

North West Farnham Residents Association Autumn Meeting and Talk

Farnham Castle: 'A Castle of Deception'

Dr Roy Waight

Thursday 17th October 2019 at 8.00 pm, St Francis Hall (off Three Stiles Road)

Dear Members and Local Residents

This year the talk at our October meeting is given by Dr. Roy Waight who is a historian who has just written a book on Farnham Castle during the Second World War - so he will quite literally know where the bodies are buried. His presentation should be both interesting and informative so do come and support him.

As usual there will be an open session afterwards so that we can hear your views on other matters and discuss the latest news. The cost is £2.00 per head including refreshments. Anyone who would like to come but needs some extra help or transport can phone the chairman, Penny Marriott, on 01252 714489.

Chair and Committee Report

Local Plans

As you know the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan was passed by the planning inspector as a material planning document. However as usual Waverley's actions put the plan in jeopardy immediately. Waverley's new Local Plan includes an extra 1349 houses in Waverley (believe it or not to meet the shortfall in Woking's numbers in their established plan). In amending their plan to cope with these extra houses Waverley have proposed that 450 more should come to Farnham, and NO more to Dunsfold aerodrome - continuing to plan for only 2600 there when 80% of respondents to Waverley's own consultation in 2014 supported 3400. Notwithstanding the stupidity of it all we need to ensure that our neighbourhood plan can be reinstated as soon as possible so that we can protect what we have left. Unfortunately we cannot avoid the need to go to another referendum and so in order get what protection the neighbourhood plan affords us reinstated as soon as possible we need to carry out the same procedure as the last time i.e. a consultation and vote. The details are on the Town Council website. On the plus side all the new sites identified for the extra housing development are on Brownfield sites and there is still some protection for greenfield areas in our region in the plan.

But as usual we on the committee would much rather there was no extra development in our area and Farnham without some improvement in infra-structure to deal with increased traffic and resulting pollution. It is a crazy situation that all this extra housing can be completed in a situation where infrastructure is not a planning consideration. We feel there is also a need for

a plan to deal with the increased number of children/young adults in the area which will give rise to pressure on school places over the coming years. The Waverley plan is still in progress but hopefully there are no other surprises in store for us while the time passes until it is finalised.

The Hopfields development

There are still questions to be answered about the traffic at the bottom of Crondall Lane, traffic calming for Potters Gate School (although thanks to local pressure there will now be a 20 mph limit in Beavers Road) and the protection for the open spaces to either side of the development. Work has now begun and the Committee will continue to monitor the development. Please contact us if you have any problems or questions about anything to do with the Hopfields development.

The Development on Folly Hill

After having been turned down by Waverley Council the planning Inspector allowed the development which is now taking place on Folly Hill. Whilst this is not directly in our patch it is yet another breach in the green northern edge of the town and as such we should make every effort to watch carefully and make sure that the developers stick to the rules. This is very close to the SPA area and no appropriate assessment of the effect on the SPA has been carried out. We will keep an eye on this too.

The Coxbridge development

The time is drawing near when the plans for the 350 house Coxbridge site will be presented to the Planning Committee. We will of course monitor this but you can keep an eye on it yourselves if you go onto the Waverley website and look under Castle Ward.

The Northbrook development

Just recently East Hants District Council has released plans for development of the Northbrook Estate on the A31 to contain 800+ dwellings. This is right next to the proposed 350 dwellings in Coxbridge so within the next year there could be 1150 new dwellings on greenfield sites right next to us here in NW Farnham. This is totally ridiculous since our infrastructure cannot cope now and all these dwellings will have to use the A31 and Farnham Centre Roads as well as schools and sewage and so on. The Infrastructure can't take it without a significant spend on extra roads, schools etc. The difficulty in this case is that the development is not in Surrey so please keep an eye on local papers, radio and make sure that something is done to mitigate this 'disaster waiting to happen'. In the meantime, write to anyone who will listen to protest at this huge development on our doorstep.

Other matters

We are always looking for people who can give an hour or more to help us deliver a good service for you. I am sure that you have noticed that our website is still down, and we do miss the ability to keep you informed about what is going on in the area. We hope to be able to find a new webmaster soon and **If you have the expertise or know someone who can help we would love to get our website up and running again as soon as possible.** Please contact the chairman as above and you will be very gratefully received. As usual the Speedwatch volunteers need help in manning the speed gun which does try to keep the speed down on Crondall Lane.

If you have any other matters, you would like to raise at the meeting please let us know and we are looking forward to seeing you all on October 17th.

Penny Marriott

September 2019