FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
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Farningham Parish Council met in the Shand Hall at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 10th April 2024 and present were six parish councillors, Kent County Councillor Roger Gough, Sevenoaks District Councillor Alan White, the Clerk Helen Penney and one member of the public.

**Local plan:**
Over 50 local residents attended SDC's Development and Conservation Advisory Committee meeting on 26th March and Su Hewitt of Protect our Green Belt Together and District Councillor Alan White spoke in support of our opposition to use of the Green Belt and in particular Pedham Place's inclusion in the Local Plan. The next stage of the process will be revealed when the committee meets again. We will share details of this meeting as soon as possible.

**Annual Parish Meeting:**
This was extremely well attended when we held it in Farningham Village Hall on Wednesday, 20th March. The hot topic was SDC's Local Plan and there was plenty of comment from various speakers. The Clerk has copies of all the reports made to the meeting, and those posted in advance, and will be available in their draft minute format on our website.

**Potholes:**
Kent County Council has received further Department of Transport funding for pothole repairs. If you see a pothole that needs fixing, please report it via the KCC fault reporting tool, https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem . They do respond.

**A20 road safety.**
Cllr Roger Gough informed us that KCC have not yet found a way of preventing the illegal right-hand turns from the A225 Eynsford Road or White Post Hill onto the A20, with officers reporting there are limited viable options to alter the carriageway. More signs and a social media campaign aimed at drivers who break the rules of the road at these junctions will be considered. The Highways Information Team continues to actively look at improving road safety on the A20 as a whole with the use of speed cameras among the options.

**Household rubbish and recycling.**
From 1st April, SDC stopped supplying residents with black sacks for the weekly general waste collections - so you will have to start providing your own sacks - with further changes expected in the Autumn, when the clear recycling bags will be replaced with a heavy duty bag for life. We urge everyone to read SDCs In Shape magazine to stay up-to-date and will also share more information as it becomes available.

**Assisted Rubbish Collections**
SDC may be able to offer you an assisted rubbish collection if you are unable to lift and carry your rubbish and recycling sacks to the boundary of your property. This is available for residents who are frail, elderly or those with disabilities.
An assisted rubbish collection can be request via SDCs website, https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20000/rubbish_and_recycling/167/assisted_rubbish_collection or by calling them on 01732 227000. If you need help using SDCs website, please contact the Clerk.

**Pedham Place Golf Centre:**
After numerous complaints from residents, SDC Enforcement Team are investigating a potential breach of planning permission at Pedham Place Golf Course as it seems there is a marked difference in the light pollution being emitted from the driving range over the last number of months, possibly causing distress to the bats & nesting skylarks.

**Braeside Surgery:**
The merger with the Devon Road Surgery on 1st April has resulted in the practice being renamed the River Darent Medical Group.

**Fly tipping Farningham Woods:**
The Parish Council worked with Sevenoaks District Council to speedily remove fly tipping at Farningham Woods in late February. This cost us in excess of £500 and we will continue to monitor this area and look to take remedial action if this illegal dumping continues. Fly tipping can be reported to SDC or KCC (if it is on a highway).

**Double yellow lines:**
The public consultation on extending the lines in the High Street bridge area concluded on 22nd April. KCC will analyse the results to help determine the next steps.

**The Space:**
The Parish Council were successful in securing a grant of £1,000 from the 'Cost of Living' fund managed by KCC and KALC which has since been given to The Space to help support the continuation of their wonderful community project.

**Scams:**
Kent Police, via their My Community Voice website, have advised of a string of recent scams/frauds. These included bogus TV licence renewals, couriers, fake McAfee emails and fraudsters impersonating police officers. Recent house burglaries have also prompted useful tips for securing doors and windows. This website also posts updates on other crimes or potential crimes in our area https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.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

Our next Parish Council meeting is our Parish Council Annual Meeting on Wednesday, 8th May 2024, 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