BBS for Magimix.

In Bloom nets gold awards

The results of South and South East in Bloom have been announced and Farnham has come out top with a string of gold awards.

Farnham in Bloom was awarded Gold and crowned regional category winner in both the town centre and large town categories. Badshot Lea Cemetery improved on last year’s Silver Gilt with a Gold award in the Small Cemetery category and West Street received Silver Gilt in the Large Cemetery category.

The judges awarded gold accolades to the Bishop’s Meadow Trust and Victoria Garden. In the It’s Your Neighbourhood category, space2grow and Victoria Garden were presented with awards for being Outstanding and Hale Community Centre’s Get Growing Gardening project was awarded for progressing from Advancing in 2018 to Thriving in 2019. Victoria Garden completed their hat trick when they were honoured with the Chairman’s award.

Councillor

Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Community Enhancement was at the awards and said: “Waiting to hear the judges’ verdict on Farnham in Bloom was a tense

moment but I feel overjoyed and extremely proud of the result. These awards belong to everybody who has taken part in a litter pick, supported a Bloomin' Kids workshop, volunteered to take part in an In Bloom activity or been involved in one of the wonderful community organisations that strive to improve our environment.

"Farnham

in Bloom reaches every village and neighbourhood in the Farnham area. The flowers bring pleasure to residents and visitors and the broad range of In Bloom activities have such a positive impact on those who take part.

"It is

only through the hard work, dedication and support of our volunteers, staff, sponsors and the community that we have been able to achieve this magnificent result. I give my warm congratulations and thanks to everybody who has been involved and in particular, I would like to give special thanks to our sponsors and especially The Farnham Institute Charity who came on board this year as our new Principal Sponsor."

Although

judging took place in July, work has already started on Farnham in Bloom 2020. Earlier this month volunteers planted on 13,500 plug plants for winter displays and in October they will plant daffodil bulbs in roadside verges and at prominent junctions. Anybody who knows of an area that would benefit from some spring colour should email their suggestion to lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk.

As well

as having entered South and South East in Bloom, Farnham is also competing for gold in Britain in Bloom. The results of the national competition will be announced on 25 October.EN

South and South East in Bloom Awards 2019

Town

Centre category –
Gold and category winner

Large

Town category – Gold
and category winner

In Your Neighbourhood

Hale

Community Centre's Get Growing Gardening project – Level 4 Thriving

Victoria

Garden – Level 5 Outstanding

Space2grow

– Level 5 Outstanding

Large Conservation Area category

Bishop's

Meadow Trust – Gold

Small Cemetery category

Badshot

Lea Cemetery – Gold

Large Cemetery category

West

Street Cemetery – Silver Gilt

Small Park of the Year category

Victoria

Garden – Gold

Chairman's

award – Victoria

Garden

Volunteers needed for moth count

Volunteers are invited to take part in a moth trapping session on Friday 27 September at West Street cemetery

in Farnham.

No experience or special knowledge is needed and by taking part volunteers will play an important part in measuring how healthy the local moth population is. The session is taking place to complement national Moth Night activities planned for 26 to 28 September.

“Moths are a really important indicator of the health of our environment. They are very sensitive to change so the number and range of species we measure in a monitoring session give us very helpful clues to changes in our environment. Taking part in our moth trapping session is a practical and fun way of helping our environment and supporting local wildlife,” says Councillor Carole Cockburn, Lead Member for Cemeteries.

The session will begin around 7.30pm and last until approximately 11pm depending on conditions. To take part, volunteers should wear warm clothing and shoes suitable for wet grass, a chilly night and the weather conditions. They should also bring a torch, and a portable seat is advisable but not essential. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Farnham Biodiversity Group has organised the event and will post the results on their website at www.farnhambap.org.uk/. All moths will be released at the end of the count.

