

## Annual Review 2021/22



### Reopening Farnham

The year began with the continued lifting of lockdown restrictions in England which included the reopening of non-essential retail, public buildings and indoor leisure facilities.

In May, the limit on the number of people who could mix outdoors was lifted. This happily coincided with the start of our summer programme of events and after months of restrictions, residents were finally treated to a total of three separate open-air events in one day. The events included the Sustainability Festival, an art and craft market in West Street and the monthly farmers' market.

Having a thriving local economy is vital for providing local jobs, injecting money into local businesses and creating an environment where people want to spend time and money. We have provided opportunities for local businesses by attracting residents and visitors into the town with events such as the Christmas lights switch-on, the food and drink festival and the Christmas market.

When planning our events programme, we recognised that not everybody felt ready to mix with large crowds of people so as well as one-day events, we also delivered initiatives such as the snow window trail which families could enjoy at any time, and which promoted the idea of exploring the town.

Supporting local businesses is ongoing and is something we will be doing more of as we work with partners to become a Business Improvement District.

Over the past year, our work has also seen us supporting individuals facing financial hardship due to COVID. We continue to work with several organisations in Farnham to ensure that help is given to those who are suffering. The coronavirus support fund has been renamed the Farnham Support Fund to reflect people's changing needs as we emerge from the pandemic.

When it comes to setting the council tax, this year more than ever, councillors were all too aware of the financial pressures that more and more people are feeling. For 2022/23, councillors agreed a below inflation rise which works out at £2.39 per year making the council tax for a Band D property £69.76. We make every pound we spend go as far as possible.

In 2021/22, we were delighted to be recognised by a number of independent bodies and to be awarded Council of the Year in recognition of working with the community and raising standards of service.

Getting involved in the community is very rewarding. If it's something that interests you, please do have a think about standing in next year's town council elections. There is lots of information on our website about what's involved and to help you decide if it is for you.

**Iain Lynch**

*Town Clerk*

## About Farnham Town Council

**18**  
Elected representatives

### Political make-up

**14** Farnham Residents

**2**  
Conservatives

**2**  
Liberal Democrats

**9**  
Nine Wards



**2023**

Date of next town council election



## Mayor of Farnham

Councillor Alan Earwaker 2021/22



### Role

- Represents the town at civic and ceremonial functions
- Chairs Full Council meetings
- Supports local businesses and organisations



**230+**

Events hosted or attended

## Enhancing the community

**60**

volunteer Bloomin' litter pickers collect rubbish weekly



**220**

trees planted around Farnham for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**30,000**

bulbs planted in 20 areas



**5**

4 Gold and 1 Silver Gilt won at South and South East in Bloom



**58**

businesses and individuals sponsored Farnham in Bloom



## Enhancing the community (continued)

**14,000**

volunteer hours given for Farnham in Bloom

**10**

parks & open spaces managed by staff and volunteers



**70+**

regularly took part in community litter picks and removed 100+ sacks of rubbish



**75**



awards presented to the community at the Farnham in Bloom community awards

**350**

hanging baskets and containers planted



**55,000**

plug plants grown

**25** tonnes

of wildflower meadow mix planted in 10 locations



**8**



8 allotments with over 200 tenants growing their own

## Building Farnham's future

Farnham Infrastructure Programme Milestones

HGV restrictions implemented



**3** 20mph zones agreed



## Supporting young people

**100s**



of young people were entertained at the Extreme Mountain Bike Show

**£10,000**

committed for young people's support

**1**

New riverside youth shelter opens giving Farnham's young people a place to meet

**30**



children attended free Bloomin' Kids' Workshops

## Proud to remember

**4**

**cemeteries managed**

West Street Cemetery won Gold at South & South East in Bloom

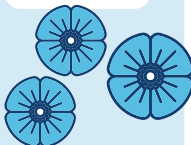
**30**

**burials**

Badshot Lea Cemetery won Gold at South & South East in Bloom

**31**

**burials of cremated remains**



## How we communicate

**Over 10,000** followers on social media



**2,081**

**subscribers to newsletter**

**25,000** homes and businesses received a residents' guide about getting the most out of Farnham

**322,500**

unique page views on the website [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk)

**9**

News sent to 23,750 homes, nine times a year via Vantage Point magazine



**35+**

Councillors fronted the information tent at 35+ events

## Bringing the community together

**12** farmers' markets with 35+ stalls selling local produce

**20<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the Farnham Farmers' Market

**15** free music in the meadow concerts

**5** antiques, art and craft street markets

**100+** stalls at the Food and Drink Festival

**150** events brought the community together

**60** events at 13 venues for Farnham's first Literary Festival

**57** events organised for craft lovers during Farnham's Craft Month

**15** schools and theatre groups performed at Christmas lights switch-on

**10 million** views of snow window walking trail video



## Providing help when most needed

**187**

applications received for help from the Farnham Support Fund and the Household Support Fund

**£85,000**

spent on providing essential household items, fuel debt, clothes, school uniform etc

## Supporting local causes

**£80,500**

given out in grants to the community

## Representing Farnham

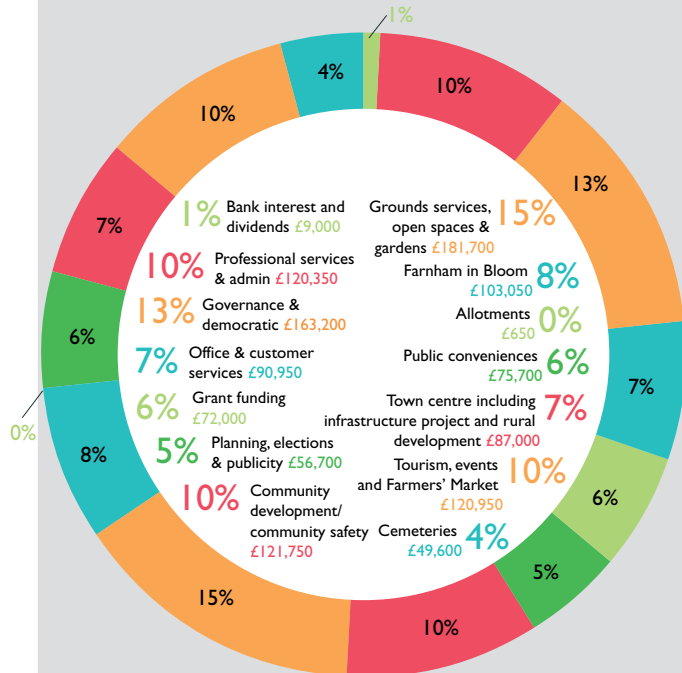
**978** Responses made to 978 planning applications in Farnham

## Looking after the public purse



	2021/22	2022/23
Budget	£1,399,850	£1,474,800
Share of Council tax from a Band D property	£67.37	£69.76

### How the budget is spent



You can inspect the accounts in June/July.

For a large print version of this chart, please email [customer.services@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@farnham.gov.uk).

### Winning mindset

Council of the Year • Shortlisted for Clerk of the Year • Winners at South & South East in Bloom • First Green Flag award • Not for Profit organisation of the year 2021/22 in the South England Prestige Awards