



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## Report to the Annual Town Meeting of Electors

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

This report provides a brief summary of the Council's main areas of activity during 2012/13.

### Council

Farnham Town Council comprises 18 councillors representing the nine Town Council Wards. A list of all the Farnham Representatives is attached at Annex 1.

Farnham Town Council meets as Full Council nine times a year where all decisions are taken. Meetings are open to the public, and there is the opportunity for public questions on any matter not on the agenda, and for public statements on any matter on the agenda of each meeting. The day to day work of the Council is undertaken through a number of Working Groups where more detailed discussion and the formulation of future plans takes place. Recommendations of the Working Group Meetings go to full Council for decision.

### The Working Groups

Strategy and Finance

- Infrastructure Planning Task Group
- HR Panel
- Offices Task Group

Cemeteries and Appeals

Community Enhancement

Planning Consultative Group

Tourism and Events

### The Mayor of Farnham 2012/13.

The Council is chaired by the Mayor of Farnham Councillor Stephen Hill. With his Mayoress, Helen Hill, the Mayor attends over 300 community events during the year as Farnham's first citizen. He chose the Farnham Foodbank as his Mayoral Charity. The Farnham Foodbank collects and distributes food to families in need.



# Services

The Town Council provides a range of services for residents at a cost in 2012/13 of £54.10 or £1.04 per week per band 'D' household. The Town Council services are funded by local residents. No contribution is received by the Town Council from the business rates.

Farnham Town Council's services include:

- Allotments
- Annual Town Meeting of Electors
- CCTV
- Civic Events
- Christmas Lights
- Cemeteries & Burials
- Farmers' Market
- Farnham in Bloom
- Graffiti Removal
- Grants – Community
- Library Gardens Management
- Notice Boards
- Planning - Statutory Consultee
- Public Conveniences
- South Street Trust
- Tourism & Events
- Town Twinning with Andernach
- War Memorials

## Some highlights from 2012-13 include:

### Community Enhancement including Farnham in Bloom

Farnham in Bloom is more than just flowers; it is an all year round community project which aims to enhance Farnham to ensure it is an attractive place to live, work and play in. *Farnham in Bloom 2012*, launch in April, included over 50 sponsors attending an evening reception with Hamptons welcomed as corporate sponsor and Evitavonni as the new Gold Sponsor for the year.



In 2012 the Farnham in Bloom team, Community Group and other members of the community were involved in a huge number of projects including bulb planting, litter picking, clearing areas of land, railing painting, residents and local groups watering flowers in rural areas, work with schools to plant hanging baskets for Castle Street, a schools' hanging basket competition, the *Secret Gardens* competition with various categories and improvements to the gateways to the town.

The Working Group continued to work very successfully with local schools. Fifteen schools made up hanging baskets, not only for their own school, but also a basket each to be hung in Castle Street.

The Farnham in Bloom team has also been working with the Post 19 club run by Rob Powers with funding from Surrey County Council. This group of 5 youngsters aged between 19 – 22, all of whom have Learning Disabilities, have the chance to take part in a number of activities. This



year the group has amongst other things, worked in the Town Council greenhouses with the outside workforce. This has helped include the youngsters as a part of the Community Group work for Farnham in Bloom and build their self confidence.

2012 was a very successful year for Farnham in Bloom. Farnham entered two categories at the South and South East in Bloom Awards, namely the Town Centre category and the Large Town category. Despite some of the most testing weather extremes in recent memory, the competition included more than 300 entries ranging from small villages to large cities across Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire, who were all competing for these prestigious awards.

Farnham was awarded with Gold Certificates in both the Town Centre and Large Town categories. Farnham gained further recognition through being chosen for the 'Best in Category' Award for the Town Centre. Due to these successes, Farnham have been invited to enter the 'Champion of Champions' category at South and South East in Bloom 2013. Tribute should also be paid to the volunteers who run the Victoria Gardens who have for the past three years achieved the accolade of "Outstanding" for their work.



Following the South and South East in Bloom Awards ceremony, the Farnham in Bloom team hosted their very own awards evening, held at Squires Garden Centre in Badshot Lea celebrating the achievements of allotment holders, the Secret Gardens, village waterers and other Awards of Excellence. An awards presentation was also held celebrating the achievements of the schools involved in Farnham in Bloom.