To register to take part, contact Farnham Town Council on 01252 712667 or email lara.miller@farnham.gov.uk giving details about how many of you would like to take part and your contact telephone number. Queries about the event can be emailed to mvangel37@gmail.com. The event is reliant on appropriate weather so volunteers' contact details are needed in case it is cancelled at short notice. Joining instructions will also be provided upon registration.

Moths and their caterpillars play a vital role in the ecosystem providing food for numerous birds, bats, frogs, spiders, hedgehogs and other small mammals. Some of the UK's favourite birds, including blue tits, rely on moths to rear their young.

Allotment Show winners

Farnham Town Council's new look allotment show gave allotment holders the chance to show off their best examples of fruit, veg and produce on 1 September.

For the first time, the show took place alongside Music in the Meadow in Gostrey Meadow, encouraging music lovers and fans of home grown produce to enjoy both events.

"While judges tasted, measured and compared their way around the dozens of entries in the allotment show, music fans danced (and picnicked) away the afternoon to a live performance from Alder Valley Brass Band," says Councillor Dickson, the Lead Member for Community Enhancement. "It was a wonderful afternoon, and I'd like to thank Kidd Rapinet for generously supporting our summer season of events."

Among the allotment show competition categories were the best root vegetables, soft fruits and squashes. The show also included categories for children to enter, plus a prize for the funniest vegetable character. Gardeners with a passion for cookery brought along chutneys and preserves using allotment ingredients as well as cakes and biscuits for the food categories.

Meg and Brian Daniels took home the Neville Watkins cup for the best dahlia while the overall Best in Show winners were Michael and Margaret Nicholls for winning the most categories including beans, courgettes, scones/biscuits and bread. A cup will be presented to the Nicholls at the annual Farnham in Bloom awards.

Meanwhile, at Music in the Meadow the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Earwaker, presented Alder Valley Brass Band with a grant of £800 which has been used to fund new banners.

Sunday marked the end of the summer season of Music in the Meadow performances, which have seen thousands of pounds raised for local good causes as a different charity hosted the tea tent for each show. Local bands have performed throughout the summer to the delight of thousands of local people.

Secret Gardens' wow judges

As judges declare the winners in this year's Farnham in Bloom Secret Gardens competition, they have praised gardeners for producing displays that are "better

than ever” despite a challenging summer of prolonged dry spells and heavy downpours.

This year’s judging saw a greater emphasis on environmental issues with judges looking for biodiversity and examples of good practice such as rainwater harvesting, peat-free compost, composting garden waste and supporting wildlife.

Councillor Sally Dickson, the Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom which is sponsored by The Farnham Institute Charity, congratulated all winners for their remarkable efforts: “Our judges were treated to displays of flourishing roses and border plants plus garden walls and fences curtained with scented white star jasmine. Deciding the winners across 10 categories has been a colossal but highly rewarding challenge.

“The judges reported how hanging baskets and patio pots looked fabulous with an abundance of colourful pelargoniums, begonias, petunias and golden creeping Jenny. There was also plenty of prime fruit and veg on display: tomato plants weighed heavily with fruit, and there were some luscious looking courgettes, lettuces, runner beans and French beans.”

Among the winners is Frank Green who won the category for best hanging basket or container, and won Gardener of the Year in 2018.

Other categories included best wildlife garden, best courtyard sponsored by The Patio Blackspot Removal Company Ltd, best vegetable garden, best large and best small garden as well as categories especially for business premises.

Judges thanked all those who entered this year’s competition and encouraged them to take part again next year. Over 40 gardeners were commended by judges. A full list is available on the Town Council website.

Winners are invited to an awards ceremony next month at Squires Garden Centre in Badshot Lea where the winner of Gardener of the Year and the Madge Green Community Gardening Award will be announced. Madge Green was one of the driving forces behind Farnham in Bloom as well as a prize-winning gardener herself, flower arranger and journalist. She died in 2017.

Three community groups are competing for the prize: space2grow, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Gardens and Get Growing @ The Bungalow at Hale Community Centre.

Notes to editors

The awards ceremony takes place on 10 October.

