



**FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Report to the Annual Town Meeting of Electors**  
**Thursday 14 March 2019**

## About Farnham Town Council

### Council

Farnham Town Council has 18 elected councillors who represent nine wards and a population of around 40,000 people.

The political make-up of the Council is:

10 Conservative

7 Farnham Residents, and

1 Liberal Democrat

Farnham Town Council meets as a Full Council nine times a year and it is at these meetings that decisions are taken. Meetings are open to the public, and there is an opportunity for public questions on any matter.

The day-to-day work of the Council is undertaken through a number of Working Groups. These groups discuss the detail of projects and future plans.

Recommendations of the working group meetings go to Full Council for final decision.

- Strategy and Finance (which has the following sub-groups):
  - Infrastructure Planning Task Group
  - Human Resources Panel
  - Assets Task Group
  - Health and Wellbeing Task group
  - Section 106 Task Group
- Cemeteries and Appeals
- Community Enhancement
- Planning and Licensing Consultative Group
- Tourism and Events

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*18 Councillors  
meet as full  
Council and serve  
on a range of  
Working Groups*

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## The Mayor of Farnham 2018/19

Councillor David Attfield is the Mayor for 2018/19 and he represents the town at civic and ceremonial functions as well as chairing Full Council meetings. The Mayor will attend around 300 community events during the Mayoral year.

Councillor David Attfield is supporting the charity Garner's Goes Bananas which is raising money to build a new activity centre for use by scout groups, youth organisations and Duke of Edinburgh Award parties.

## Services

Farnham Town Council provides many services for its residents including managing allotments and cemeteries, enhancing the town with flowers and improvements, funding CCTV and as running a year-long programme of events. During 2019/20, based on an average Band D property, each household will pay £64.49 to Farnham Town Council. This helps to fund services with the balance of the budget funded by income from services, events and sponsorship.

Farnham Town Council's services include:

- Allotments
- Annual Town Meeting of electors
- CCTV and community safety
- Christmas lights
- Civic events
- Cemeteries
- Community enhancement including:
- Farnham in Bloom
- Noticeboards
- Street furniture
- Farmers' Markets
- Graffiti removal
- Grants for community organisations
- Planning – statutory consultee
- Managing the South Street Trust
- Managing bookings for street banners above the highway
- Toilets
- Tourism and events
- Town twinning with Andernach in Germany and other friendships
- War memorials

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*In 2019/20  
residents living in  
a Band D  
property will pay  
£1.24 a week to  
Farnham Town  
Council.*

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## A look back over 2018/19

Farnham Town Council provides a variety of key public services and organises, runs, enables and supports many other activities throughout the year to make Farnham a great place to live, work and do business. The Town Council works with partners in other councils and public services as well as the town's excellent voluntary groups and active business community.

## Community Enhancement

The Community Enhancement Working Group discusses and comes up with ideas for improving projects and services which include Farnham in Bloom, allotments, graffiti removal, the community toilet scheme and street furniture. The group lobby other service providers to tackle problem areas for which they are responsible and offer to provide support in areas such as street cleaning and grounds maintenance. During 2018/19 the effort to find a solution to the problems of large commercial waste bins causing an obstruction and mess have continued.

### Farnham in Bloom

Described as being the 'best result yet', 2018 saw the town net no fewer than 14 awards at South and South East in Bloom. This included four gold awards, winner in three categories and a special award for biodiversity.

Despite its name, there is so much more to Farnham in Bloom than flowers. Each year, more and more people get involved in the campaign and 2018 was no exception.

As well as people voluntarily getting involved, Farnham Town Council facilitates a wide range of activities which appeal to a wide spectrum of interests and provides opportunities for those who may not have considered volunteering.



Activities included community litter picks, Bloomin' Kids Gardening Workshops, a dance performance involving children from several local schools, art projects, greenhouse open days, the Secret Gardens Competition and Incredible Edible which is a movement to increase the amount of food grown and eaten in towns.

Farnham Town Council contributes over £25,000 to enhance the town centre and surrounding villages through Farnham in Bloom. This was matched by over £30,000 of sponsorship and 14,000 volunteer hours. Volunteers have made a huge difference by taking part in the In Farnham in Bloom Community Group, doing litter picks, helping out at the Bloomin' Kids Gardening Workshops, participating and being active in local groups.

