

# Focus Group meeting



## Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan

### **Natural Environment Working Group**

# As the FG members arrive



- **Say who we are (names and today's role only)**
- **Invite and make tea/coffee**
- **Get them to be seated while all arrive**

# Firstly, a few essential housekeeping points



- **Car parking reimbursement**
- **Toilets**
- **Emergency exits**
- **Mobile phones**

# Welcome everybody



- **Today's event is one of several engagements with the community, necessary in compiling a Neighbourhood Plan**
- **it is the first of two Focus Group meetings about issues concerning the natural environment of Godalming & Farncombe**

# Introduction of NP participants



- 1 Louise Goodfellow, Godalming Town Clerk, acting as Note-taker today**
- 2 Me, the Enviro WG chairman & Moderator today**

# FG introductions



- **With the preliminaries over, may I ask each of you now to introduce yourself briefly –**
- **Please use only first names**
- **Tell us what interests you about the NP**
- ***ie*, why you volunteered**

# Some basic ground rules – 1



- **Confidentiality/anonymity**
- **This is not a discussion or a debate, it is a forum to express your views and opinions**
- **We want you to do the talking!**
- **And we want a wide range of opinions**
- **Everybody's view is equally valid and important – there are no right or wrong answers**

# ground rules – 2



- **We would like everyone to participate, as equally as poss**
- **Please don't interrupt the speaker – your turn will come**
- **We aim to take no more than 2 hours of your valuable time for this meeting**



# Background to the FG



- **Do you know the area covered by the NP? See map on the wall**
- **A series of 'road shows' at various town functions over the last 18 months to 2 years**
- **The Community Questionnaire last summer**

# Purpose of the FG



- **The latter primarily dealt with ‘yes/no’ type of answers, which helped to identify the main issues for the community**
- **We now need to explore some of these issues and concerns in greater depth –**
- **... which is the purpose behind today’s event**

# The Environment Working Group



- **This is one of 6 WGs, each covering a different group of issues related to planning**
- **The Env WG is covering:**
  - land-based issues, eg, green space, wildlife, etc and**
  - water-based issues, like enjoyment of our open waters, flooding, etc**

# Ice-breaker question



- a) **Imagine you have an unlimited budget to spend on a single Environment project, either a new or existing one, what would it be?**
- b) **And what would this entail? (some details)**

# Land question 1



- **Which green space areas do you think should be enhanced in Godalming and Farncombe?**
- **And why?**
- **And how?**

# Land question 2



**Thinking of the green space you talked about in Q1:**

- How do you think it should be managed for the benefit of the community?**
- And what about possible new green spaces?**

# Land question 3



**Turning now to wildlife aspects:**

- **How do you envisage that the protection and enhancement of our biodiversity assets can be implemented?**

# Water question 1



**The open waters in the Parish are widely liked (River Wey, the Wey Navigation and Broadwater Lake)**

- Can you suggest how they might be better protected, enhanced and made more accessible to all?**



# Water question 2



- **Do you have any thoughts on how our open waters may best be improved and managed to diversify their leisure use and enjoyment?**

# Water question 3



**Flooding along the Wey valley through G & F has been a significant issue for some in recent years**

- What measures would you like to see implemented to manage flooding and minimise its effects on property at risk?**

# Water question 4



- **Given the likely increase in rainfall as a result of climate change, do you have any views on how runoff might be better managed?**

# Final question 1



- **In what ways do you see the aspirations we have discussed being challenged by increasing local population over the next 10 years?**

# Final question 2



- **Is there anything that you think is important in terms of the environment which was missed this morning?**
- **And finally is there anything that you wish, on reflection, you had said in the discussions we have been having?**

# Wrap up



- **Thank everybody for their time and contributions to this Focus Group**
- **Just before you leave, is there anyone who would be interested in joining the Env WG? Our numbers have been seriously depleted over the last 6 months for a variety of family and work reasons and we now need to return to critical mass urgently**

finis



End