The full list of winners is as follows:

Secret Gardens of Farnham Awards

Best Front, Back or Small Garden

Commended

Nicola Hope

Nina Irlam

Highly Commended

Bartosz Kupisz

David Pink

Pam Epps

Patricia White

Peter Clark

Very Highly Commended

Brenda Guyver

Jacquie Heathcote

Bronze Award

Donald Larby

Silver Award

Nick & Susan Green

Gold Award

Leslie Wyld & Lorna Sutherland

Best Large Garden

Commended

Alexine Crawford

Highly Commended

Andrea & Dave Wingent

Karen Tinson

Lionel & Clare East

Bronze

Anthony Hill-Reid

Silver Award

Max & Kate Lyons

Gold Award

Penny Drew

Best Hanging Basket/Container

Commended

Mel Sefton

Highly Commended

Nick & Susan Green

Nicola Hope

Very Highly Commended

Jacqui Budd

Lionel & Clare East

Vivienne Gardiner

Bronze Award

David Pink

Silver Award

Ian & Beryl Webster

Gold Award

Frank Rhodes

Best Courtyard

Bronze Award

Jacque Heathcote

Silver Award

Ian & Beryl Webster

Gold Award

Jonathan Durham

Best Vegetable Garden

Very Highly Commended

David Pink

Nick & Susan Green

Bronze

Mel Sefton

Silver Award

Alexine Crawford

Gold Award

Martin Billett

Best Wildlife Garden

Commended

Nina Irlam

Highly Commended

Alexine Crawford

Gold Award

Ian & Beryl Webster

Best Public House/Hotel

Commended

Castle Inn

Highly Commended

The Queen's Head

The Nelson

Very Highly Commended

Shepherd & Flock

The Six Bells

Bronze Award

The Lamb

Silver Award

The Hop Blossom

Gold Award

The Albion

Best Shop Front

Silver Award

Classical Floral Designs

Gold Award

Castle Street Flowers

Best Business Premises

Gold Award

The Farnham Maltings

Thank you to 2019 sponsors

Farnham Town Council has thanked the sponsors of Farnham in Bloom 2019 for helping to make this year's campaign even more spectacular.

Led by new Principal sponsor, The Farnham Institute Charity, the main sponsors recently gathered at the sponsors' boards in South Street and saw for themselves the extent of support for the project.

The sponsors' boards include the names of every supporter who gives money or support in kind to Farnham in Bloom. In total there are some 90 sponsors who contribute over £30,000 towards Farnham in Bloom which makes a direct contribution towards improving the environment for residents, visitors and wildlife.

Councillor Sally Dickson, Lead Member for Farnham in Bloom says: "We are delighted to welcome The Farnham Institute Charity on board as our Principal sponsor for 2019 and 2020. The support we receive from our sponsors enables Farnham in Bloom to go from strength to strength and for more and more people to be involved. This year, we have introduced initiatives such as a new group of volunteers called Bloomin' Friends and a photography competition called Bloomin' Pix. I would like to thank each and every one of our sponsors for contributing towards the visual and positive benefits that Farnham in Bloom makes to our communities."

As well as having their name included on the sponsors' board in South Street, supporters also have a plaque mounted on the floral display they have sponsored. This makes sponsorship a popular choice for local businesses that want to show how much they care for their town.

Andrew Lodge who is Chairman of Trustees at the Farnham Institute Charity says: "Our aim is to support causes that are for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Farnham and there is no doubt that Farnham in Bloom ticks that box. The floral displays, projects and events that contribute towards Farnham in Bloom bring a real feelgood factor to the town that is enjoyed by many."

The main sponsors of Farnham in Bloom include: Principal sponsor – The Farnham Institute Charity, Gold sponsors – Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Graduate Landscapes, Squire's Garden Centre and The Patio Black Spot Removal Company Ltd and Silver sponsors – BBS Ltd, Bourne Wood Manor Care Home, Glendale, Net Technical Solutions and Wild Flower Turf Ltd.