



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
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Farningham Parish Council met in the Shand Hall at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 14th June 2023 and present were five Parish Councillors, Sevenoaks District Councillors Laurence Ball and Alan White, Kent County Councillor Roger Gough (in part), the Clerk Helen Penney and one member of the public.

Himalayan Balsam

Mark Gallant from the North West Kent Countryside Partnership will be in Farningham on **Wednesday 16th August** to start clearing the Himalayan Balsam that can be found along the banks of the River Darent. Meeting at **Farningham Village Hall** at **10am** volunteers are very welcome. If comfortable with entering the water, you will require waders that Mark is able to bring but he must know your shoe size prior to the 16th August and can be contacted on 07740 185228, Mark.Gallant@kent.gov.uk. Please wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. If you need any further information, contact the Clerk or Mark Gallant.

Teardrop Recycling Centre:

Kent County Council has announced they are considering reducing the opening days and hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centre at the top of Farningham Hill to five days a week. There are three scenarios being considered as part of a cost cutting exercise with the complete closure of Dartford, one of four sites to go, also among the options. The site at Pepperhill will not be affected.

Village centre parking:

Residents have started parking vehicles at the Village Hall side of the bridge where the double yellow lines end. This is frequently obstructing the traffic, particularly the buses which on occasions have not been able to get through. With this in mind we now have to ask Sevenoaks District Council to continue the double yellow line parking restriction from the point where it ends through to the post box.

Family Fun Day:

Sevenoaks District Council's Free Family Fun Days return with the traditional Eynsford one in the grounds of Anthony Roper School on Wednesday, 2nd August from 10am until 2pm. Farningham Parish Council will again be supporting this event and further details will be available soon.

Local Police Officer:

We again have an appointed Police Officer with PC Gareth Mahoney, who is based at Swanley Police Station, taking on the role on a temporary basis. He is also covering four other parishes/wards but has said he will attend Parish Council meetings when he can. The usual incident reporting process continues, however, either via the Kent

Police website or by dialing 101. For immediate threats and serious crime in progress, dial 999.

Overhanging vegetation:

We have received complaints from residents of hedges and shrubs, including rose bushes, overhanging footpaths and making using these paths difficult to use and indeed dangerous for anyone who is partially sighted. Friends of Farningham do what they can to improve some areas but cannot take any action at a private residence. Would parishioners please check their property boundaries to ensure there is no obstruction to our footpaths. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Solar farms:

We have been invited to discuss a solar farm that could sit on land between Horton Kirby and Fawkham with access from Farningham and is currently in the pre-planning stage. The aim is to understand the impact the proposal will have on Farningham and the Metropolitan Green Belt, alongside the Wessex Solar Farm that was approved earlier in the year and sits within Horton Kirby.

Calling all artists:

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership has been incredibly busy this year and is now planning an art exhibition in Sevenoaks and Dartford for January-May 2024. Inspired by Samuel Palmer and his time spent in the Darent Valley, artists living in the valley have an opportunity to respond to the theme of 'Visionary Landscape' with new works. Further details of this and the Partnership's other innovative offerings are available on their website, www.darent-valley.org.uk

Regular updates:

If you would like more regular updates from Farningham Parish Council they are available on Facebook or by email. To receive email updates, please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page www.farninghamparishcouncil.org The Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc

Due to the summer break, our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 13th September 2023, 7pm in the Shand Hall, which is adjacent to the Church. There is an allocation of time for public participation and if you would like to attend, please contact the Clerk via the links at the head of this page.

Cllr Carol Salmon