



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## Notes Environment Working Group

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### Time and date

27<sup>th</sup> November 2025, commenced at 4 p.m.

### Place

Council Chamber

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### Environment Working Group Members Present:

Cllr Matt Brown (Lead Member), Cllr Graham White, Cllr Mark Merryweather, Cllr Alan Earwaker, Cllr Tim Woodhouse, Cllr George Murray (ex-Officio) and Cllr David Beaman and Cllr George Hesse.

Officers: Lucy Dorkins (Business and Facilities Manager) and Tessa Lawn (Cemeteries Administrator)

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Chris Jackman  
Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)

#### 2. To receive any declarations of interest

None were declared.

#### 3. Notes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were agreed.

#### 4. Allotment Updates

The Members were updated on the current position of the allotment service.

As at 12.11.25 there is a waiting list of 235 applicants for 23 vacant allotment plots.

The breakdown by site is:

Allotment Site	No of Applicants	Vacancies
Alderley Farm	9	2
Farnborough Road	15	6

Morley Road	31	1
Shepherd & Flock	15	1
Six Bells	60	4
West Street	17	5
West Street Ext	5	3
Wrecclesham	35	1
No Preference	48	
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Value</b>		<b>£1215.91</b>

An increase in vacant plots has coincided with the rent renewal period and the issue of 65 notices to improve. Vacant plots will be offered to the waiting list in bulk rather than one at a time.

During the winter months, available plots will be strimmed to ground level prior to the commencement of the tenancy agreement and where required rotavated.

#### Outstanding rents

	Total Due	Paid	Balance	%
Alderley Farm	£1,779.61	£1,399.11	£380.50	21%
Farnborough Road	£2,234.77	£1,390.02	£844.75	38%
Morley Road	£577.08	£243.86	£332.22	58%
Shepherd & Flock	£742.50	£607.50	£135.00	18%
Six Bells	£4,546.97	£3,604.75	£942.22	21%
West Street	£2,110.28	£1,398.41	£711.87	34%
West Street Ext	£1,672.07	£919.75	£752.32	45%
Wrecclesham	£2,579.84	£1,902.34	£677.50	26%
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>£16,243.12</b>	<b>£11,465.74</b>	<b>£4,776.38</b>	<b>29%</b>
<i>Extracted from RIALTAS 12/11/25</i>				

The Working Group discussed the possibility of giving a discounted rate to the allotment holders who pay their fees in timely manner and charging penalties to the late payers.

The Allotment Liaison Group (ALG) met on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Two new allotment reps (Six Bells & Alderley Farm) have been recruited and means that each site has a rep.

An allotment newsletter is in production and will be sent to all plot holders.

#### Parks and Open Spaces

5

The Working Group was updated on all the parks and open spaces in town:

#### Gostrey Meadow

**Union Road/Longbridge Junction Entrance** - Surrey County Council (SCC) improvement works at the northwest entrance to Gostrey Meadow, located at the Union Road/Longbridge junction have now been completed.

**Amenity Building** – Plan A (the architects for the amenity building) and officers from FTC met the Designing Out Crime Officer to get some safety advice before the construction of the amenity building. The Designing Out Crime Officer was impressed with the safety measure already in place in the park and suggested some additional steps/measures – report on the suggestions to follow.

**Gostrey Meadow – other:** The grassed areas at Gostrey Meadow have now been scarified, spiked, and grass re-seeded. These improvements were carried out by the Outside Workforce, and the renovation work will help ensure that Gostrey Meadow remains a vibrant and welcoming green space for both residents and visitors.

In addition, one of the raised flower beds adjacent to the War Memorial has been removed, at the end of October, and the area has been completely re-turfed. The area is already looking greatly improved, creating a smooth, uniform - green space.

**Library Gardens** – Improvement works are currently underway in the gardens. Men in Sheds volunteers have now repaired and restored several of the seating areas.

**Town Centre** – Union Road and Downing Street had their ‘green gardens’ finished and plants have now been planted with a variety of native and pollinator-friendly plants to enhance the gardens’ visual appeal and ecological value. The positioning of the gardens, particularly in Downing Street, is such that cars and vans are driving over the plants.