2012 also saw the second Winter Celebration for Farnham in Bloom take place in December in Gostrey Meadow. Farnham Brass Band played, whilst members of the public flocked to the meadow to sing along with their favourite Christmas carols around the Christmas tree.

The Community Enhancement Working Group, which includes Farnham in Bloom activity, is responsible for many other projects which keep Farnham and the surrounding areas looking at its best. This includes, amongst other things, running the local allotments, graffiti removal, installing and updating notice boards, bus stops, bins, benches and other street furniture, public conveniences and parks and open spaces.

### Graffiti Management

The Town Council believes that tackling incidents of graffiti quickly is essential. It therefore retains the services of a specialist company who come to Farnham every month to keep the town looking as cared for as possible. During the year, discussions took place with both Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council to see if the work each organization undertakes in managing graffiti can be better coordinated. Members of the public can report graffiti to Farnham Town Council who will co-ordinate with other local authorities where necessary.



## Allotments



The Council manages 8 allotment sites, providing 263 plots. However demand is strong and even though new sites have been opened in recent years there are still over 100 people on the waiting list anxious to have a go at growing their own. The Council organises an annual allotment show and an allotment competition, both of which are strongly supported. The Council has regular meetings with representatives of each allotment site and produces a newsletter for allotment holders containing tips and advice for making the most of their allotment.

## Street banners

Local organisations can apply to Farnham Town Council to book banner spaces in Downing Street and the Borough, to promote local events and/or causes. Typically the spaces are rented on approximately 60 occasions throughout the year. They provide a valuable opportunity for local promotion. Any local organisation interested in promotion through use of these banner spaces should contact customer services at Farnham Town Council on 01252 712667 or [customer.services@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@farnham.gov.uk).

## War Memorial



During the year, the War Memorial in Gostrey Meadow was refurbished in time for the Remembrance Day Service. Council has agreed an additional budget for 2013/14 to clean or refurbish Farnham's other memorials in time for the centenary of the outbreak of World War I in 2014.

## Tourism and Events

During the year a wide range of events and activities were planned and co-ordinated. The purpose is to provide something for people of all ages to do and to also help generate footfall into the town to support local businesses.

### Music in the Meadow - June to September 2012

Music in the Meadow provided Farnham residents and visitors with a summer programme of musical entertainment by local bands in Gostrey Meadow on lazy Sunday afternoons. Each week a different charity held a tea tent to provide the public with refreshments, this was designed to help local charities both raise funds and their profile within the local community. Unfortunately, the summer was wetter than usual so the attendance average was 400 but with some concerts attracting 700-800 people.



### **Jubilee Picnic – 3 June 2012**

The Jubilee Picnic was a celebration of some of the best of British over the Jubilee weekend which took place in Gostrey Meadow. Local bands and musicians entertained the crowds with renditions of classic British hits, whilst children enjoyed a teddy-bear's picnic and children's rides. Local businesses provided delicious food and refreshments such as sandwiches, pork pies and cream teas, and the Mayor of Farnham provided a Pimm's tent in aid of his charity of the year, Farnham Foodbank. Despite yet another rainy afternoon, around 500 visitors visited equipped with their umbrellas to celebrate the Jubilee in Farnham.



### **Picnic in the Park – 1 July 2012**

This is the third year of running this popular event which traditionally takes place the day after the Carnival in Gostrey Meadow. Once again, the heavens opened and members of the public took shelter under gazebos and umbrellas to enjoy the friendly and relaxed atmosphere where family and friends were able to enjoy the fantastic bands playing light jazz melodies and classics. For those without a picnic there were refreshments available and the Mayor of Farnham's Charity of the year, Farnham Foodbank was also able to raise funds and awareness of its work.



### **Farnham Grows - July 2012**

Farnham Grows was a month long celebration of gardening in July. This was held in partnership with Farnham Maltings. It encompassed a variety of events and activities aimed at the green fingered in Farnham and beyond.



Farnham Maltings was transformed into a gardener's paradise for a day. Visitors to this ticketed event enjoyed browsing and buying from over 30 stalls, some of which encouraged 'Grow Your Own' initiatives. Adding to the attractions were interactive workshops on flower arranging and cooking, in addition to lectures and talks provided by well-known experts in the horticultural sector. Farnham Maltings also provided much needed space for Farnham Town Council's popular allotment show, which received the most entries since the show began in 2004. Around 1,200 people attended this event.

