



The Yateley Society



Planning seminars: November 2011

In conjunction with the Fleet & Church Crookham Society and Farnborough Society

Table of contents

Planning the seminars.....	2
Publicity	2
Costs	2
Audience.....	2
Seminars.....	3
Seminar 1: The fundamentals of planning, 16 November	3
Seminar 2: Heritage & conservation, 23 November	3
Seminar 3: Challenging planning proposals, 30 November	4
Feedback	5
Appendix: poster advertising the seminars.....	7

Planning the seminars

Following a presentation by Tony Burton of Civic Voice to the Farnborough Society in April 2011, Roger Durdle at the Yateley Society asked the Farnborough and Fleet & Church Crookham Societies if they would be interested in co-organising seminars for members of the public interested in knowing more about the planning process. Yateley Society's aim was to find more residents be interested in getting involved with assessing planning application on the Society's behalf. Representatives of each society met during the summer to plan what form the seminars might take, and find a venue and speakers.

Publicity

The poster in the Appendix was made available as a flyer for the societies' newsletters and through Rushmoor and Hart Voluntary Action.

A press release was sent in to the local newspaper and published on 23 September, followed by a further article on 4 November. A further press release submitted by the Yateley Society expressing disappointment and the low number of Yateley residents coming forward and urging to people to get involved was not published.

Members of all three societies were invited to attend at no charge. Neighbouring civic/village societies and residents' associations were also invited (they were offered two few places each).

Costs

Rushmoor Borough Council very kindly gave us the use of a committee room at the council offices at no charge, thanks to Barbara Hurst of the Farnborough Society. The only cost was six bottles of wine as speaker gifts, which was covered by the £10 fee for non-members. Printing was done for free by Phill Gower, and attendees' badges provided by Gillian Wain.

Audience

The audience comprised:

- Yateley Society: committee, one member, three non-members
- Fleet & Church Crookham Society: committee members, two members
- Farnborough Society: committee members and members
- Farnham Society
- Marlborough Heights Residents' Association (Ewshot)
- Crondall Society
- Surrey & Hants Canal Society
- Aldershot Society
- Odiham Society

The press coverage was picked up by the Chairman of the Hart Association of Town and Parish Councillors and he asked if councillors could attend, which was agreed. Parish councillors from Church Crookham, Ewshot, Fleet and Dogmersfield attended.

Rushmoor Borough Council also picked up on the publicity and asked to send a planning officer to the seminars; Hart was also offered this but did not attend.

Seminars

Seminar 1: The fundamentals of planning, 16 November

On the first evening Jane Terry and Nicolette Pike from local planning consultancy Bell Cornwell explained the fundamentals of the planning system. They explained the key legislation currently in place, noting that the UK system is plan-led: the local development plan provides a transparent framework for making decisions and is used to determine planning applications. The plan can last up to 20 years and communities often don't understand the implications of having an adopted plan for this length of time.

Jane and Nicolette went on to cover the implications of the Localism Act (which had come into force the day before), noting that planning professionals have grave concerns over the 'workability' of the Act. They then went on to discuss the draft National Planning Policy Framework, supposedly a simplification of planning law. Jane noted that in reality this means a lack of detail and clarity which could give rise to endless scope for controversy. Jane commented that whatever changes with regard to the NPPF after the consultation period, the system will remain plan-led and the NPPF will simply be another material consideration.



The seminar was attended by 43 people, and feedback (requested on the final night) was as follows:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Content	13	4	2	0
Presentation	12	3	4	0

Seminar 2: Heritage & conservation, 23 November

The second evening started with David Brock from English Heritage in Guildford explaining how 'heritage assets' are protected and how local people can participate. His presentation covered the designation of heritage assets, including scheduling and listing, and the

implications of the different designations. David also commented on the changes that the NPPF may bring to bear on heritage.