The Working Group discussed the green gardens in Downing Street. It was agreed that the Lead Member will write to SCC to express concerns that the gardens are not currently fulfilling their intended role of rain gardens.

**Recommendations: Not to accept responsibility for taking over the green street gardens from SCC unless they are first made fully fit for purpose, including addressing the ongoing flooding issues on the streets.**

### **Other areas**

The Working Group was updated on the works which will be carried out, by the Outside Workforce, during December and January. The works will include extensive hedge-cutting across all Farnham’s green spaces, including the cemetery, allotments, and parks. These improvements will not only enhance the appearance of Farnham’s green spaces, making them more inviting for residents and visitors, but will also support wildlife by maintaining strong, healthy hedgerows that provide essential habitats throughout the year.

The Working Group was updated on the winter flowers and plants as well as on purchase of summer plants. A review of the required number of plants per type of container enabled FTC to reduce the number of plugs from 33,078 in 2025 to approximately 25,000 in 2026.

In addition, a detailed timetable has been prepared for volunteers to begin plug planting. This careful planning will help ensure the summer displays establish well and continue to enhance the town's green spaces throughout the warmer months with a vibrant and sustainable show.

- 6 The decision to enrol Green Lane Cemeteries for a Green Flag was confirmed

### Cemeteries Update

The Working Group was updated on the burial figures:

Year to date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Cemetery	West Street	Badshot Lea	Hale	Green Lane	Totals
<b>Ashes</b>	8	2	0	0	10
<b>Purchased</b>	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Full Burials</b>	9	4	4	3	20
<b>Totals</b>	17	8	4	3	32

Year to date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Cemetery	West Street	Badshot Lea	Hale	Green Lane	Totals
<b>Ashes</b>	11	4	2	6	23
<b>Purchased</b>	4	3	0	0	7
<b>Full Burials</b>	6	7	1	4	18
<b>Totals</b>	21	14	3	10	48

The Working Group was informed about the revenue generated since April 2025 and about the increased number of glass vases being left in cemeteries, contrary to the regulations, noting that the Cemeteries and Burials Administrator was actively removing the vases.

The Working Group was informed that Christmas lights had been left in trees in Badshot Lea Cemetery. [These had subsequently been removed and an alternative acceptable scheme implemented].

7. It was noted that the cemetery regulations, particularly at Badshot Lea Cemetery, had not always been followed. The Working Group confirmed the need to review the FTC Cemeteries and Burial Rules and Regulation in 2026.

### Farnham in Bloom

The Working Group was updated the 2025 Farnham in Bloom achievements and proposed South and South East in Bloom entries for 2026.

As previously reported, Farnham in Bloom achieved the following results in South & South East in Bloom 2025:

- Town Centre – Gold and Best in Category
- Hale Cemetery – Gold and Best in Category

- Badshot Lea Cemetery – Gold in Champion of Champions
- Gostrey Meadow – Gold
- West Street Cemetery – Gold

The proposed South and South East in Bloom entries for 2026 were:

- Town Centre
- West Street Cemetery
- Badshot Lea Cemetery
- Hale Cemetery

As there would be an extensive building project in Gostrey Meadows the Working Group was recommended not entering the park to South & South East in Bloom in 2026

**Recommendation: Gostrey Meadow should not be entered as a separate entry to South & South East in Bloom in 2026**

The Working Group was updated on Farnham in Bloomin' Awards evening and Remembrance Bloomin' Big Litter Pick. Both events were very well attended. The Bloomin' Big Pick, held on Saturday 8th November, to help prepare the town centre for the Remembrance procession the following day, was attended by over 30 volunteers. Approximately 26 bags of rubbish were collected.

The Working Group was informed about the special thank you reception organised for the 16<sup>th</sup> December in the Redgrave Bar at the Bush Hotel for Bloomin' Friends volunteers in recognition of their invaluable support throughout the year. The teas, coffees and cakes are kindly being provided by the Bush Hotel one of the In Bloom sponsors.

## **8. Date of next scheduled meeting**

The date of the next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4 p.m.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

Notes written by Lucy Dorkins