

MINUTES of GENERAL MEETING

14 October 2011

1. WELCOME

Cathie Whitcroft welcomed Guest Speaker, MP, Local Officers and approx. 85 members and visitors present.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Dr. Peter Cureton, Senior Partner, Frimley Green Medical Centre (FGMC).
"Local Health Care - What Lies Ahead?"

Dr. Cureton spoke of the proposed changes in the organisation and funding of health care provision.

The Local Commissioning Group, replacing the Primary Care Trust, would have local representation from Consultants, nursing staff, GPs and patients. There would be diversity and greater flexibility to buy services economically and in a timely manner to serve the population's needs. This should reduce the many levels of health management, and use funds saved for healthcare.

The NHS has steadily increasing financial needs: it is the 4th largest employer worldwide (after the Chinese Liberation army, Walmart and the Indian Railways); our population is living longer; more hospital admissions, new treatments and drug research have significantly increased financial demands. We can all help, as it is our taxes which pay for all this - reduce wastage (FGMC averages 50 missed GP and 50 missed nurse appointments per month - cost in doctors' time and lost opportunities for others -, 2000 monthly throughout Frimley Park Hospital) and drug over-ordering, stay healthier (60% adults and 30% children are overweight) through good diet and exercise.

There was considerable interest, and Dr. Cureton answered questions.

3. TEA & COFFEE BREAK

4. QUESTIONS to MP and LOCAL OFFICERS

4.1 Local Healthcare Facilities.

David Parsons: How will provision be made for health care for the population increase with the proposed Deepcut development?

Dr. P. Cureton: FGMC have advised Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) they are unable to take all the new residents, and that any plans granted need to make adequate provision.

MP M. Gove: depression in the housing market likely to delay the process, and if SHBC grant planning consent they must consider local needs (school, health centre capacity, shops, green space, transport).

4.2 Basingstoke Canal.

Roy Kempston: Can we exert pressure to reopen the Deepcut flight on the Basingstoke Canal in time for the 21st anniversary?

Mr. Gareth Jones, Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society, said that contractors began work last week, aim to re-open by Easter 2012.

4.3 Unused Drugs.

Maxine Pope: Can we recycle unused drugs?

Dr. P. Cureton: not permitted in UK, but on his regular visits to Africa taking surplus supplies, everything is welcome and used. He will review the matter of unused drugs.

4.4 Deepcut S.P.A.

Ron Fullard: Concern over scope of the Special Protection Area designation at Deepcut.

MP M. Gove: this EU directive is to protect habitat of endangered species, including development near to adjacent dwellings. Larger developers can afford to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS), small local builders are disadvantaged, and Mr. Gove keen to redress balance where possible. Proposed changes to planning system would increase local influence, necessitating development to be sustainable (for example covering requirements for facilities, transport).

4.5 Traffic, St. Catherine's Road.

Ruth Cureton: Concern over traffic in St. Catherine's Road, with no pavement, parked contractors' vehicles.

Cllr. A. Whittart: Surrey County Council have signed this as a 'safe route to school'. Speed limit was applied a few years ago.

Sgt. J. Castell: 2 fatalities is criterion for additional spending. However, residents can request neighbourhood priority at local Police surgery, Police can undertake separate enforcement.

4.6 Planning.

David Rushmer: Will the Localism Bill work, as a recent appeal was overruled by government?

MP M. Gove: Localism Bill aims to empower town councils and local community groups to apply neighbourhood development plans, designating areas for development and areas to be kept free of development, aiming at a balance between providing sufficient homes and managing the environmental needs. Appropriate architectural style has a bearing on decisions. It is not yet law, and decisions risk being overruled by the courts.

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4. QUESTIONS to LOCAL OFFICERS (continued)

4.7 Basingstoke Canal.

Duncan Miles: Concern that Basingstoke canal towpath between Mytchett and Frimley Lodge Park is in poor state of repair. Also concern over the behaviour of cyclists on the towpath.

4.8 Recycling Refuse.

Cllr. A. Whittart reported that Surrey Heath B.C. was 3rd best for recycling in the UK, winner of local authority target success award, and has exceeded 2015 and 2026 recycling targets. 65% of dry waste is recycled. SHBC has low rate of 'green' waste recycling (the brown bin, not run by SHBC, and for which a charge is made); however, many residents compost their own green waste.

David Rushmer: What money has been saved through recycling? We hear about percentages, but not actual financial savings.

Cllr. A. Whittart, Cllr. D. Allen, Cllr. C. Pitt: Landfill cost is £40/ton, likely to significantly increase. Surrey (county) landfills 600,000 tons each year. More waste is being incinerated, less to landfill, and recycling costs expected to reduce over time. Cllr. Whittart will seek actual financial savings.

John Cracknell: Could the black (landfill) bin be collected monthly to discourage use?

Cllr. A. Whittart: Younger families need fortnightly collection, but residents would not put the bin out if there is nothing to collect.

4.9 David Parsons: reminded all present that the monthly St. Andrew's Parish Magazine contains useful information on local affairs and planning.

5. POLICE REPORT

Sgt. J. Castell reported some of the recent Police activity:

- Unsocial behaviour in Rorke's Drift has been dealt with.
- Speed enforcement in Coleford Bridge Road.
- Streetwatch to be extended to Frimley Green.
- Unsocial behaviour at a dwelling in Deepcut is being dealt with.
- Off-road motorcycles on MOD land.
- media reports of Police privatisation unfounded, but the service will continue to seek most cost-effective way to operate.
- Halloween 'No Trick or Treat Here' cards available tonight. Late shift on 31/10/11 will be fully staffed.

6. RAFFLE and Meeting Closed.

7. DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Date and Speaker to be advised.

MP and Local Officers Present

M.P. Michael Gove	MP for Surrey Heath	
Councillor David Allen	Surrey Heath B.C.	Frimley Green Ward
Councillor Alan Whittart	Surrey Heath B.C.	Frimley Green Ward
Councillor Chris Pitt	Surrey C.C.	Frimley Green & Mytchett
Sergeant Jon Castell	Surrey Police	

Committee Members Present

Carol Drew	Treasurer
Rod Carroll	
Howard Hyde	
Daphne Knowles	
Chris Main	
Jan Thompson	
Cathie Whitcroft	
Martin White	