### **Feast of Food – 15 to 29 September 2012**

The Feast of Food spans over an entire fortnight and includes the promotion of a different Restaurant/Pub menu at a unique price every day. It is free for businesses to take part in the scheme which aims to encourage the use of locally sourced produce in Farnham's eateries. The fortnight also includes the Farnham Farmers' Market in Central Car Park.



The picturesque Castle Street was turned into a bustling market place as it again played host to the Farnham Food Festival on Saturday 29 September. Over 60 traders from local food companies and producers offered a fantastic variety of treats and products to sample and buy in the heart of Farnham's

town centre. There was entertainment provided by local musicians and a string of local head chefs, who “fed” the audience with culinary tips. More than half the stallholders who attended sold out of their produce before the end of the event, demonstrating that many visitors to the Festival were keen to buy locally-sourced products, and stallholders expressed their approval of the Festival and their intention to return in future years. The estimated attendance at the Food Festival was in excess of 5,000 visitors.

### **Farnham Christmas Lights Switch-On - 24 November 2012**

Gostrey Meadow was host to thousands of visitors for the Farnham Christmas Lights Switch-On. Local pantomime artists came in full costume to entertain the crowds and start the exciting countdown with Lucy Benjamin and the cast of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves from the Anvil, Basingstoke and the cast of Beauty and the Beast from Princess Hall, Aldershot. The intention was to make Farnham a festive and enjoyable place to be at Christmas time, particularly in the current economic climate, which would in turn encourage local residents and visitors to shop in Farnham, and help support increased viability for local businesses.



Local businesses and charities took part in the Christmas market, providing gifts games and refreshments to the public. In addition, several local schools gave performances on stage, as well as a superb musical duo, three local choirs and a local Stage School. Further entertainment was provided in the form of Santa’s Grotto in the Bandstand, rides for the children and a live nativity scene.

The event was very well received by those who attended and despite the very wet weather the event was extremely successful.

**For more details and information on things to do in Farnham organised by the Town Council and other local groups see [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk) or follow Farnham Events on Facebook or @farnhamevents on Twitter**

### **Farnham Farmers’ Markets**

Despite the recession the Farnham Farmers’ Market has continued to be a successful and popular market. It is held in Central Car Park every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 10-1.30, supporting the local rural economy and bringing people into town to bring additional footfall to shops and restaurants that are open. The Market is an accredited market with FARMA meaning that it complies with strict standards and customers can be sure of buying fresh local seasonal products.



Each month a different charity runs the Tea Tent, selling tea or coffee with a slice of homemade cake or biscuits. Local organizations wishing to run a tea tent at a future market should contact Ginny Gordon on 01252 712667.

The Market was started in association with Waverley Borough Council and until this year they have charged a peppercorn rent for the space in the car park. From 2013/14 Waverley has recently decided to charge £10 per stall per market on top of the costs of running the market. This

represents a 29% increase for the stallholders and the Town Council is in discussions with the producers to discuss how to best safeguard the market for the future.

## Cemeteries

The Town Council has continued in its commitment as the Burial Authority for the four town cemeteries to provide the highest quality of care and assistance to all those using its Cemeteries Services throughout 2012/13.

### Burial Services



Between April 2012 and the end of February 2013, the Town Council carried out 40 burials and 20 burials of cremated remains in West Street, Hale, Green Lane and Badshot Lea Cemeteries. The Council aims at all times to offer a service which is sensitive to the needs and wishes of the bereaved, and burials of a variety of faiths, denominations and cultural preferences have taken place in the cemeteries this year.

### Memorial Services

The Town Council has continued its programme of memorial inspections in the cemeteries throughout the year, placing particular importance on safety issues and on the documenting of older headstones for historic and genealogical purposes. There are approximately 5200 memorials in the Town Cemeteries, with around 55 permits for new memorials being issued in 2012/13.

### Genealogy services

During the past year, the Council has responded to around two dozen genealogical requests from people locally, nationally and internationally. This service frequently results in visitors coming to the town to visit their relatives' graves and research their family history.

