

## Reports from Representatives – March 2026

### Love Haslemere, Hate Waste – Cllr Austin

- Presented on BBC Radio Surrey on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15am
  - Preparing for registration with Charities Commission, having formed a Board of Trustees. Submission due in March
  - Improved data collection across Community Fridge, Library of Things and Repair Cafe
  - Awarded Waste Prevention Grant for hot composting bins at Community Fridge
  - Added new items to the Library of Things
  - Welcomed several Duke of Edinburgh volunteers
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### Neighbourhood Area Committees (NAC) Seminar - LGR Events – Cllr Miller

There are 4 Pilot NAC Schemes in Surrey whose purpose is to generate recommendations for how future NACs should be run. East and West Surrey will be run out in May.

The four pilot areas are in Dorking and the Villages, East Elmbridge, Farnham, and North Tandridge. The seminar comprised a representative from each pilot area presenting what they did and what was their experiences. There was a lot crammed into the hour and a quarter and the representatives galloped through their presentations. I thought I had downloaded the Microsoft Team Apps but I had missed something. I missed the first presentation until I worked out what was wrong. The seminar was recorded and I hope we will get a copy of the recording.

The (major?) points that were made: -

1. On optimal number on each committee was 21.
2. Meetings should be held every 2 months.
3. Membership of NACs should consider representatives from health partners, Surrey police, education and business sector, Voluntary Community Social Enterprise groups, Local councillors, town and parish councils and community and resident groups. Consider bringing in non-political residential groups
4. Due to limited numbers, town and parish councils would provide two representatives from the local Urban Area and One from the local Rural Area.
5. Meeting to be run by a facilitator rather than a chair.
6. Representations at a meeting ought to be evidence based.
7. NACs are secondary but influential to Town/Parish Councils who provide primary neighbourhood governance. However community engagement increases where pilot schemes are based on consensus and have sufficient officers and funding to see them through.
8. There is increased co-operation through getting information out and participation back. Where necessary, co-operation could be across council boundaries

9. NACs need adequate financial support and this needs to be sorted out.

There was some practical advice of how to run Food Pantries rather than Food Banks and how to help with the mental and physical health of young people.

The conclusion from the LGR was that there are huge benefits to be had from NACs and they are worth serious support.

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## Town & Parish Neighbourhood Meeting Notes – Cllr Carter

### Area Committee Meetings:

#### Expected mission:

##### **Elmbridge example:**

- Should establish Community Groups
- No formal structure but should cover isolation, mental health, deprivation, loneliness, mental health, lack of transport, cost of living issues
- Not just a “talk shop” but engage with the voluntary sector in their area.
- Young People involved
- Affordable fitness ideas

##### **Tandridge Nth example:**

- Appoint Councillors to attend
- Cover Financial hardship issues
- Food Pantry where you can choose your free food as opposed to the Food bank style

Mapping support services

##### **Farnham example**

- YP mental health issues involve Youth Clubs, Churches,
- Mindworks
- Mentoring
- VCSE, Police, Health services,
- Schools’ attendance support
- Set up Task Groups

##### **Cross County boundary issues**

Boundaries should not stop working together as people will always revert to the natural place.

NOTE: Funding across County Boundaries is not accepted in this plan

## **General Notes:**

### County Boundary issues:

“Unparished “areas to be included in the future with some form of structure

Working Groups should work across boundaries

Build relationships no matter

### **HASLEMERE QUESTIONS: (MC comments)**

1. How do we structure Haslemere and district?
2. Public meetings to create awareness?
3. Do we have a list of all the local services?
4. Task groups
5. School and Youth Club contacts
6. Church workers
7. Youth Clubs and workers
8. Councillors need to be involved in their Council Areas

Malcolm Carter

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2026