NEIGHBOURHOOD
Area Committee
Farnham

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC)

9 February 2026 Meeting Notes



Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee
Meeting Notes - Monday 9 February 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
Liz Flanagan	Elphicks
Libby Ralph	Farnham Biodiversity Partnership
Dr Niloufer Ebrahim, GP	Farnham Health Integration Group
Cllr George Murray	Farnham Town Council
Iain Lynch, Town Clerk	Farnham Town Council
Philip Oliver	Farnham u3a
Dr John Lewis	Hale Community & Youth Centre
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
Kelley Taylor	Space2Grow
Cllr Catherine Powell	Surrey County Council
Cllr Andy Macleod	Surrey County Council
Cath Jago, CEO	SWSDA
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 David Beaman	WBC Councillor
Cllr Richard Steijger	WBC Councillor

Welcome

On 9 February, members of the Farnham Neighbourhood Area Committee re-assembled in **St Mark's Church in Upper Hale** for Farnham NAC Meeting 4. They were welcomed not only by the warmth of the building but also by the classical music and the chance to admire the Kitty Milroy murals. The atmosphere created a sense of shared purpose, to continue shaping the future of the NAC.

Early Reflections and Updates

The session opened with a look back at the NAC's progress so far, setting the scene for what had been achieved and what lay ahead, including an update on the latest developments in local government reorganisation.

A detailed update of the meeting with Mindworks, Farnham schools, and the NHS was given. This was a key step in addressing draft recommendation number one from the action plan. At that meeting, Mindworks had explained the scope of its support for schools in the area. It was confirmed that all secondary schools in Farnham now have access to a Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and one Primary School does (Potters Gate). For all mainstream schools in Farnham who do not have access to a MHST, they have access to one Primary Mental Health Support Worker. It was noted that the Mindworks website could be difficult for visitors to navigate. Schools also expressed growing concern over the rising number of children with complex needs. The crisis line received lukewarm feedback. It also emerged that communication gaps meant referral pathways weren't always clear and GPs weren't receiving crucial information from mental health support teams. Schools identified that they were concerned about the resources available to support children and young people effectively and in a timely manner. . Attendees agreed that more work was needed. A follow-up meeting has been arranged for 2nd March.

Next Steps and New Initiatives

Looking forward, the group identified several next steps: exploring case studies of young people experiencing mental health challenges, looking to support schools through a Mindworks and Charities Marketplace Tom Byrne, Headteacher of The

Ridgeway School and Chair of Farnham Schools Confederation is leading on organisation.

A presentation had been delivered earlier that day to Surrey County Councillors regarding a bike amnesty scheme combined with bike repairs, redistribution, and practical skills development which had been well received.. NAC Members recognised the substantial benefits such a scheme could offer Farnham's young people, including mobility, independence, exercise, and hands-on learning.

Voices From the Community

The focus on young people continued with a presentation from Space2Grow on their Talking Teens Programme a 5-week course to support parents' understanding of teenagers' development. They covered their outreach and programmes that offer families tools, connection and confidence during difficult moments with their adolescent offspring.

Action Planning and Momentum

After a short break, the group discussions focussed on a deeper dive into the action plan. Through lively and constructive conversation, responsibilities were allocated, timelines shaped, and commitments made. Members agreed to bring updates from their organisations and networks to the next meeting in March, helping the NAC's work ripple outward.

As the afternoon drew to a close, the group collectively reaffirmed its commitment to progressing several actions. In the meantime, facilitators would refine and expand the draft action plan with the new contributions.

A Warm Ending

To close the session, everyone was thanked for their energy, dedication and belief in what the NAC is trying to achieve. Many people stayed afterwards, continuing conversations and forging connections, a testament to the shared passion in the room for improving life in Farnham and its surrounding communities.