### Winter celebration

The annual Winter Celebration marked the end of a magnificent year. Having been previously affected by bad weather, the 2018 celebration was held indoors for the

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*Farnham Town Council has received national recognition for its achievements.*

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first time. Farnham Brass Band provided the music which was enjoyed by gardening enthusiasts, volunteers and sponsors.

### Allotments

Farnham Town Council manages nine allotments in and around Farnham. There are 85 people on the waiting list with 20 of these living outside the area. Allotment holders are encouraged to take part in Farnham in Bloom by entering competitions such as the largest pumpkin, most creative scarecrow, tallest sunflower and best plot.

A quarterly newsletter keeps tenants informed about allotment related matters. In 2019 the Allotment Show will combine with Music in The Meadow in Gostrey Meadow on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Cemeteries

Farnham Town Council has committed a significant level of resource towards improving the town's cemeteries.



The Garden of Reflection in West Street has undergone some major improvements and is now a far more befitting space for people to reflect and remember loved ones. For added peace and quiet, the Garden has been separated from the nearby allotments and greenhouses by an attractive fence and decorative trellis. The original white planting

scheme was designed to add a sense of calm and serenity. This has been enhanced by the addition of some new plants, bulbs and shrubs.

New metal railings have been installed along the boundary that runs between West Street cemetery and Bishop's Meadow. Care was taken to ensure the railings matched the existing metalwork at the front of the cemetery.

Farnham Town Council sets a high standard for the management of its cemeteries. To drive further improvement, for the first time, it was decided to enter West Street Cemetery into the Large Cemetery category of South and South East in Bloom to get ideas for further improvements. The Cemetery was awarded a Silver Gilt which was a very pleasing result. For the second year running, Badshot Lea Cemetery won Silver Gilt in the Small Cemetery category.

Work to determine the future of Hale Chapels continues with all options being explored.

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## War memorials

Silent soldiers were installed at the war memorials in Badshot Lea, Hale and Gostrey Meadow as a mark of respect for those who never made it home from the First World War.

Weybourne War memorial was rededicated in a new memorial garden funded by Farnham Town Council, the Village Hall Committee and Glendale Ltd. The main memorial plaque lists the names of 12 people who died during the Second World War and is mounted on a new marble memorial.



## Communication

Everybody has a personal preference for how they like to receive information so Farnham Town Council aims to communicate in a variety of ways.



There are opportunities for face to face contact at the information tent which is hosted by councillors at every event.

The Mayor hosts coffee mornings for each ward. A randomly selected group of residents are invited to come along and discuss what it is like to live in their particular part of Farnham.

An enewsletter is produced for those who prefer to receive news directly into their inbox. This is sent out every 4-6 weeks

with special editions when needed. Anybody can subscribe to receive the newsletter at [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk).

Social media continues to be popular with people regularly engaging with the Town Council on Twitter and Facebook.

The local media play a key part in helping Farnham Town Council share information. Press releases are issued every week and are published on the Town Council's website. The Farnham Herald and other media share many of the Town Council's press releases on their websites and social media which increases the number of people reached.

Farnham Town Council produces a regular newsletter (published in Vantage Point magazine) which is distributed to every household in the Town Council area.

In January, every household and business received a copy of the 2019 Official Residents' Guide. The guide was delivered by the Royal Mail and included a calendar of events happening in 2019, a guide to the Town Council's services, information about living in Farnham and an A-Z of services provided by the Town, Borough and County Council.

The cost of producing the guide was covered by income from advertising.

## Civic and commemorative events

The Council calendar includes a number of events that provide an opportunity to mark special occasions or to bring together members of the community such as Remembrance Sunday, the Civic Service, the Christmas Civic Carol Service, Commonwealth Day and Armed Forces Day.

In May, the Mayor unveiled a plaque on the Famous Names of Farnham wall in South Street to acknowledge the achievements of Sir Jeffrey Tate CBE alongside others who have made an impact in Farnham or further afield.

The traditional annual Farnham Venison Dinner dates back over 400 years and in 2018, the dinner marked the hundredth anniversary of votes for women, the end of the First World War and Mike Hawthorn being the first British winner of Formula One.



School children from 18 Farnham schools came together at the Gostrey Meadow war memorial to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War in a poignant and moving event, and on 11 November, large crowds of people gathered to watch the Remembrance Sunday parade start from the point of the world's first two minute silence in Castle Street and to pay their

respects to those who died in the First World War and conflicts that have happened since.

