



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, 8th October 2025 and present were three parish councillors, one Sevenoaks District Councillor, the Clerk Helen Penney and six members of the public.

New Green Belt Policy:

The Government's decision to change the Grey Belt definition in the National Planning Policy Framework could have severe implications for the Sevenoaks District, which is 93% Green Belt land. Part of the Green Belt policy is protecting the countryside from encroachment but the Government says this part of the policy cannot be taken into account in deciding what is or isn't Grey Belt. This could mean a lot of our countryside being lost to development of all kinds. The countryside came out top of the things you most like about Farningham in our household questionnaire and CPRE Kent, the countryside charity, has opened a petition to challenge this policy change with the aim of forcing the Government into a Parliamentary debate. The link is <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/725558>

Neighbourhood Plan:

Our Steering Group have organised Discovery Walks so that we can decide what to protect, what to improve and to identify where change is needed. Do join us. The first is on Sunday, 16th November at 10am. Starting at Irving's Corner in the High Street we will walk through Oliver Crescent to Beesfield Lane and loop back. The next walk is 6th December in the Conservation Area ending at the Village Hall for Christmas cheer. Our WhatsApp group has further details and updates and look out for our leaflet which will be delivered alongside your next Newsletter.

Proposed Pedham Place Development.

The deadline for responding to Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan is 11th December and we are presently collecting all available information ahead of formulating the Parish Council response. We are working with Crockenhill and Eynsford Parish Councils and have sought professional input. There is no need for residents to rush to respond and we will ensure that as much information as possible is all available to you in good time to make your views known by the deadline. We are also expecting SDC to organise a local pop-up session as they have done before.

Next Newsletter:

This will be delivered to households by the end of October and will contain updates on the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan - with the results of our household survey - as well as

giving details of our annual Christmas tree lighting-up event. Look out for your copy and contact our Clerk if you don't receive one.

The Chequers Inn:

Fifteen members of the public attended our special meeting on 24th September which was called to discuss the planning application to change the use of The Chequers Inn from mixed use residential and public house to residential. Some residents spoke in objection to the application while others spoke in support. Members of the council then discussed the application and voted as follows: one in support, four against and one abstention. It was resolved to object to the application primarily on the grounds that the property is registered as an Asset of Community Value.

Community Awards:

The Kent Association of Local Councils is again running a Community Awards Scheme. If you would like to nominate a member of our community for an award please send details to our Clerk for discussion at our next meeting on 12th November.

Highways Improvement Plan:

We will be discussing this with Kent County Council officials in the coming days and our top priority remains eliminating the illegal right-hand turns from White Post Hill, the A225 Eynsford Road and London Road.

Regular updates:

Our Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc and to receive regular email updates please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page of our website www.farninghamparishcouncil.org

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 12th November 2025, 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