### The Garden of Reflection



The Garden of Reflection in West Street Cemetery is a tranquil landscaped area dedicated to the scattering of ashes, with a Memorial Book where plaques may be placed in memory of loved-ones. A large stone sign marking the entrance to the site was erected in 2013. The stone sign also formally marks the dedication of the Garden of Reflection to former Assistant Town Clerk, Nick Goddard.

### Encouraging Biodiversity

Over the past 4 years, the Council has established a biodiversity area in an older section of West Street Cemetery as part of its commitment to preserving green spaces within the town. The area now plays host to a wide variety of birds, butterflies and bees who are attracted to the abundance

of wildflowers that the Council and public have carefully introduced for this purpose. This has created a tranquil, colourful and less-formal setting for people to sit in and remember their loved-ones during the warmer months.

### War Graves

The Town Council maintains the 74 war graves in its cemeteries on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), ensuring that they are kept tidy and accessible at all times. Work has already begun by the CWGC on installing signage for these graves in recognition of the importance of these sites as part of their preparation for the WWI centenary in 2014.

### Christmas Memorial Tree

Following the positive feedback from Christmas 2011, this year the Council once again created a Memorial Tree by inviting members of the public to hang memorial cards on the field maple trees near the entrance to West Street cemetery. Christmas-time can be especially difficult for those who have been bereaved, and many visitors used the opportunity to leave messages in memory of loved-ones during the 2012/13 Festive Season.

### Maintenance of the Cemeteries

As the Burial Authority for the town cemeteries, the Town Council is responsible for ensuring the safety of all who use, visit or work in the cemeteries. It therefore operates an extensive programme of routine maintenance and long-term improvement projects, including repairs to pathways, bulb and tree-planting and tree surgery.



The Council places much importance on the ongoing maintenance of its cemeteries with mowing throughout the summer, hedge-trimming throughout the year and leaf-clearance in the Autumn. In recent years, fluctuating Spring weather has encouraged rapid grass growth, making maintenance difficult. In anticipation, this year the mowing schedule has been extended to start in early March to ensure that the cemeteries remain tidy and accessible throughout this period.

### “The Future of Farnham’s Cemeteries” Exhibition

In February 2013, the Town Council hosted an exhibition proposals for the future of its cemetery buildings, land and services.



outlining the

support issues, cemetery, Lane burial site, Cemetery

Around forty people attended to learn about, lend their and discuss their thoughts on a wide variety of cemetery including the possible re-opening of a section of Hale the possibility of purchasing land adjacent to Green Cemetery for use as a cemetery extension or a green and the suggestions for the future uses of the Chapels.

The Council has received much useful feedback on all of these currently using this information to help ensure that its future Cemeteries the needs of the people of Farnham.

proposals and is Services can meet

## Planning matters

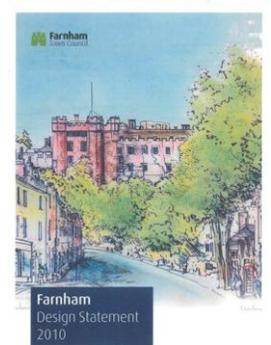
Farnham Town Council has commented on a number of major developments locally over the past year as part of the fortnightly meetings of the Planning Consultative Group. The Council is a statutory consultee on the planning applications submitted to Waverley Borough Council for the Farnham area. The numbers of Planning Applications commented on in 2012/13 by the beginning of March was:

	2011/12	2012/13
<i>Number of planning applications considered</i>	620	589
<i>Number of Listed Building applications considered</i>	28	34
<i>Number of Conservation Area applications considered</i>	6	27
<i>Number of applications considered for new and/or replacement dwellings</i>	63	106
<i>Number of applications considered with regard to mineral extraction or recycling</i>	4	6
<i>Number of applications for works to trees</i>	50	79

The Planning Consultative Group has had a surprisingly busy year, more for the activities that took place in addition to the simple numbers listed above. More major activity was involved in:

- Extension of the Planning Application for the East Street (Brightwells Development) scheme
- Consultation on the design brief for the Police Station site
- Consultation on matters affecting the Bordon eco-town development
- Consultation for 400 dwellings adjacent to Ash Manor
- Consultation for 3,850 dwellings – Aldershot Urban Extension
- Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Church Crookham
- Reviewing the 21000 panel Solar Farm at Dippenhall.