The Mayor of Farnham presented Services to Farnham Awards to 12 community heroes. The annual awards are made to individuals in recognition of their outstanding service to the community and the people of Farnham. Dance, healthcare, the environment, music and sport are just some of the areas to have benefited from the involvement of the 2019 Services to Farnham recipients.



## Tourism and events

Farnham is a sociable town and every month residents and visitors can enjoy a minimum of two events organised by Farnham Town Council.

Over 450 people got out and about to explore some of the lesser known parts of Farnham during the 2018 Farnham Walking Festival. There were 38 walks to choose from during the two-week long festival.

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*The Services to  
Farnham Awards  
recognise the  
exceptional work  
done by individuals  
to support the  
community and  
foster community  
spirit.*

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An otter trail which included 44, one metre tall otters decorated by local artists and sponsored by business were a highlight of the town last summer. The project



was adopted by the 2017/18 Mayor Councillor Mike Hodge to raise money for Woodlarks and Brightwells Gostrey Centre. The otters were auctioned and raised over £25,000. The project was run by Farnham Lions, Blooming Arts and Councillor Hodge.

The summer season of events got off to a lively start with summer temperatures enticing thousands of people along to the Spring Festival. The free family day out included sumo wrestling, Japanese drumming, pop-up craft and an afternoon of live music.

Dance in the Meadow was a celebration of the wonderful variety of dance that happens in and around Farnham. There were over 15 performances from youth, adult and professional dance groups.

Throughout the summer, music and food continued to be key themes with Picnic in the Park, the weekly Sunday afternoon Music in the Meadow concerts and the monthly Farmers' Markets.



In June, performers together hosted the Flash Festival, bringing a month of performance supported by Farnham Town Council. October was craft month and saw the town celebrate its craft heritage.



Seventeen-hundred gin lovers paid homage to their favourite tippie at the second Farnham Gin Festival. The Festival marked the start of the annual Food and Drink Festival which showcased the variety and quality of local food. For the first time, the Festival was extended into The Borough which gave more space for stalls and for visitors to browse at leisure.

The Christmas lights switch-on continues to be a popular event for families. New for 2018 was the arrival of Father Christmas on a horse-drawn carriage.

To encourage people to remember to visit Cambridge Place during the redevelopment of The Woolmead and East Street, Farnham Town Council extended the Christmas lighting scheme to this small shopping complex of independent retailers.

Farnham Town Council helped to fund the Farnham Customer Experience Review which found that businesses in Farnham excel when it comes to providing a great customer experience.



The 2019 calendar of events began with the return of Music in the Vineyard. This year, the number of concerts has been increased so people can enjoy a free music event, every month until the end of April.

### Supporting local causes

Farnham Town Council gave around £80,000 of funding to local good causes through its Community Fund with a further £22,000 from the South Street Fund. Projects which have been made possible by a community grant include the creation of a wildlife pond to encourage more birds and mammals to the Bishops Meadow, the funding of activities for young people at Challengers and schemes to introduce people to music and heritage crafts.

### Community grants

During 2018/19, Farnham supported a wide range of local community groups. The recipients were:

5th Farnham (Bourne) Scout Group	£2,000
Badshot Lea Village Hall Trust	£550
Badshot Lea Village Infant School	£250
The Bishop's Meadow Trust	£1,500
Challengers	£1,500
Creative Response Arts Limited	£1,000
The Dance Movement	£1,000
FADEG	£750
Farnham Buildings Preservation Trust	£1,250
Farnham Carnival	£1,500
Farnham Competitive Music Festival	£500
Farnham District Scouts	£2,000
Farnham Maltings (pop up crafts)	£1,000
Farnham Sinfonia	£500
Farnham Taiko drummers	£500
Groundwork South East	£800
Hale Carnival Committee	£500
Hale Community Project	£750
The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre	£750
Heritage Open Days	£1,500
Homestart	£750
Museum of Farnham	£750
The New Ashgate Gallery	£800
Rural Life Centre	£1,000
Surrey Fire & Rescue Service	£500
Sandy Hill Inclusive Partnership	£1,000

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*Farnham Town  
Council awarded  
grants totalling  
more than  
£80,000. .*

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Tice's Meadow Bird Group	£500
VC Meudon Sports Club	£2,000
Waverley Singers	£500
William Cobbett Society	£2,000
The Woodlarks Centre	£1,000

