

THE FARNHAM PETITION 2013

In this 250th Anniversary year of William Cobbett, the newly formed Non-partisan Petition Group (NPG) is calling on residents to “Stand Up for Farnham!” The NPG is taking Waverley Borough Council to task for ignoring and over-riding the Town’s interests.

While this Government’s Localism Act has heightened awareness of local democratic shortcomings, Farnham continues to suffer disregard and injustice. Currently, the NPG is bringing The Farnham Petition 2013 into life, and carefully developing Farnham’s case.

The NPG wants to see the return of self-government to Farnham, which fared very well under 725 years of independence from 1249 to 1974. But the last decade or more has clearly shown that local politics outside Farnham serves others’ interests before ours. Since present laws do not enable us to move to self-government, we must exercise our right of all subjects to petition HM The Queen.

The NPG’s Campaign for Farnham’s separation from Waverley Borough has inevitably gained momentum after strong endorsement from The Farnham Society (FS). Alan Gavaghan gave a measured but devastating Chairman’s Report to The FS AGM on 15 May, where he majored on the Society’s efforts to stem the unbalanced over-development of East Street, as well as Farnham as a whole, with increasing local road and traffic problems for years ahead.

Then, Mike Bryan (NPG Chair) won overwhelming FS support for the motion that: ‘The FS is so concerned at the lack of effective democratic process and accountability in Waverley Borough Council that it supports the principle of a petition to The Queen for Farnham to separate from Waverley Borough Council’s powers of government as a separate Authority or to hold all substantial powers of the District Authority.’

Farnham Society support is important. But it’s just as important - whatever society or interest groups you belong to – that you should ask your committee if they support The Farnham Petition 2013. And if not, why not, please? The NPG wants to hear from you!

Already donors and volunteers to collect petition signatures are coming forward, but more are needed to create the HUGE momentum that Farnham needs to achieve change. We want to turn the clock back to when we looked after our own interests, in the Halcyon Days of The Farnham Urban District Council.

The NPG needs around 200 canvassers and enough money to print over 17,000 flyers and petition sheets. That’s a BIG ASK! So the NPG really needs your help and involvement, and your kind offers of physical and financial support, however small, please.

By an amazing feat of magic, the NPG hopes to include ‘a personal visit from William Cobbett’ on the Petition Launch Day. It’s still too early to confirm a Launch Date, but with your help, the will of Farnham people can prevail.

The NPG’s message is: ‘If you love Farnham, please help us any way you can, to secure Farnham’s future. Please offer your support through Mike Bryan, on 079-4105-2012, or m@brycom.net. “Please Stand Up for Farnham!” Thank you.

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