

Mytchett, Frimley Green and Deepcut Society

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held on 5th October 2007

Present: Members and guests

Chair: Sue Cartwright

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked all for supporting the Society. A request was made to replace the raffle with a collection in aid of the First Responder Scheme to purchase defibrillators for all three villages.

1. Introduction of Guest Speaker

A fascinating talk was given by our guest speaker, the Director of the Basingstoke Canal Authority, Ian Brown. He shared with us his problems of maintaining this unique facility for the enjoyment of all our residents and explained that the over riding problem faced by the Canal is a lack of funding.

The canal was restored in the 1970's by the hard work of volunteers of the Canal Society. Ongoing funding to maintain the Canal is the responsibility of the six Riparian authorities including Surrey and Hampshire County Councils, and the local authority councils of Surrey Heath, Woking, Guildford, Runneymead, Hart and Rushmoor. One of the constant problems facing the Authority is that all these councils have demands on their budgets and they look to reduce the amount given to the Canal Authority. In fact at one point Surrey County Council wanted to divest itself of the responsibility of the Canal altogether, although now they recognise the wonderful resource that the Canal represents.

The Canal is a precious habitat and haven for wildlife and is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which confers some protection in preserving the wildlife and amenities. 24 species of dragonfly can be found on the Canal and Greywell tunnel is the home to many bats. The canal is a treasured resource for leisure for all our residents and the members of the Society were all in favour of any action by our Council or volunteers that will ensure the future of this very special amenity on our doorstep.

2. Questions to Speaker

3. Tea Break

4. Apologies For Absence

There were no apologies.

5. Minutes of the 2007 AGM

Adoption of minutes accepted as read.

6. Question Time

Members put questions to their local and county councillors.

The Chairman publicised the **Trickster Musical** which alerts people to the tricks used by con men operating in this area and also to the **Police Panel meetings** held in the Methodist Church and the Canal Centre during December.

Questions from our members covered many topics especially recycling , it was felt that the Council could improve its recycling rates if other items such as cardboard and bottles were collected from the doorstep. There is now a facility for **recycling Tetra Paks at Ravenscote School.**

The **speed of traffic and parking** were the issues most concerning our residents. The speeding in **Lake Road** and **Coleford Bridge Road** were discussed and a request was made for the speed activated signs that are already in place on the Mytchett Road and are effective. Since the meeting it is a pleasure to report that measures to slow the traffic in Lake Road including road markings and illuminated signs have been installed. The parking outside the **Frimley Green C of E School** is very much a problem, made worse by the unsafe behaviour of parents loading their children into cars on the road side of the vehicle instead of the pavement side. Residents have tolerated the "school run" traffic but felt the problem was now out of hand with the opening of the swimming pool and the extra visitors it attracts, nearly all who travel by car. The suggestion was made that perhaps out of school hours parking could use the playing field next to Henley Drive.

The noise and disturbance at the **Frimley Recreation Ground** caused by young people accessing the park at night was a problem. Although the police do their best it was felt that the gates are not being secured at dusk by SHBC as they should be which allowed cars to be driven into the park at night which have made matters worse. Since there was no longer a keyholder living at the entrance the gate was often left open with no one taking responsibility for its closure.

The next meeting will be the A.G.M. on 25th April 2008.