NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Farnham

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

22 June 2026 Meeting Notes



Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee 22/06/2026 Meeting Notes

Chair:
Rachel Morris MBE PLY DL – Champion of Disabled People and Mental Health

Vice Chair:
Cllr Alan Earwaker – Farnham Town Council

Attendees:
Name – Organisation

Becky Jeffrey	Citizens Advice South West, Surrey Chief Officer
Lynda Robinson	Farnham u3a (Philip Oliver, Chairman), Lynda Robinson, Acting Chair
Councillor George Murray	FTC Farnham Bourne (WBC)
Iain Lynch	FTC Town Clerk
Dr Alex (Alexandra) Streeter de Diego	GP Partner Farnham Dene Medical Practice, Farnham PCN Clinical Director (jobshare with Dr Martin Ballard), Paediatric Clinical Fellow Frimley Park Hospital, Clinical Lead Frimley Healthier Together 0-18 (FHFT)
Dr Niloufer Ebrahim	GP, Previously Leading Health Inequalities Lead for Farnham PCN and on Population Health North East Hampshire and Farnham for Frimley ICB
Dr John Lewis	Hale Community & Youth Centre (HCYC), Chair
Melissa Salisbury	Hale Community & Youth Centre, Manager
Norma Corkish	Hale Community & Youth Centre, Trustee
Stella Wiseman	Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale
PS Stuart Brant	Police, Inspector Rob Brian/PS Stuart Brant
Councillor Catherine Powell	SCC North Division (WSSA North)
Catherine Floyd	Space2grow
Kate Newton	Space2grow
Lou James	Space2grow
Matt Richardson	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Waverley Borough Commander, Station Manager for Farnham and Haslemere Fire Stations
Caroline Keith	Voluntary Action South West Surrey

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Jane Todd	WBC Community Partnerships Officer
Councillor David Beaman	WBC Farnham North West (FTC)
Councillor Richard Steijger	WBC Farnham Weybourne (WSSA Central)
Councillor Ben Bristow	West Surrey Shadow Authority (South)
Henry Llewellyn Jones	Working with Rachel Morris
Jenny de Quervain	FTC
Paloma Morrissey-Durrant	SCC
Nikkie Thornton-Bryar	SCC
Carys Walker	SCC
Rowena Zelley	SCC

Apologies:

Libby Ralph	Farnham Biodiversity Partnership	Apologies
David Gill	Farnham Sports Council	Apologies
Revd Lexi Russell	Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale	Apologies
Lucy Ivankovic	Partnerships Operations Director	Apologies
Councillor Andy Macleod	SCC Central Division (WBC)	Apologies
Councillor Michaela Martin	SCC South Division (FTC)	Apologies
Zofia Lovell	SoFRA and Residents' Associations	Apologies
Cath Jago	SWSDA, CEO	Apologies
Jacqui Thomas and Jon Curtis	The Dempster Trust, Farnham Support Fund and Rotary Club of Farnham	Apologies
Richard Hunt CBE	The Farnham Society	Apologies
Councillor Sally Shorthose	West Surrey Shadow Authority	Apologies
Alan Bushnell	Elphicks, Group Managing Director	Invited
Amy Goodyear	Barnados/Family Centre	Not in attendance
Stuart Maginnis	Farnham Heath End Secondary School, Principal	Not in attendance
Peter Glanville	Farnham Maltings, CEO	Not in attendance
Richard Davies	Hoppa	Not in attendance
Georgia Love	SCC LAC	Not in attendance
Mark Ellul	UCA, Joint Vice Chancellor	Not in attendance

Welcome

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On 22 June, members of the Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee re-assembled at the amazing Space2Grow community garden in central Farnham for Farnham NAC Meeting 6.

The outdoor meeting was shaded by gazebos, tables were covered with floral tablecloths and refreshments included elderflower cordial, iced water and raspberry sponge instead of chocolate brownies, on a very warm summer afternoon in the glorious garden setting.

The Chair introduced the agenda and highlighted the recap of the last session. See attached slides.

A warm welcome was also extended to the newly elected West Surrey Shadow Authority Councillors, Ben Bristow (who was attending his first NAC meeting) and Catherine Powell and Richard Steiger (existing NAC members).

Reflections and Updates – Group Feedback

Recommendation 1 – Cllr Catherine Powell outlined that Heath End school now has a Mental Health team, meaning that all secondary schools in Farnham were able to offer support. Primary provision was not so well covered and the focus would be to ensure that the schools in Upper Hale be prioritised going forward.

Getting information to the right parents was still an issue and Neurodiverse children were falling through the gaps due to Mindworks providing support through schools only, missing those unable to attend.

The Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Zone at the Wellbeing and Sustainability Festival in Gostrey Meadow, Farnham was very well received. There was very good engagement by both charities, provisions and young people. The children particularly loved the red cones (a type of spinning sit in toy) provided by Cllr Powell and after the event these were distributed to local groups. Work was started at the event of populating a map of things for young people to do in Farnham and all members were encouraged to both add provisions and to email in afterwards to ensure that nothing was missed off.

Catherine Floyd was introduced. She is the Children's lead at Space2grow, and a primary school teacher. She outlined the support that Space2grow offer to young people with holiday clubs, a home ed club and a nature-based parent and toddler group for 2 hours 3 x per week.