In relation to the East Street development, the Planning Consultative Group commissioned expert advice prior to considering the new application in August, and as a result recommended to Council to Object to the extension of the Planning Application but to approve the new application for a bridge to access the site as to minimize the significant congestion in town that would otherwise be caused without such a bridge.



### East Street CPO Inquiry

Council also resolved to make representations to the Compulsory Purchase Order Inquiry for the Iceland site and the Marlborough Head, and provided evidence on Town Council Policy and concerns (such as air quality and congestion) previously raised at the Town Council following representations by the community. The Town Council was represented throughout and provided four witnesses to the Inquiry.

During the year the Planning Consultative Committee also took responsibility for commenting on licensing matters and commented on a number of new Licensing applications.

### **Farnham Conservation Area Management Plan**

Farnham Town Council is also a key partner in the Farnham Conservation Area Management Plan (FACAMP) Group, which is devising a new management plan to protect and enhance the town centre conservation area. The Plan which shapes and directs the work of any authority in the conservation area to ensure it meets appropriate standards was subject to consultation during the year and was adopted by Waverley Borough Council in October 2012.

### **Farnham Neighbourhood Plan**

Neighbourhood planning is a new right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. For the first time, local people will have a major statutory say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live. Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to shape the development and growth of a local area through the production of a neighbourhood development plan, a neighbourhood development order or a Community Right to Bid Order.



Neighbourhood development plans will become part of the local statutory development plan and will form the basis for determining planning applications in that area. Neighbourhood planning is a new way for local communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work.

Farnham Town Council is working on Farnham's Neighbourhood Plan. In November 2012 the Town Council applied for formal "designation" of the Town Council area for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning which was formally approved in February 2013.

At any time, the most recent published version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan document is available online at <http://www.farnham.gov.uk/life/neighbourhoodplan> along with other crucial information and updates regarding the progress of the Plan. Follow @FarnhamPlan on Twitter or email [neighbourhood.plan@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.plan@farnham.gov.uk) to receive updates.

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## **Strategy and Finance**

### **Power of General Competence**

In July, the Council adopted the Power of General Competence under the Localism Act 2011. Previously the Council was limited in some of the things it could do without having a specific power or duty. Now it can do anything a person can do, as long as it is lawful, and as long as there are no restrictions imposed by legislation. The first use of the new Power was to provide a grant to support an individual paralympic cyclist Rachel Morris.

### **Audit and Accounts**

Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/817) the accounts for year ending 31 March 2012 for Farnham Town Council were duly audited by BDO LLP in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and Code of Audit Practice. The results of the Audit were presented to Full Council in October 2012. The Auditor reported “

*“on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met “*

A copy of the audited accounts for 2011/12 is available on request at the Council Offices and a copy of the summary financial Statement is available at the meeting. The 2012/13 Audit will be undertaken by BDO on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

The Council also has an Independent internal Auditor, Mr Alan Harland, who reviews financial systems and controls and during the year his reports have twice been reviewed by Council and all matters raised have been progressed.

### **New Financial System**

During 2012/13 Farnham Town Council changed its financial accounting system, and now uses the RBS Omega system. This has enabled staff and councilors to manage the accounts and services more effectively and assist with the end of year processes. The Council has also continued its programme of reallocating overhead and staffing costs according to service areas to give a clearer picture of the full costs of services.

### **Council Offices**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, Farnham Town Council became the owner of the Council Offices in South Street after a transfer back to Farnham of the building by Waverley Borough Council. The past year has seen further programmed investment in the building with secondary glazing installed to improve the noise and energy efficiency, and recabling of the IT infrastructure. Plans have been prepared to create better use of the area formerly used as the Waverley Cash Office, and a new public meeting area for surgeries and use by other community groups has been approved and is being tendered.

### **Asset Management**

The Council has responsibility for optimizing and maintaining a number of assets including the Council Offices, three public conveniences, the Wrecclesham Community Centre and four cemetery Chapels. During the year architects were commissioned to prepare plans for bringing back into active use the cemetery chapels, and following the Cemeteries exhibition, planning permission is being sought to convert the Green Lane Chapel into a residential use, and use the proceeds to bring West Street Chapel back into active use as a workshop and progress a solution for the Hale Chapels which are very dilapidated.