In addition regular grants for services provided were made to:

Farnham Maltings	£13,000
Citizens Advice Bureau	£17,500
40 Degreez	£2,000
Waverley Hoppa	£10,000
Brightwells Gostrey Centre	£10,000

### South Street Trust

Farnham Town Council acts as the Trustee for the Farnham South Street Trust also known as the Farnham School of Science and Art. The Trust awards grants from the income of an endowment set up by James Knight and John Knight in 1880 for 'art and allied subjects'. Initially, the income was from the rent of 17 South Street but the building was sold and the funds invested. The Trustees now distribute the interest on the invested funds which is around £20,000 per annum. Recipients for 2018/19 include:

Organisation	Amount
Abbey School	£2,000
Badshot Lea Village School	£2,000
Creative Response Ltd	£500
The Dance Movement	£1,000
Farnham Art and Design Education Group (FADEG)	£600
Farnham Heath End School	£450
Farnham Maltings	£1,500
Farnham Town Council (Bloomin'art otter project)	£1,500
Folly Hill Infant School	£300
Frensham Heights	£750
Hale School	£750
Highfield South Farnham School	£1,500
Lions Club of Farnham	£1,000
New Ashgate Gallery	£1,000
Opportunities Community Project	£1,200
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care	£750
Potters Gate Primary School	£1,000
Rural Life Centre	£500
St Andrews Infant School	£700
St Marys Infant School	£300

St Polycarps Catholic School	£1,500
The 40 Degreez Centre	£500
William Cobbett Primary School	£750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£22,050</b>

## Planning

### Neighbourhood Plan

An early partial review of Farnham's Neighbourhood Plan, saw people being asked to give their views on where in Farnham an additional 450 homes should be built by the end of the Waverly Local Plan in 2032.

The six-week consultation began in mid-August and invited people to comment on the revised version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council listened to comments and acted on what people said about the proposed sites. The partially reviewed plan (with updates that were non material and did not change the nature of the plan already adopted) was submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> January to Waverley Borough Council as the planning authority and a six-week technical consultation is underway. People have until 21 March to show their support for the modified plan. It will then be subject to an Independent Examination in April.

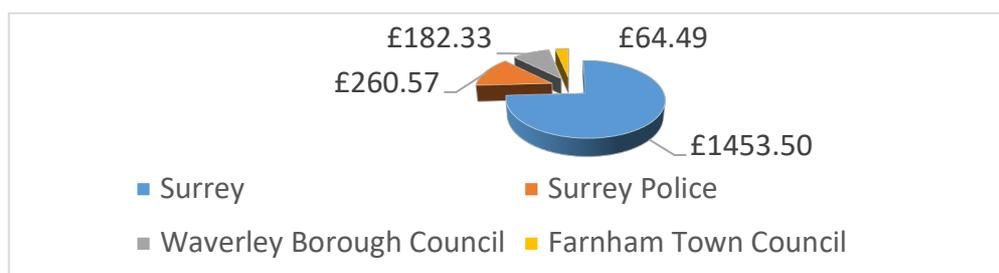
The review included an updated evidence base and additional research in order to ensure it is robust against challenge from developers and can be as future proof as possible.

