

Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

MINUTES of HALF-YEARLY MEETING 26 October 2012

1. WELCOME

President Sue Cartwright welcomed Guest Speaker, Local Officers and over 50 members and visitors. She apologised that the minutes for the last AGM had not been printed for the evening but reminded everyone that they were available from the MFGD website (<http://mfgdsociety.org.uk/>).

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Amanda Glover, Frimley Green Library Manager presented a talk entitled: 'Frimley Green Library – A Hub of the Community'.

Given a definition of 'hub' being 'effective centre', Amanda's presentation centred on why she believed the library to be 'a hub' by describing what the library does. An interesting half hour talk is being condensed into just a few words here in the form of bullet points.

- Even 'new' books are coming into the library regularly, or can be ordered from another library.
- Two newspapers are available every day.
- Three computers and Wi-Fi are on the premises.
- E-books can be downloaded.
- It has its own garden that is open for several events during the year.
- There is a children's morning every week where rhyme times and story times are put on, with tea/coffee for the adults.
- There are many books and details about local history.
- Recently there have been visits to the library from local care homes which has instigated a 2-way process of members of the library visiting the care homes.
- The library staff make visits to schools and school classes make visits to the library.
- The library staff are involved in the 'Summer Reading Challenge' to promote reading for children during the summer break.
- A library information pack is given to all new residents coming to the area.

Amanda emphasized that it is important to support the library and that its success is due to the ceaseless effort of volunteers who donate a lot of their time to projects and fund raising.

There were a few comments from the audience after the talk; although appreciative of all the hard work done on behalf of the children, one person was concerned about the noise in the library. Amanda explained that when children's events happened on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, noise was inevitable, but during the rest of the time, it was quiet. Another person just wanted to thank the library, and then another wanted to know if there had been any noticeable effect due to e-readers, to which the answer was no, not yet.

3. QUESTION TIME WITH OUR MP, THE RT. HON. MICHAEL GOVE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION.

Paul Deach recorded much of what Michael Gove said in response to a multitude of questions and has posted it on the internet at: <http://surreyheath-residents.co.uk/2012/10/28/michael-gove-discusses-multitude-of-national-issues-at-community-meeting/>

A much shortened version is available in writing here:

- EU: MG considered it advantageous to be part of the EU but there needed to be a better 'balance' and that some decisions needed to be made here rather than there. UK will always be close (distance) to Europe and so it is important to have good relationships with it.
- Doctor's surgery closed for refurbishment; getting rid of carpets and soft-furnishing in favour of laminate and plastic – is this Health & Safety going too far?: MG said that you need to challenge some 'practices' as sometimes they are unfounded. A member of the audience said that this was due to 'infection control' and that during inspections, points would be awarded for this type of environment
- Scottish Independence: MG considered the UK would be stronger with all 4 nations still together but that because of devolution, there might be need for 'rebalancing' of certain issues e.g. finances.
- Voting for 16 year olds for referendum: Decided by Scottish Parliament, but MG is generally in favour of waiting until 18 and certainly should be discussed by UK parliament before any decisions. MG is also worried about the erosion of 'childhood' in recent years.
- Teaching basic life support as part of the national curriculum: MG thinks this is a good idea but would also

like it to be expanded to include 'good habits' e.g. eating well, avoiding temptations, learning to swim.

- Is the government messing up too much?: MG said that nowadays everyone expects the government to 'do' everything and be experts at everything and immediately as well – this is not going to happen and so things can go wrong. There are a lot of statistics gathered from 'box-ticking', from which procedures develop and MG is worried that his is taking over from good common sense and taking responsibility.
- Nowadays it seems that you are not allowed (or it is a disadvantage) to be English and to be Christian in the UK: MG agreed that there have been some instances (e.g. wearing a cross) where political correctness has got the better of common sense, but he does believe that religious beliefs have shaped the way the English are and the way they have succeeded in becoming multi-racial. There should be more respect and tolerance of all religions.
- Religious education: MG said that it is compulsory in all schools and that although the 'emphasis' in different schools may be different, they must all give some learning in all the major religions.
- Badger Cull: MG said that at first he was against it, but after delving into it, he believes the cull is a necessity, but it has to be done correctly, adhering to strict (safety) rules. It was unfortunate the government had to decide to postpone the cull until next year because the NFU were not ready to do it. Daphne Knowles spoke as a member from the floor and asked MG to talk about the Parliamentary debate on stopping the cull: he did not. She pointed out that the DEFRA TB testing was giving false positives and healthy cattle were being slaughtered unnecessarily: he did not comment on this. She asked for the risk assessments for both the contract rifle shooters and the general public and he agreed to provide them. He also agreed to answer her personal letter to him.
- Farnborough airport: MG said that local residents had been exceptionally reasonable about the expansion.
- Deepcut development: MG said that local residents had been exceptionally reasonable but that we had to still be vigilant especially with respect to making sure there was enough infrastructure development to handle the proposed residential development.
- Will you bring back grammar schools?: MG – NO!
- Would you stand to be Tory Leader?: MG – NO!

Michael Gove had to leave the meeting.