### **Surrey Localism**

Farnham Town Council has been involved in discussions with Surrey County Council in a Highways Localism project. Through this project it is intended that small local non-priority service areas will be managed by Farnham Town Council, with the Town Council cleaning street signs and bollards, managing epicormic growth, litter picking on County Council land and dealing with graffiti on county council property. The arrangement should be cost effective for both the Town Council and the County Council and avoid duplication.

### **Discussion with Waverley over Gostrey meadow, allotments etc**

During 2012/13 Farnham Town Council had discussions with Waverley Borough Council on the possible transfer of Gostrey Meadow, Borelli Walk, the Weybourne Allotments and the Haren

Gardens back to Farnham. These are of local rather than strategic value and would fit well with the Town Council's responsibilities. It is hoped that progress can be made in the coming year.

### **Queen's Jubilee**

The Town Council sent Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. In addition, the Council supported a number of community Jubilee street parties by paying for the insurance to enable the events to go ahead safely; arranged the Jubilee Picnic in Gostrey Meadow, refurbished the Falkner Fountain with a commemoration stone for the Jubilee; and have worked with the Farnham Maltings in commissioning artists to refurbish the wharf next to the Malting and bring it into active use as community space.



### **2012 Olympics**

With the Support of Surrey County Council, Farnham was bedecked with Olympic floral tributes and bunting to help Farnham celebrate the 2012 Olympics. A reception was held ahead of the games for Olympic hopefuls and torch-bearers from Farnham, and the Town Council was delighted in the success of Paralympian Rachel Morris winning a bronze medal to add to her Gold from Beijing. The Town Council support the Community Games held at the new Farnham Rugby Club, Farnham Leisure Centre and the David Lloyd Leisure Centre.

### **Wrecclesham Community Centre**

Since 2012 Farnham Town Council has been working in partnership with the trustees of the Wrecclesham Community Centre to raise money for much needed repairs to a well loved community centre. Improvements include replacing the leaking roof, refurbishing the toilets, replacing the worn floors, redecorating and extending the centre.

Town Council staff have been working with the Trustees to raise £150,000 for the three phases of the improvements. So far the Town Council has committed £26,000 and £30,000 was awarded from the Surrey County Council Community Improvements Fund. Further applications have been made to the Landfill Trusts and decisions are awaited to secure the remaining funding.

The centre, made possible thanks to it being gifted to the Town by Sir Ray Tindle CBE DL, is vital to the community in Wrecclesham. It offers numerous classes including IT for over 50s, IT for returners to work and IT for lone parents, literacy, numeracy, Art, stress management, therapeutic art, yoga, fitness for the Over 50s and gentle exercise. It also provides a hub for many groups such as the Over 50s friendship club, Wrecclesham Football Team, Farnham and District Railway Club as well as organisations such as Surestart and Citizens Advice Bureau.

## Finances

### Focusing on efficiencies

During 2012 further review of contracts has been undertaken and continues to be an ongoing project to improve services and savings. Some projects have been brought forward in 2012/13 with money vired from staff savings as vacancies were managed during the year. In the new financial year, the intention is to optimize savings from the Council's spend and for 2013/14 new challenging income targets have been set for service areas with additional target savings set by the Council to enable Farnham's requirement for the 2013/14 budget to be kept at the same level per Band D household as in 2012/13.

### Grant Funding

During 2012/13 Farnham supported wide range of local community groups with over £54,000 of grant funding plus additional support for the town carnivals.

Beneficiaries in 2012/13 include:

*Citizens Advice Waverley, Farnham Maltings Association Ltd, 40 Degreez Centre for Young People, Badshot Lea Cricket Club, Can Do Volunteering, Farnham Brass Band, Farnham Carnival, Farnham Community Games, Farnham Competitive Music Festival, Farnham Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Farnham Rugby Club, Farnham Squadron Air Cadets, Farnham Lions fund for Rachel Morris, Farnham Volunteer Centre, Hale Darby & Joan Club, Hale Carnival Committee, Kids Fest UK, New Ashgate Gallery trust Ltd, Old Kiln Museum, Opportunities, Residents' Association of Sandy Hill – RASH, Sandy Hill Bungalow, Surrey Crimestoppers, The Bishop's Meadow Trust, The William Cobbett Society, Transition Farnham and Wrecclesham Community Project.*

In addition, Farnham Town Council made an extra grant of £5,000 to enable the Farnham Maltings purchase a digital projector for the Cinema to ensure it could continue to receive the latest films from distributors.