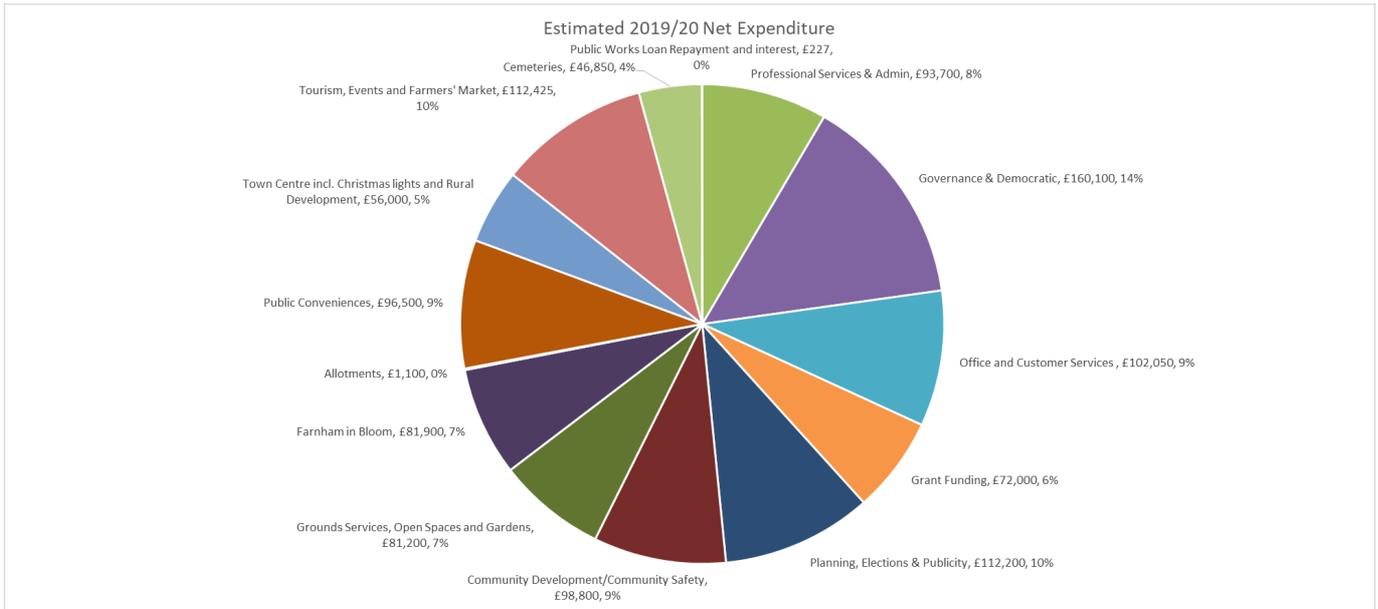
## Finances

### Setting the council tax

Councillors are committed to providing the best value for residents' money as they can and to keeping any council tax increase to a minimum. In January, Councillors set the Town Council's share of the council tax (also known as the precept) for 2019/20. The cost to residents living in a Band D property will be £64.49 – that's £1.24 per week and is just 3.6p per week higher than in 2018/19. The increase will go towards investments in improving toilets and taking on long term leases from Waverley Borough Council for some areas such as Gostrey Meadow, and topping up services provided by Surrey County Council. These include providing appropriate replacements for infrastructure in the conservation area (such as Cast Iron bollards rather than wooden ones).

Farnham's share of the Council Tax is just 3%.





## Where your council tax goes 2019/20

Farnham Town Council Council will sign off its accounts for 2018/19 at its April meeting for submission to its external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP. Email [sba@pkf-littlejohn.com](mailto:sba@pkf-littlejohn.com).

The public has a right to inspect the Council's annual governance and accountability return and supporting records. Electors also have a right to inspect the accounts and contact the external auditor if there are any concerns.

The dates for the period of this formal exercise of public rights for 2018/19 are 3 June 2019 to 12 July 2019.

## Looking ahead

After the elections, the new Council will begin to shape the activity for the next four years and set the strategic direction of Council. Councillors and officers will work together to maintain the number and high quality of events and services currently provided and move them to the next level.

Current policy such as seeking to take responsibility for maintenance of open spaces where it is felt the Town Council can add value and provide better value for money for Farnham residents and businesses will be followed.

There are some proposed actions to Review Farnham Design Statement (2010) and monitor the implementation of the adopted Farnham Neighbourhood Plan, taking into account any issues arising from the Independent Examination of the modified Neighbourhood Plan.

Farnham Town Council will contribute to the Masterplanning project to shape how Farnham should be in 2045 and continue to be an effective voice for the town, its residents and businesses.

## Feedback

If you have any comments or questions, please do get in touch.

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## Mayor of Farnham 2018/19

Councillor David Attfield

## Leader of the Council

Councillor Carole Cockburn

## Deputy Mayor of Farnham 2018/19

Councillor Paula Dunsmore

## Town Clerk

Iain Lynch

## Town Crier

Jonathan Jones

## Be a Councillor

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, elections will be held for councillors to hold office in Farnham Town Council from 2019-2023.

If you feel you play your part in representing your community and helping get things done for Farnham, why not stand for election?



For more information and links to useful sources of information speak to one of the existing councillors or see [www.farnham.gov.uk/town-council/councillors2015-19/beacouncillor](http://www.farnham.gov.uk/town-council/councillors2015-19/beacouncillor)