He was followed by Dr Graham Rood who explained how Farnborough Air Sciences Trust has achieved the preservation of Farnborough's unique aeronautical heritage.



The second seminar was attended by 36 people, and feedback (requested on the final night) was as follows:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Content	9	7	2	0
Presentation	8	6	2	0

Seminar 3: Challenging planning proposals, 30 November

On the third evening Phill Gower, Co-chairman of Fleet & Church Crookham Society, and local County Councillor David Simpson talked about how local groups like civic societies, can participate effectively, and how best to communicate with elected representatives and council officers about planning issues. Their presentation covered an overview of 'who's who' in planning, types of planning applications, preparing a response to a planning application, and where to go for further help.



Attendance of the third seminar was affected by a Local Development Framework meeting attended by Hart councillors, and this only 34 people attended. Feedback was as follows:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Content	20	2	0	0
Presentation	20	2	0	0

Feedback

Feedback forms were given out to those attending the final seminar. Twenty-two forms were handed in, with ratings and selected comments as follows:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Course organisation	17	3	0	0
Venue	18	2	1	0
Length of seminars	16	3	1	0

What do you feel you have gained from this course?

- “Better understanding of planning process”
- “Affirmation of the quickening pace of change in the planning environment. NPPF/Localism Bill/presumption in favour of development – need to keep pace with these changes”
- “A good basic understanding of planning policy & legislation”
- “Better understanding of the changes underway in planning. Better understanding of the importance of referring to planning policies & local policies when making objections”
- “A lot – Session 1 was more introductory – will need to back up with internet reading. Session 2 (1st part) was useful but will need more reading (2nd part) interesting rather than useful. Session 3 – perfect, valuable”
- “A better awareness of the process & future contacts”
- “Some good contact websites”

- “Huge amount of understanding planning regs.”

How do you envisage using this in the future?

- “I feel more informed so will improve my own performance in my planning group”
- “I hope it will mean I can make comments/objections which stand a better chance of being taken into account”
- “Will do some research; present main points to my society; consider spreading ‘the word’ to residents via society magazine” (Cron dall)
- “Dealing with future applications”
- “In support of the Farnham Society objections”
- “As member of planning committee”
- “Challenging local planning applications”
- “To help when applications in my parish are considered by the parish council” (c llr CC parish council)

Are there any aspects of the course which you think could have been better?

- “Localism Act could have been presented in slightly more detail”
- “We should revisit this topic again in the near future. ie 1 year away”
- “Suggest a further seminar (1 session) in a year’s time on impact of Localism Bill”
- “First speaker at 2nd seminar was too precise and dry to hold the audience’s attention”
- “Handouts for the 1st and 2nd seminars would have been useful”
- “Details on conservation areas”

Appendix: poster advertising the seminars



The Farnborough Society



Fleet & Church
Crookham Society



The Yateley
Society

The decisions made about planning & development affect communities for decades if not centuries

Do you want to know more about the planning process?

If so, come along to our
Planning & development seminars

16 November – The fundamentals of planning
23 November – Heritage & conservation
30 November – Challenging planning proposals

All seminars led by experts in planning.
Confirmed speakers include:

- Jane Terry BA (Hons) Dip M MRTPI, Principal Planner and local consultancy Bell Cornwell
- Dr Graham Rood, Secretary, Farnborough Air Sciences Trust
- Phill Gower, Co-chairman of Fleet & Church Crookham Society
- Cllr David Simpson, Hampshire County Council

All seminars will take place at Rushmoor Borough Council offices, 19.00–21.00.
Places must be booked in advance and are free to members of the three organising civic societies (£10 to non-members). Attendees are asked to attend all three seminars.
To book your place, please contact someone below.

Farnborough Barbara Hurst 01252 405149 barbara@pbhurst.com	Fleet & Church Crookham Gillian Wain 01252 677536 gillian.wain@fccs.org.uk	Yateley Roger Durdle 01252 409808 roger@durdle.com
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