

Notes of the Farncombe Initiative meeting on
7th March 2018

Apologies: Dan Davies, Nick Marshall and Nick Williams

1. **Present:** Steve Cosser, Anne Gray, John Petty, Damian Wheeler, Matthew O'Donoghue, Paul Devereux, John Blades, Suzie Gortler, Eleni Bainbridge, Martyn Sandford, Ben Francis, Sue Petty
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed as correct
3. **De-brief on the open meeting on 27th February:** It was felt that despite the bad weather the attendance was good, with approx. 20 people there. Grateful thanks expressed to Martyn for his outstanding information display material and to Dan and Nick for the presentation. It is hoped that the presentation will be used again in different venues at the appropriate time. Ben had put some of it on the newly formed 'FI Information Board, which has 98 followers. The display material could also be used at the Fete on 5th May at the Bury Fields and the FDC fete on 14th July at cannon Bowring Fields. **Action – volunteers required please to 'man' the stall for both these events.**
4. **Update on the railway group:**
 - SG and MS attended the recent annual conference of SW Railways. The SWR MD emphasised the importance of community involvement. Attended by 100 interested people.
 - We could adopt Farncombe station and the signal box through The Association of Community Rail Partnerships.
 - SWR have agreed to pay the £25 annual membership. **Action SC to check and understand benefits of this group.**
 - Partnership with them would take a lot of time and we need to carefully think this through. How far do we want to go with this?
 - Other railway enthusiasts could also be interested in forming a group to take this forward.
 - Tim Sparrow will be asked to speak to us at one of our meetings. **Action SG**
 - MS suggested that we use some of the railway money now and proposed £400 to do some planting in and around the station in the spring. Are we covered for insurance? **Action SG**
 - Network rail have sent replies to MS on all the action points he sent them.
5. **Guilford to Godalming Greenway:**

- This has been developed by a group of people interested in getting people to use alternative transport to motorised vehicles. MS is a member of the group.
 - They will be applying for grants to start the process and would like to put in an application for some of the S 106 money.
6. **Binscombe shopping parade project:**
- It was agreed that preparation for planting would take place on Saturday 12th May with the planning taking place on the 19th May.
 - We hope to do a litter pick on Saturday 19th May as well as the planting, so that the area will look much improved after the planting.
 - We need more volunteers for these dates. Please contact Anne on annebriangray@hotmail.com if you would like to help.
- Action BF to ask for volunteers please on the FI board. SG to chase up the Godalming allotment people please.**
7. **Litter Picks:** JP asked if we could do a litter pick on 26th May which continues down from the shopping parade at Long Gore right along the into Binscombe village. **NB this will now happen on the 19th May, when the shopping parade litter pick is happening. Action SG to arrange this.**
8. **Funding Opportunities:**
- SC explained about how the 106 monies will eventually change to the community infrastructure levy.
 - Currently we have £4,530 allocated to Farncombe and Binscombe. How money is spent would be decided by this group.
 - AG said she had already applied to Town Clerk for some of this money for the 2nd phase of the Binscombe shopping parade.
 - Mention was made about benches for other parts of the community – Spring Grove, Green Lane, for example. (JP has a list from a few years ago of places identified as in need of a bench)
 - Other Ideas to be sent in for consideration To Steve Cosser. **Action ALL.**
9. **Public Art in Farncombe and Biscombe:**
- SC said that he would be meeting the local artist Stephen Goddard to discuss the idea.
 - Tom Hawksley and others plan to walk around the whole area in the late spring to identify suitable places for art.
10. **A.O.B.**
- AG asked if the notes from the meetings could be posted on the FI board for the public to see This was agreed. **Action SG/BF**
 - DW commented that the toilets were being cleaned 6 times week and were in good condition

- JP expressed concern about the problems of parking in Farncombe centre and that the Day centre would be having a barrier across very soon. SC explained that the Day Centre was not a public car park and that there must be consideration for the shops, as removing parking bays, for example, would affect their trade.
 - JB asked if something could be done about the oak waste bins in Broadwater park that had ben vandalised some time ago. **Action SG to contact WBC. Also, SG to put useful phone numbers on the FI board for members to contact WBC overflowing bins, dog fouling etc.**
 - SG and SC met with GDCOC (Godalming and District Chamber of Commerce) to discuss Farncombe Businesses. SG Attended a meeting with the Chamber of commerce and WBC about 'Compete on the Street'. Funding for this has come from SCC (Penny Rivers) GDCOC, WBC, and GTC. Mystery shoppers will be looking at shops and businesses in the area and will give feedback. So far, 9 businesses/shops in Farncombe to contact WBC have signed up for it.
 - Eleni, a parent governor from Farncombe Infants School, spoke about the traffic and parked cars around the school where children and parents' need to cross the road. There is virtually no signage for the school. Vision is very restricted in places, especially around the station area. Putting in an extended buildout by the station footpath would improve vision, however, the estimated cost would be £20,000 to £25,000. SCC could be approached, but money is very tight. They will be doing some fund-raising activities and would like some support from us, if we can help. It was suggested that Eleni contact Penny Rivers her SCC Councillor too.
 - MS said he had some ideas for the space in the toilets and the signal box **Action – all to send in ideas please.**
Martyn also asked if we could celebrate the swifts in the church in some way. **Action MS to put something together.**
 - DW asked if we can still write something for the Farncombe Villager magazine?
11. **Date of next meeting - Wednesday 25th April at 8.00 at the Godalming Tennis Club.**