### Budget and Precept 2013/14

For 2013/14 Waverley Borough Council has had to create a new Local Council Tax Scheme as a result of national changes to the benefits system. As a result it has seen a reduction of 1104.1 Band D properties and a loss of income of almost £60,000.



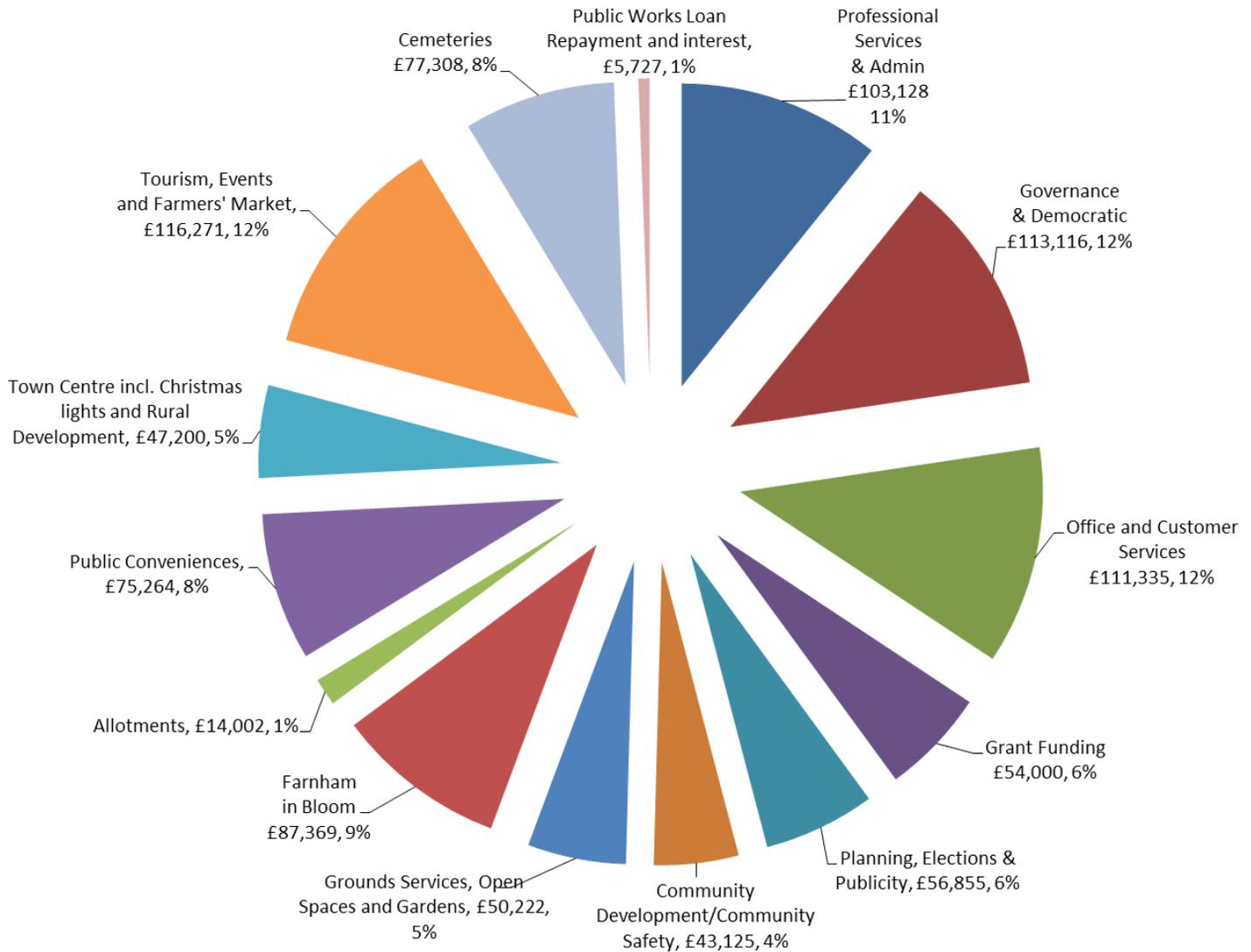
The Government made provision for a Local Parish Council Tax Support Fund to deal with the shortfall, and protect local taxpayers. However only £31,063 has been passed on to Farnham by Waverley Borough Council (who received the specific grant).

