



Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

HALF-YEARLY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2024

SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Clare Kennedy (CK) Chair Carol Drew (CD) Treasurer Rod Carroll (RC) Maharukh Daley (MD)	Howard Hyde (HH) Sarah Kingsley (SK) David Natolie (DN) Mandy Withers (MW)
APOLOGIES:	Anji Patterson (AP) Jan Thompson (JT)	
SURREY HEATH MP:	Dr. Al Pinkerton	
COUNCILLORS:	Jacques Olmo (JO) Morgan Rise (MR) David Whitcroft (DW)	
POLICE:	Sergeant Dan Lomas (DL) Constable Rob Hudson (RH)	
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Jacqui Davies (JD)	
ATTENDANCE	Approximately 50 People attended	

	Agenda Item	Details	Action	Date
1.	Welcome	INTRODUCTION The Chair, Clare Kennedy welcomed all to the meeting along with the introduction of Neil Barton from the Basingstoke Canal Society.		
2.	Talk by Neil Barton(NB)	SPEAKER's PRESENTATION NB gave a fascinating talk with the title "The Unique Basingstoke Canal - BACK FROM THE DEAD". He first described the location of the canal, it being a remote spur of the canal network, with the purpose being agricultural rather than manufactured goods. Then he covered the canals's history from 1778 with an intial Act of Parliament authorising the canal, construction, opening in 1794,to its last commecial delivery in 1949, falling into disrepair after that. "BACK FROM THE DEAD" - Between 1973 and 1976, Surrey and Hampshire County Councils purchased the canal. Between 1976 and 1991 the canal was restored with the help of a lot of volunteers, the canal society, finally reopening in 1991. NB described the activities and biodiversity of the canal, it is a site of special scientific interest. Finally going through the challenges facing the canal, amongst other things funding and lack of water. There followed a Q&A session, questions such as dog control on the towpath, NB said there are only 6 rangers, difficult to enforce.		
3.	Tea Break			
4.	Question Time with Guests	CK introduced the Surrey Heath MP Dr. Al Pinkerton, Councillors Jacques Olmo (JO), Morgan Rise (MR) and David Whitcroft (DW). Police Sergeant Dan Lomas (DL), Police Constable Rob Hudson (RH) and Jacqui Davies (JD) from the Neighbourhood Watch.		

		A Lively and lengthy Q&A session with AP, JO, MR, DW, DL, RH and JD moderated by CK followed. There are too many questions to list all but some examples below: Q: SK said that she was not very impressed with the police response to incidents. A: DL said local police split into 2 teams, a Neighbourhood Team and a Response Team. The Response Team is looking for patterns and does review every incident. Q: David Parson (DP) asked about GP appointments, changed over last 10 years, not for the better and will there be a surgery in Deepcut/Mindenhurst. A: DW said there will not be a new surgery in Deepcut. AP said that the current system wait time is unacceptable, relayed his own experience with the GP appointment system. Q: How many immigrants are residing at Lakeside and are there problems with immigrants absconding? A: MR said he did not know on how many immigrants there are in the hotel, CK said maybe AP knows. AP said that the Home Office does not release the figures. DW said give him the details of a any incident and he will investigate. DL said that the hotel was checked once amonth, he was unaware of any problems, RH agreed with DL. MR mentioned that there are families in the hotel as opposed to just men. Q: SK asked if the criminal records of the immigrants were checked. A: AP said the Home office is meant to check – there followed a long discussion. There followed questions on speeding signs/indicators, what sort of speeding signs there should be and where. RH said he preferred actual signs that give an accurate speed. DL says that there is a special office that deals with their placement, give DL details and he will contact them. AP added that in his experience it can take years before road signage is put in place. Questions on the shuttlebus to Frimley Park Hospital, it ends very early and the standard bus takes forever. Suggested they call Camberley Care or Helping Hands. Q: Any news on new hospital; A: No, information on site is due next year. Q: Railway system not up to supporting all the new housing, A: To do anything substantial would cost 1 billion pounds.		
10.	Raffle	£94 was collected for the raffle £45 was collected for subs, £13.50 for refreshments.		
11.	AOB / Close	CK thanked all those who attended with the repeated appeal for new members given that the Society covers circa 11,000 residents. Meeting closed at 2130 hours.		