



Godalming Town Council NEWS

- Spring 2015 -

A Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming & Farncombe

It's your opportunity to have your say on the future development of Godalming and Farncombe by responding to our questionnaire. If you live in the GU7 postcode area look out for an envelope with the GOFARNP logo (see right) which should be dropping through your letterbox sometime during March.

Please don't throw it away, take the time to think about your hopes and aspirations for our community and answer the questions, returning the questionnaire to us in the reply paid envelope that will be provided.

It's a year since we held the launch of a Neighbourhood Plan for



Godalming & Farncombe, which was held on 23 January 2014. The Neighbourhood Plan will help define local planning policy for Godalming & Farncombe and sit alongside Waverley Borough Council's Local Plan. Waverley will need to give legal weight to

the Neighbourhood Plan when it determines planning applications, therefore, the plan represents an unparalleled opportunity to influence the future development of our town.

This is a community-led process and dozens of volunteers have spent the last year identifying issues and gathering evidence and are starting to draw things together towards a draft plan. A key piece of evidence will be the wider views of the community and that's why we've decided to give all residents the opportunity to have a say – please use that opportunity and complete and return the questionnaire to us.

Spring into Godalming

Easter Saturday Festival Market, 4 April 2015

A great day of shopping, entertainment and activities, held in Godalming Town Centre from 10am to 5pm. As well as Godalming's unique range of independent shops and café's, the High Street and Church Street will be filled with market stalls selling a wide range of crafts & art, gifts and fresh produce. Entertainment from a mix of performers will be held throughout the town and a range of activities for youngsters will be available.



Photos by Phil Kemp. www.theshutterbox.co.uk



It's a sign!

Have you seen the new sign in Farncombe? We erected the sign in response to the wishes of Farncombe residents and we hope that the sign clarifies Farncombe's existence as a village in its own right and provides a marker point for the centre of the village, close to the church and railway station. The sign itself is designed with a fern motif to reflect the name 'Farncombe', which is thought to derive from the old English for 'fern valley'. This link to the past recognises the village's entry in the Domesday book and even older origins.

The new sign is part of a series of actions resulting from a public meeting held in Farncombe in 2013. At that time, many residents expressed their joy at living in the village and felt that improvements to the local environment would better reflect their strong sense of community. The actions are being taken forward by the Farncombe Initiative, a group of volunteers, whose many projects to improve their village include other enhancements of the street scene, minimising empty shops and engagement with businesses. The Initiative welcomes more members and ideas for possible projects and anyone with an idea or interested in joining should contact Suzie Gortler at projects@godalming-tc.gov.uk.



Annual Town Meeting

Council Chamber, The Burys, Thursday, 16 April 2015, 8pm

Our regular readers will know that every year we let you know about the Annual Town Meeting. It's such a little known, but potentially powerful, part of local democracy that we think it bears repeating year after year. It's a good place to raise your burning questions with local decision-makers or draw attention to a local issue that you feel passionately about but which doesn't get the attention it deserves. Why not take your questions direct to the Annual Town Meeting?

Anyone on the electoral roll for Godalming (that is, all Godalming voters), can attend, speak and vote at the meeting. It's the ideal place to put any question you wish to the Town Council.

There is no need to submit your question in advance or put it in writing; simply put up your hand at the meeting and you will be able to ask your question. We can't guarantee your question can be answered in full on the night – but we'll try and if

we can't then we will respond in writing within a week. The Town Council's Annual Report will be circulated at the meeting and copies of the report are available from 17 April 2015 from the Town Clerk or from the Council's website, www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/annual-report.htm if you want any advice or further information about the town meeting please e-mail the Town Clerk: townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk or call her on 01483 523575.



Godalming Mayor's Awards for Volunteers

Do you know someone who gives up his or her time for the benefit of others in Godalming or Farncombe?

The Town Mayor's Award for Volunteers is run each year to find local unsung heroes who deserve a public 'thank you' for their voluntary work. Volunteers make a huge contribution to community life – supporting vulnerable groups, local heritage and cultural life, helping young people in sports and leisure activities, running

playgroups and much more. Nominating someone for the award is quick and easy. Simply, download a form from the Town Council's website (www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/mayors-volunteer-award.htm) or request one by calling the Town Council offices on 01483 523575.

Return the form to Godalming Town Council by Friday, 27 March 2015.

Diary dates...

With all media attention focussed on a General Election you will be forgiven for not knowing that elections to Godalming Town Council will take place on the same day - Thursday, 7 May 2015

Dates for Godalming Staycation 2015 are Saturday, 1 August to Sunday, 9 August - look out for the programme in VantagePoint in July.

There will be a Farmers' Market in Godalming High Street on Saturday, 28 March 2015

Pepperpot Mugs

Struggling for an idea for a present? Try something that is unique to Godalming and buy a set of Pepperpot Mugs. The mugs (pictured) are decorated with a silhouette of Godalming's iconic landmark and can be purchased for £5 each or £15 for a box of four. The mugs are available in four colours, navy, cyan, pink and lime green and a box contains one of each colour.

The mugs can be purchased from the Town Council's offices in Bridge Street and will be on sale at the Easter Festival in the High Street on Saturday, 4 April 2015.





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