

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 April 2012

1. WELCOME

President Sue Cartwright welcomed Guest Speaker, Local Officers and approx. 60 members and visitors present.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Roger Cansdale and Philip Riley, Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society.
'The Basingstoke Canal - its history, restoration and future potential'.

The Basingstoke Canal was opened in 1794, and has never been commercially successful. Mr. Cansdale took us through an illustrated history, including 'Harmsworth's epic voyage' of 1913 to maintain access rights passing through the Greywell Tunnel (closed in 1932). Since 1991, the canal has been owned by the two County Councils through which it passes, with much restoration undertaken by the Society. It suffers from a lack of water, 29 locks to maintain, and underfunding, but remains a vital recreational amenity to visitors both local and from afar. Mr. Riley spoke of the present financial situation, and the need for a stable future. Both gentlemen answered questions, and also invited any present interested to join the Canal Society.

3. TEA & COFFEE BREAK

4. SOCIETY BUSINESS

4.1 Chairman Kevin Daley's Report, a summary of some of the year's activities:

- Surrey Heath Core Strategy, and Deepcut Supplementary Planning Document - representing residents' issues and concerns, including expansion of gypsy sites in Deepcut.
- National Planning Policy Framework - requested Secretary of State to introduce greater safeguards to prevent abuse by developers, with his response that the area would be reviewed.
- Basingstoke Canal - petitioning Surrey Heath Borough Council to honour their funding share.
- Supporting Surrey Library Action Movement - Frimley Green library is on Surrey CC proposed closure list, and the initiative is presently on hold.
- Farnborough Airport - representing residents' views on number of flights and noise. Residents should know that during the Olympics there will be a significant temporary increase in permitted flights.
- Proposed NHS changes - supported a national petition, which attracted 500,000 signatures.
- Participation at the Frimley Green Carnival.

4.2 Treasurer's Report.

Financial accounts were available to members.

Treasurer Carol Drew pointed out that the majority of our income is from subscriptions, supplemented by sales at the few outside events we attend. She asked all members to consider paying subscription by Standing Order; it is convenient, leaves the paying member in control, and helps the committee to keep up to date. A Standing Order request form is available from the Treasurer and also on the Society website (<http://www.mfgdsociety.org.uk/>).

4.3 Election of Committee.

The following members offered themselves for re-election: Kevin Daley (Chairman), Carol Drew (Treasurer), Rod Carroll, Howard Hyde, Daphne Knowles, Chris Main, Jan Thompson, Cathie Whitcroft.

The above Committee were elected unanimously.

President Sue Cartwright urged members put themselves forward to join the committee.

5. QUESTIONS to LOCAL OFFICERS

5.1 Lakes by The Hatches.

Angela O'Connell. What is the position regarding CEMEX selling the lakes by the Hatches?

Cllr. A.Whittart. CEMEX intend to sell by tender by the end of their 2012-13 financial year - March 2013; SHBC have no further information on this private sale, but through their Blackwater Valley Recreational Committee support continued recreational use.

Colin Wilson (Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust). BVCT have spent £25,000 on wildlife conservation, and are in correspondence with CEMEX, pressing for the sale to include an obligation for recreational amenity.

5.2 Deepcut Travellers' Site.

David Horton. What is the view on a permanent travellers' site as part of the Deepcut development?

Cllr. A.Pitt. Surrey CC regards travellers' sites across the county as adequate, and sees no logical reason to locate one in Deepcut.

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5. QUESTIONS to LOCAL OFFICERS (continued)

- 5.3 Recycling Domestic Refuse.
Cllr. A.Whittart. Further to question at last General Meeting (14/10/11, item 4.8).
SHBC now recycle 65% of household waste (3rd highest in the country), and this year expect to send NONE to landfill (was 67% before the present scheme was introduced). The scheme has enabled Surrey Heath Borough Council to make budget savings of approx. £308,000 per year.
Miranda Greenway. What is the distance over which recycling waste is taken for disposal.
Cllr. A.Whittart. Waste now being recycled at a large central plant at Edmonton, north London, approx. 35 miles.
Tony Eusden: Unable to take household rubble to the tip in a small trailer.
Cllr. A. Whittart: Restrictions on trailers have to be maintained as the site is not for commercial users.
- 5.4 Johnsons Wax Factory Site.
Norman Ewing. What is the position regarding Johnsons' Wax?
Cllr. C.Pitt. Manufacturing is moving to Holland, but administrative staff will remain at Frimley site.
- 5.5 Railway Foot Crossing at The Hatches/Frimley Junction.
Norman Ewing. Concern over safety of the pedestrian gate at The Hatches/Frimley Junction foot crossing, including that fishermen are propping the gate open for their own convenience.
Sgt. J.Castell. Residents/users should advise Network Rail if the pedestrian gates not working properly. If gates are being propped open, British Transport Police should be advised.
- 5.6 Public Health.
Sue Cartwright. Incidence of rats, following broken sewers resulting from rebuilding the swimming pool at Frimley Green School.
Cllr. A.Whittart, and others. Sewers are now in good repair. Problem exacerbated by poor garden hygiene, including tipping garden rubbish, and SHBC do not respond where residents collectively have responsibility.

6. POLICE REPORT

- Sgt. J. Castell reported some of the recent Police activity:
- Mytchett, Frimley Green and Deepcut is one of the quietest areas in the county.
 - P.C. Gary Martin is the new Neighbourhood specialist officer, and residents are encouraged to attend local 'police surgeries' to raise concerns.
 - There has been considerable sharing of information with neighbouring areas, particularly Bagshot and Windlesham, where there has been car crime and ATM thefts.
 - 'Streetwatch' to be extended to Frimley Green.

7. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

- 7.1 Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society will be holding a 3-day canal event at Frimley Lodge Park, on 2nd-4th June 2012, 10.00-17.00 (5pm) each day. There will be boat trips, competitions, craft and other stalls, refreshments, miniature railway and entertainment for all ages.
- 7.2 President Sue Cartwright reported that there will be a torchlight procession on Holiday Monday 4th June 2012, from all the local villages, culminating around 10pm in lighting a beacon at Frimley Recreation Ground.

8. RAFFLE and Meeting Closed.

9. DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING

- Friday 26th October 2012.
Speaker: to be advised.
MP Michael Gove has accepted our invitation to attend.

Local Officers Present

Councillor Alan Whittart	Surrey Heath B.C.	Frimley Green Ward
Councillor Chris Pitt	Surrey C.C.	Frimley Green & Mytchett
also	Surrey Heath B.C.	Frimley Green Ward
Sergeant Jon Castell	Surrey Police	

Committee Members Present

Sue Cartwright	(President)	Chris Main
Kevin Daley	(Chairman)	Rod Carroll
Carol Drew	(Treasurer)	Martin White
Daphne Knowles		Jan Thompson