Although the Town Council set a zero budget increase for 2013/14 by setting an additional savings target, the reduction in band D properties without the full grant being passed on means that the precept increase by 3p a week to £1.07 per week (or £55.86 per annum) per Band D property. The precept raised by Farnham Town Council in 2013/14 will reduce from £938,117 to £907,859.

## FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT

	2012/13			2013/14		
Service Area	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Budget	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Budget
Professional Services & Admin	£100,060	£0	£100,060	£103,128	£0	£103,128
Governance & Democratic	£111,812	£0	£111,812	£113,116	£0	£113,116
Office and Customer Services	£91,447	£0	£91,447	£111,335	£0	£111,335
Grant Funding	£50,000	£0	£50,000	£54,000	£0	£54,000
Planning, Elections & Publicity	£51,981	£0	£51,981	£56,855	£0	£56,855
Community Development/Community Safety	£46,309	£3,700	£42,609	£46,825	£3,700	£43,125
Grounds Services, Open Spaces and Gardens	£51,219	£4,000	£47,219	£55,222	£5,000	£50,222
Farnham in Bloom	£100,707	£9,000	£91,707	£99,869	£12,500	£87,369
Allotments	£22,805	£8,500	£14,305	£23,402	£9,400	£14,002
Public Conveniences	£73,436	£0	£73,436	£75,264	£0	£75,264
Town Centre incl. Christmas lights and Rural Development	£48,000	£2,000	£46,000	£50,700	£3,500	£47,200
Tourism, Events and Farmers' Market	£159,558	£33,500	£126,058	£151,771	£35,500	£116,271
Cemeteries	£134,253	£50,000	£84,253	£144,808	£67,500	£77,308
Public Works Loan Repayment and interest	£10,230	£3,000	£7,230	£10,227	£4,500	£5,727
Target savings						-£16,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,051,817</b>	<b>£113,700</b>	<b>£938,117</b>	<b>£1,096,522</b>	<b>£141,600</b>	<b>£938,922</b>
Less Government Local Parish Council Tax Support Funding			£0			-£31,063
<b>PRECEPT</b>			<b>£938,117</b>			<b>£907,859</b>

A pie chart illustrating the approved net budget for the 2013/14 year is below for information showing how the net spend funded by local council tax payers is spent.



### South Street Trust

The Council acts as the Trustee for the South Street Trust (formerly known as the Farnham School of Science and Art) which awards grants from the income of an endowment set up by James Knight and John Knight in 1880 by for “art and allied subjects”. Initially the income was from the rent of 17 South Street but the building was sold and the funds invested. The trustees now distribute the interest on the invested funds which in 2012 were valued at £611,441 on 31<sup>st</sup> arch 2012. During 2012, the Trust awarded grants totalling £24,525.

Beneficiaries were - Hale School, Farnham Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Farnham Maltings Association Ltd, William Cobbett School, Metal Monkeys, St Polycarps School, Badshot Lea Infant School, Creative Response (Arts) Ltd, Edgeborough School, Farnham Art and Design Education Group, Frensham Heights School, University for Creative Arts, The Abbey School and Farnham Heath End School.

## Services to Farnham Awards

The fourth Services to Farnham Awards Ceremony took place in February 2013 celebrating those who have given an outstanding service to the community of Farnham. The awards are run by Farnham Town Council with the support of the Farnham Herald. Sir Ray Tindle of Tindle News inspired the awards in 2010 and continues to support the awards. This year 12 people were awarded, for services across a wide range of organisations and communities.



## Conclusion

The Audited accounts for 2012/13 will be available from September 2013.

Farnham Town Council is interested in your views and opinions so please keep in touch.

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01252 712667

[customer.services@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@farnham.gov.uk)

[www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk)

Mayor 2012/13:

Councillor Stephen Hill

Deputy Mayor 2012/13

Councillor Paddy Blagden CBE

Spokesperson for the Council: Councillor John Ward

Town Clerk:

Iain Lynch

Honorary Town Crier: Jonathan Jones

Pictures courtesy of the Aldershot & Farnham Camera Club, The Farnham Herald, Surrey & Hants News and Farnham Town Council.

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Waverley Borough Councillor

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Also Waverley Borough Councillor, Shortheath & Boundstone

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