NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Dorking and Villages

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Dorking and the Villages Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

24 September 2026 Meeting Notes



Dorking and Villages Neighbourhood Area Committee 24 September 2026 Meeting Notes

Time: 14:00 – 16:00.
Address: Capel Memorial Hall, 55 The St, Capel, Dorking, RH5 5LD

Chair: Hazel Watson – County Councillor, Surrey County Council

Vice Chair: Sally Dubery – Chief Officer, Central Surrey Voluntary Action

Attendees:

- James Green, Surrey Police
- Hannah Gilmour, Healthwatch
- Jo McGowan, Hello Dorking
- Debbie Jones, Buckland Parish Council
- Wendy Saunders, Circular Dorking
- Sophie Bennet, YMCA East Surrey
- Lesley Aldridge, Dorking Healthcare Limited
- Trevor Stacey, Charlwood Parish Council
- Jon Mears, Westcott resident and lead on Unlock Surrey CIC

Additional attendees:

- Lance Gray, Dorking Men in Sheds (guest speaker)
- Dee Pratt, Place Coach for NHS NNHIP (guest speaker)
- Michelle Bradley, Surrey County Council (Facilitator)
- Jess Lee, Surrey County Council
- Rowena Zelley, Surrey County Council

Apologies:

- Paul Bowyer, SFRS
- David Preedy, Headley Parish Council
- Charles Allen, Clarion Futures
- Michaela Afford, Mid Surrey Community Fridge
- Cllr Stephen Cooksey, Surrey County Council
- Cllr Bradley Nelson, Mole Valley District Council
- Pat Smith, Residents Association
- Cllr Helyn Clack, Surrey County Council
- Alison Boyd, Citizens Advice Mole Valley
- Rachel O'Reilly, Mole Valley District Council

- Cllr Abhiram Magesh, Mole Valley District Council
- Dr Robin Gupta, GP
- Glyn Marchant, Mary Frances Trust
- Reverend Sue Lepp, Lead Chaplain Gatwick Airport

Agenda & Timings

The following list details the meeting agenda and the timings of each item on the agenda.

- Item 1 - Welcome – Session aims and key outcomes (14:00 – 14:05)
- Item 2 - Men in Sheds presentation and questions (14:05 – 14:35)
- Item 3 – Action Group Updates (14:35 – 14:50)
- Break (14:50 – 15:20)
- Item 4 - National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) presentation and questions (15:20 – 15:50)
- Item 5 - Session close (15:50 – 16:00)

Agenda Item 2 – Men in Sheds presentation and questions

Purpose of item:

- To introduce the work of Dorking Men in Sheds to the Neighbourhood Area Committee and inform members how they can support the initiative.

Item summary:

- Lance provided an overview of Men in Sheds and the support it offers men through woodworking and social activities. Referrals are received via social prescribers and Live Well Surrey, although no referrals have been received directly from GP surgeries.

Summary actions:

- Lance requested continued advocacy and promotion of the service within the community.

Agenda Item 3 – Action Group Updates

Purpose of item:

- For the action group leads to provide progress updates to the NAC.

Item summary:

Sharing Information

- A list of free local publications has been compiled. It was suggested that organisations provide updates to Sally every two months, which could then be distributed through local publications and Facebook groups.
- Concerns were raised that East Surrey Hospital remains the only hospital in Surrey not providing free parking for volunteers. Sally to be provided with a contact in the Patient Experience Team to pursue this further.

Community Hubs

- The Westcott hub project has been completed and handed over to the community. Jon Mears advised that Unlock Surrey CIC has now been established and is developing a community asset map for Mole Valley to identify opportunities for collaboration between organisations and venues. A National Lottery funding application was unsuccessful.

Transport

- Work has focused on raising awareness of local transport options, following feedback that knowledge of available services is limited. Engagement sessions have been delivered to parish councils and residents' associations to promote the SCC Connect service. It was noted that usage declined when the service moved away from a door-to-door model. Mole Valley District Council is currently trialling a free membership month for its community transport service.

Summary actions

- Each action group lead asked the NAC members to make a pledge. The pledges were as follows:
- Members to share and complete the community asset mapping webform. (Hubs)
- Share details of community groups interested in learning more about local transport options. (Transport)
- Support development of a simple guide explaining the differences between available community transport services. (Transport)

Agenda Item 4 – National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) presentation and questions

Purpose of item:

- To introduce NAC members to the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme and provide an update for what this is currently looking like locally.

Item summary:

- Dee provided an overview of the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP), which aims to make health and wellbeing services more accessible within communities and provide support earlier, reducing reliance on formal referrals.
- It was noted that the recommendations from the programme's Place Coaches are currently being considered by the East Surrey Health and Care Alliance Board. And it wasn't known when the outcome of that decision will be.

Agenda Item 5 Next Steps and Session Close

Next Steps

- NAC members were encouraged to complete the Dorking and villages NAC review survey and their pledge before leaving. Results of the survey will help shape what future NAC meetings look like. For anyone who could not attend the meeting, these were circulated via email.
- Once survey results have been collated and analysed by officers an update on the future of the NAC will be communicated to members.

Dates of future meetings

- TBC following the analysis of NAC review survey results.