Catherine is leading a breakaway group on early intervention. This is looking at engaging with families on issues such as learning to play with your child, support systems available, Health Visitor needs, etc. Parents are often time poor and have financial struggles. The group share a passion for early years and have a focus on correct signposting as parents turn to the internet but find influencers don't relate to their problems.

The perception is that there is very little for young people in the Town Centre and nothing during school holidays. However, there are free things such as the Museum, Gostrey Meadows, the Bee trail, playgrounds and the park.

Table 1 also noted that there is a correlation between parents who had a negative experience at school themselves and children experiencing emotionally based school non attendance (EBSNA). They are looking at the work Portsmouth are doing around this as they are reporting falling EBSNA numbers. Portsmouth system is needs led from day 1, with an initial assessment. If children are masking at school, the home school social worker will visit both settings and look at combined needs.

In Surrey, this does not occur and demands for ECNA needs assessments have risen by 30% from the previous year (possibly due to the Govt White paper scaring parents into getting this before implementation). Cllr Powell called upon those involved with West Surrey Council to be aware and help to influence policies in the new authority.

Publicising and promoting local services available. The challenge was around making schools more ND friendly. There is a funded Surrey scheme – PINS which is a collaboration between the LA and the NHS (Mindworks), although none of the schools in Farnham are included in this.

The roll out of this scheme is looking for 35 primaries across Surrey so please do encourage schools to volunteer. Waverley Abbey (just outside Farnham is a PINS school, so will be asked about time commitment for this.

The Autism Friendly review is struggling for uptake. Farnham and Ash both have Bulge classes and all schools are full and struggling with numbers compared to other parts of the county whose rolls are dropping numbers.

Digital poverty is a barrier to accessing information and during Covid, families were provided with laptops and dongles so this is something that could be considered again. Farnham is perceived as a rich town, but there are pockets of poverty. A resource library was discussed with the Family Centre acting as a store.

The event at Gostrey Meadows did for ideas to improve the Town and ideas received included regular Farmers Markets, better leisure facilities, a splash pad and E Bikes for the Town.

Recommendation 2 – Caroline Keith updated that on the progress made with mentoring. The U3A are interested, but MCR pathways were too costly for Health End School but they

are looking at other options with the Vineyard (although this is secular and that can put parents off), Surrey Care Trust etc. WBC did look at whether they could fund but they already fund SCT.

Recommendation 3 – Spaces for young people – Alan Earwaker updated that the group would be taking forward the mapping discussed by Recommendation 1. They will upload the map to date so asked members to please submit any updates. George and Richard will also link with businesses.

Recommendation 4 – Looking at access to Duke of Edinburgh awards outside of schools. Farnham Town Council has very kindly funded 40 Degreez to deliver this. 40 Degreez is hosting a fundraising event on 10 July 5.30-8.00pm.

Funding Discussion
Nikkie spoke about setting up a funding group. Lots of organisations can access the funding directory that contains much of this information. It was agreed that due to the competition amongst groups in the NAC, this would not be taken forward, but working groups were encouraged to bear in mind any projects that could be put forward should funds be identified – but it was noted that applications for funds are lengthy and time consuming. It was also noted that charity groups could share resources i.e. treasurers and policies to avoid duplication of work.

The NAC would collate ideas and links to useful information and VASWS could signpost organisations to this.

BREAK

Communication outside the NAC by Membership
Members discussed that NAC updates could be disseminated via a summary document. This would give a consistent core missive, which partners could enhance by adding their own point of view in their cover message. It was felt that the document should not be in the form of comprehensive notes as this might dis-incentivise members to attend meetings if they are spoon fed the contents but should instead 'wet the appetite' by focussing on positive outcomes. It was felt that the local authority would be best placed to produce this document, but partner networks such as Surrey Fire and Rescue's 'Leaders' Forum' would be appropriate networks through which the information could be shared. There was a feeling among members that information about NACS was currently not reaching health practitioners as thoroughly as it could.

It was noted that if NACs grow in number, it might be more difficult to publicise the achievements of individual NACs this way.

Public Involvement and Feedback

There was very little appetite for a "celebration" at this time as there is too much uncertainty about the future of the NACs going forward although it was thought that there could be an opportunity to invite others into the work of the NAC by demonstrating the NAC's journey so far and looking at the features, benefits, opportunities and gaps that have emerged.

A wider stakeholder meeting/forum might be more appropriate, involving all schools and charities. This could include boards with what you could bring, what we have done, barriers. I need. I can offer. UCA or Farnham Maltings were suggested as venues.

A further suggestion was using already existing events in the Town – ie the Music in the Meadows and Food Festival on 27th Sept to get public engagement with a stand of maps and Mental Health provision.

Another idea put forward was all four Surrey Pilot NACs could come together for a event where learning, triumphs and challenges can be shared across the County.

Next Steps and New Initiatives
As the glorious afternoon drew to a close, the group once again reaffirmed its strong desire for continuing with the NAC process.

Action: It was requested that details or link to any information, activities or groups which would be useful for a directory and mapping be sent to FarnhamNAC@farnham.gov.uk and surreycommunities@surreycc.gov.uk.

Items for next NAC:
- Forum or gathering/wider stakeholders
- Further exploration of Health involvement – NHS Neighbourhoods
- Future dates

A Warm Ending
To close the session, everyone was thanked for their contributions and wished a safe journey home.