NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Farnham

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

9 March 2026 Meeting Notes



Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee
Meeting Notes - Monday 9 March 2026

Chair:
Rachel Morris MBA PLY
Vice Chair:
Cllr Alan Earwaker

Attendees Name	Group or Organisation
Becky Jeffrey, Chief Officer	Citizens Advice South West Surrey
Libby Ralph	Farnham Biodiversity Partnership
Dr Niloufer Ebrahim, GP	Farnham Health Integration Group
Mo Ashdown & Jenny de Q	Farnham Town Council
Melissa Salisbury	Hale Community & Youth Centre
Revd Lexi Russell	Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale
Revd Stella Wiseman	Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale
Stuart Brant	Police Sargant, Farnham Team
Zofia Lovell	South of Farnham Residents' Assoc
Kate Newton	Space2Grow
Cllr Catherine Powell	Surrey County Council
Cllr Andy Macleod	Surrey County Council
Jon Curtis	The Dempster Trust, Farnham Support Fund and Rotary Club of Farnham
Richard Hunt CBE	The Farnham Society
Caroline Keith	Voluntary Action South West Surrey
Jane Todd	Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Richard Steijger	WBC Councillor
Lucy Ivankovic	Mindworks
Lynda Robinson	Over 55s
Norma Corkish	Headroom
Liz Grace	MCR Pathways
Matt Richardson	Fire and Rescue Service
Georgia Love	Local Area Co-ordinator, SCC
David Gill	
Harry Llewellyn Jones	
John Lewis	

Welcome

On 9 March, members of the Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee re-assembled at the **Community Centre in Upper Hale** for Farnham NAC Meeting 5. They were welcomed to the meeting with hot drinks, pastries and the now legendary chocolate brownies. The Chair introduced the agenda and highlighted the recap of the last session.

Early Reflections and Updates – Group Feedback

Priority Group 3 gave an update on their actions. The group were working with Farnham Town Council to update their website to include more on youth provision in the Town. The group highlighted the future links with businesses in Farnham and the faith sector, with upcoming meetings highlighted.

Priority Group 2 then updated on their actions. During the last meeting, they identified a plan to address the recommendations. They noted progress on two actions: (1) to approach MCR Pathways (mentoring organisation) to find out if they would expand into Farnham schools. They reported that Heath End School had expressed interest in having MCR Pathways working with their young people.. The U3A membership had also offered support via its membership with a volunteer mentor drive. A further meeting was planned for 27th March. MCR Pathways will ideally use previously trained volunteers to enable this to start as soon as possible and the group were starting to work on a draft role description for future volunteers.

Priority Group 1 gave an update. They had held a second meeting with schools and Mindworks on the 2nd of March. They reported that the meeting had identified the most challenging groups of EBSNA (Emotionally based School Non Attendance) and neurodiverse young people. They reported that Schools were struggling to get parents involved. It was also noted that Barnardo's have a long waiting list. The group highlighted that the strategy at home and school needed to be consistent to ensure a coordinated experience. It was noted that there is an abundance of information available, but it was so hard to mine through that. Another barrier to digital and online resources is parental lack of Wi-Fi and access to technology required. During lockdown, schools had access to dongles and refurbished laptops which would be a brilliant resource now. There are also lots of good online resources offered by adult learning so that would be a quick win (including Coral who provides online cooking resources). There is a good online course called "Navigating the Maze". Online Flashcards are also useful. There is also the potential option of a resource library. It was noted that the age at which self-harm happens is getting younger and the group

were keen to look at this. They were also looking at the fact that parents of neurodiverse children are often also neurodiverse so materials need to resonate. Fin ally, the group noted that there is a Wellbeing and sustainability Fair on Sunday 17th May and that something couyld be done there to promote the work of the NAC groups.. Group ones next meeting will be held on 20th April with a focus on EBSNA.

Group 4 reported that their focus was on young people and schemes available locally. The discussion of the group was around opportunities for working with citizens advice and other organisations and to ensure that messaging is clear. They expressed a desire to engage with audiences that had not been involved before and to utilise communication that aligns with people.

Action Planning and Momentum

The four groups then worked on a further deeper dive into the action plan. Through lively conversation, ideas and responsibilities were allocated. Members agreed to bring updates from their organisations and networks to the next meeting, helping the NAC's work ripple outward.

Voices From the Community

Georgia Love, Local Area Coordinator spoke about her work in the community. Georgia works across Upper Hale and Heath End in her role walking alongside residents. She spoke about the LAC approach and how well it is working in the area.

Liz Grace from MCR Pathways programme spoke about her organisation and the mentoring opportunities they offer. MCR was established in 2007 and came to Surrey in 2022. They are looking at the potential of launching in Farnham. Over 15,000 young people have utilised the programme. Weekly one-hour session, term time only, at schools. Commitment of one year for all mentors.

Next Steps and New Initiatives

As the afternoon drew to a close, the group once again reaffirmed its strong desire for continuing on with the NAC process, even if it wasn't in the traditional NAC format.

Items for next NAC:

- Speaker updates about neurodivergence, potentially Moorhouse and Henry.

A Warm Ending

To close the session, everyone was thanked for their contributions.