

MFG&D SOCIETY

NEWS

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Dear Member

As you will know we are not given to sending out regular newsletters but in the absence of an AGM this summer we thought we ought to at least update you on a few things.

Firstly, though, we hope you are keeping well and we would like to thank you for your continuing support. Membership is just £5 per year per household (you may want to update your standing order if you have not already done so) and we think that offers great value. Do see what we have been doing over the last year and you can make your own mind up. Incidentally, if you don't have a standing order in place you can find details here: <https://mfgdsociety.org.uk/MFGDJoin.htm>



Need help during this Covid-19 crisis?

For Assistance, Help and Volunteering during the Pandemic:

Phone:

01276 66798 (Assistance with shopping, attending appointments etc)

Surrey Heath Prepared:

www.surreyheath-prepared.uk

Mytchett & Deepcut:

www.facebook.com/groups/611657759385171

Frimley Green:

www.facebook.com/groups/205187630793025

We are a non-political organisation representing the residents of the 3 villages: Mytchett, Frimley Green and Deepcut. We are all volunteers and we meet about once a month - lockdown permitting - to review local issues and to discuss planning applications.

In the last year we have been involved in quite a number of things, including:

Examining every planning application ranging from the Deepcut development to the Waters Edge in Mytchett, from business premises to changes to private homes. We put forward objections where appropriate and we have even been known to write in support (for the improvements to The Garrison Church of St Barbara). It is not fun but it is important. The voice of the local community needs to be heard.

We have arranged and overseen more planting on the green in Frimley Green including two new



cherry trees and yet more daffodils. We have also been closely involved in the improvements to the community orchard in The Hatches.

One of our members commented on the poor state of the paths on the green in Frimley Green and we took that forward. After some persistent pestering the paths have been repaired.

We made a formal written submission to the Parliamentary Commission looking into parking on pavements. We know this has been a troublesome issue in our area and as Surrey Heath borough Council were not going to contribute we thought we should on behalf of our community.

The planned Esso pipeline has also been of concern to many, especially those around Balmoral Drive and St Catherine's Road areas, and those that use the SANGS area in St Catherine's Road. We attended the open sessions and put forward a number of concerns and ideas. We now await the decision of the Planning Inspectorate.

We have representatives on the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee and the Deepcut Neighbourhood Forum.

We liaise closely with the Frimley Green Carnival Committee and help promote the carnival, the open gardens (though not this year sadly) and the carols on the green. They do a great job and deserve all our support.

We also liaise with local Councillors and with our MP, Michael Gove. Some come to our meetings when they can so you get to ask them questions too.

Also at our meetings we sometimes have a speaker. At our half-year meeting in the autumn we had local historian and author Ken Clark telling us stories about the local emergency services past and present.

You probably already know about the planned traffic lights in Frimley Green, or should we say the no-longer-planned traffic lights. We have been closely involved with the lead campaigners and are delighted that the plan is now to improve the roundabouts instead. You will get a final say once this bloomin virus gives us a break but for now the councils are, in fairness, pretty busy on other things.

Talking of the virus - and who isn't - several of our members have been volunteering to help others in the community, in particular through Surrey Heath Prepared. Special thanks must go to Jacques Olmo who has coordinated the Frimley Green response so brilliantly. Well done Jacques!

In the current climate many people have been turning to the internet like never before. There are many good sources of information but for local updates don't forget our website has a news stream and you will find more on our Facebook page as well. Tweeters, not to be left out, get an occasional tweet too. For our news see: <https://mfgdsociety.org.uk/MFGDNews.htm>

Recent updates on our website range from potential changes to public access to MoD land and details about the recent VE Day celebrations. Our history section has had a long awaited update too. Check it out: <https://mfgdsociety.org.uk/MFGDHistory.htm#LocalArea>

Not all news is good news and the report into unlawful payments made to the (former) CEO of Surrey Heath Borough Council made for sorry reading. We have led the way amongst local resident groups across the Borough in trying to get clearer answers and more accountability. Watch this space! You can see our open letter to the Council here: https://mfgdsociety.org.uk/pdf/CEOInvestigation2020_04_22.pdf

But there is always some good news. Last year we refurbished the Golden Jubilee Commemorative bench on the green in Frimley Green and arranged for the council to at last put a bin by it. We think it looks so much better (except when the foxes decide to empty the bin).

We don't have the funds to support many projects but we have provided a £3,000 contribution towards improving the toilets at the Mytchett Centre.

So, what do you think? Is that £5 per household worth it? If you think so please do feel free to pass this email on to your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join. The more people that join the better.

On that note, we are not sure how many people - members and non-members - would want to come together in a hall to attend one of our meetings. We are reviewing the possibility every 3 months and will let you know in plenty of time if we decide to have a belated AGM. In the meantime you can always contact us with your news or questions by email.

Best wishes & stay well

The Committee, MFG&D Society