4. TEA & COFFEE BREAK

5. SOCIETY BUSINESS

The main business was to accept changes to the constitution. The proposed new constitution (with changes highlighted, underlined and in italics) had been posted on the website, e-mailed to members where possible, hard-copies posted where possible and copies were available on the night. It was requested from a member of the audience that a slight addition be made to the wording concerning the minutes of meetings – there was concern about the time-lapse between meetings and the publication of the minutes, so this needed to be done 'in a timely manner' or words to that effect.

With this change in mind, there was overwhelming acceptance of the new constitution.

6. POLICE REPORT

Barbara (Babs) Ball stood in for Sergeant Jon Castell who normally attends these meetings. She is a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the 3 villages. Babs said that statistics showed that there had been a DEcrease in crime and anti-social behaviour over the last quarter. She mentioned that she would be moving to Frimley soon and that her place would be taken by Samantha Porter.

Questioned about what she thought about the impending police commissioner elections, she refused to be drawn but agreed that it had not been publicised very well.

Speeding in Balmoral Drive was also brought up and there was discussion about setting up a 'Speed Watch' team which required five volunteers.

There was a vote of thanks to Babs proposed by Sue Cartwright.

7. QUESTIONS to LOCAL OFFICERS

7.1 Planning permission for 214/216 Frimley Green Road.

Panel claimed that the documentation had not been good enough and so had not been forwarded for consideration. There was a claim that only one out of ten applications actually get through to the planning committee.

7.2 Lay-by by the Frimley C of E School.

There is a safety issue exiting from Henley drive due to cars parked in the lay-by and elsewhere; double yellow lines are required. Will this be done and when.

Panel agreed that it was a problem.

7.3 Hanging Baskets.

Howard Hyde asked about the possibility of having them in the 3 villages as he had seen them in Windlesham and elsewhere.

Panel said that as Windlesham was a parish council, the public had a little more voice in how money was spent. There could be a (financial) advantage in becoming a parish, and more public control, but the rates could go up.

7.4 Any news on the Johnson Wax sale/site?

Panel said that there was nothing decided. Although manufacturing had departed the site, there were still computers and IT staff there, and maybe there for the foreseeable future.

How about rumours of 300 or 400 houses?

Panel said they were just rumours and that there may be health issues due to the nature of the business there.

After the meeting, Kevin contact the Council regarding these rumours; their response was that no such suggestion has been received by the council, nor has the site been identified in the latest SHLAA which was published in June 2012 and has been formulated up to the end of March 2012.

- 7.5 Any news on the selling of the fish lakes?
Panel said that there was no news.
How about the rumour that it had been bought by Mr. Proctor?
Panel claimed no knowledge. [After the meeting Kevin did further investigation: although unable to obtain the name of the new owners it appears that the area is to be retained as a fishery. The agent who handled the sale has taken the societies contact details and will pass them on to the new owners and will ask them to contact us.](#)
- 7.6 Parking at the Hatches
There was concern about the amount of parking along this road, especially on Friday and the weekend; sometimes difficult to get through.
Babs said that illegal or wilful OBSTRUCTION was a police matter and that they should be informed; in such cases emergency services can just push the obstruction out of the way. Parking on yellow lines was now a council problem. The panel mentioned that they had wanted yellow lines on both sides of the road but that Surrey decided only one side would suffice.
- 7.7 Published minutes from council meetings.
There was a complaint from the floor that 50% of items discussed at meetings were determined as confidential and so no information was released to the public.
The panel disagreed with this percentage, but did say that they did not attend every meeting.
An action item was for Paul Deach to investigate.
- 7.8 Traffic Enforcement.
Surrey County Council are making a loss, so they are passing it on to Surrey Heath who are expected to hire more people in order to process more fines and thereby make a profit! However it seems that Surrey County Council will receive 65% of the money leaving Surrey Heath with only 35% - is this fair? Should be renegotiated.
Action item is to publicise on the MFGD website.
- 7.9 TESCO EXPRESS planning Application in Mytchett. Perhaps too much TESCO around? First need to change the classification of the property.
[It has been rumoured that TESCO are interested in submitting a planning application at 103 Mytchett Road, this is the building beside the used car lot. The planning Department at SHBC have had no communication with TESCO at this date.](#)
- 7.10 Farnborough Airport.
Kevin Daley related the issue of the possible movement of 7000 flights from Northolt to Farnborough. It is very important that they become part of the quota already agreed upon for the expansion of flights into Farnborough, rather than being classified as 'other aviation activity' and so would be in addition to the quota. He asked that all councillors write to Rushmoor, voicing their concern.
An action item is for Kevin to forward the relevant information on to all councillors and for them to write to Rushmoor.

8. RAFFLE and MEETING CLOSE.

9. DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Still to be decided.
Speaker: to be advised.

Local Officers Present

Councillor Alan Whittart	Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green Ward
Councillor Chris Pitt	Surrey C.C. Frimley Green & Mytchett & Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green Ward
Councillor Paul Deach	Surrey Heath B.C.
Councillor David Allen	Surrey Heath B.C.

Local Officers Present until the tea break

Councillor Chris Pitt	Surrey C.C.
Councillor Joanne Potter	Surrey Heath B.C.

MFGD Committee Members Present

Sue Cartwright (President)	Kevin Daley (Chairman)	Carol Drew (Treasurer)
Chris Main	Daphne Knowles	Jan Thompson
Howard Hyde	David Brown	