

The GRAW Campaign;

Strand 1: Local meetings

GRAW meets every first Thursday of the month in St Marks Church Hall, North Camp, GU14 6QD from 6.30-8.00pm.

Please check via email when meetings can resume after COVID

greaterrushmooragainstwar@gmail.com

Everyone who supports peacebuilding is welcome!

Strand 2: Oppose the DPRTE Arms Trade event

To oppose the Farnborough Exhibition and Conference Centre hosting the DPRTE (Defence Procurement Research Trade and Exportability) Arms Trade event with a range of peaceful protests on the day.

And expose the reality of the Farnborough International Airshow (FIA) as a major contributor to weapon sales.

Strand 3: To campaign to raise awareness of Rushmoor's responsibility for its impact on global security.

No Faith In War

To engage with all residents in Rushmoor of any faith (or none) to meet regularly to discuss the responsibility we have living and worshipping in Rushmoor with our historical legacy from the Airfield and Defence research.

How can we use this legacy to support peace building?

Asking ourselves 'what is a military church'? How can we honour our heritage and uphold our faith?

A multi-faith based discussion group taking responsibility for encouraging discussion and debate around the way our town conducts and attracts Defence business.

Asking ourselves how our faith views guide our town's defence business, a forum for faith views to those investing in businesses in our town

Due to the Covid pandemic the Public Event 'What is Rushmoor's Role in World peace'? Which was booked (March 26th from 7.00pm) at the Church of Ascension, Aldershot has been postponed.

To be chaired by Vicar Alwyn Pieriera

The evening of dialogue included;

1. Father Martin Newell.
2. David Collins 'Veterans For Peace',

3. Major Colonel Tim Cross- serving in British Army,
4. Rushmoor Borough Council RBC Leader Mr David Clifford (prepared printed statement),
5. Farnborough Airfield Science Trust (FAST) TBC

Strand 4: To develop local forums for dialogue with the aerodrome, business operators, defence businesses, residents and local councillors to acknowledge the role Rushmoor plays in defence and how we can work together for peace building.

The existing forum for consultation with local stakeholders is Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC). The FACC is not adhering to the Dept of Transport's 'Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees 'Section 35 (Civil Aviation Act 1982) published December 2003).

***Insert link to this DfT document here ***

An official complaint was logged in Feb 2020 to the Civil Aviation Authority CAA. The CAA logged this complaint but was unable to investigate it and referred us to the Dept for Transport DfT ; We have accordingly repeated the complaint regarding non-compliance of the FACC to these guidelines. We are awaiting a response from the DfT May 2020.

***Insert link to FACC website here

The FACC existing consultative forum is not fit for purpose and does not consult with local stakeholders in an effective way. This serves the interests of those who benefit financially from the airfield and businesses on and around it, to maintain the forum in this way.

Arising from public awareness to create a truly consultative mechanism with the aerodrome, residents and business, faith leaders, colleges, and Councillors which adheres to the DfT Guidelines .

Lobby Rushmoor Borough Council to update the Farnborough Airport Consultation (2009) to generate public debate around the purpose and function of the airfield, the nature of the businesses on it and alternatives. The views of residents, stakeholders and business has changed over the last 19 years and a public consultation is well overdue.

******Add link from RBC website here to 2009 consultation******

As part of this review and inclusion of stakeholders into the future of Rushmoor's part in peacebuilding, to hold a public meeting "Farnborough Airport is sold- what next?"

Strand 5: Offer a 'balanced' view to our Local young people beguiled by defence industry.

Educational areas are receiving money, careers talks, freebies, visits and direct payments from the Defence industry. GRAW would like to offer a balanced perspective to our young people; The secondary School, Farnborough Juniors schools, Infants, and Colleges, etc

www.militaryairshows.co.uk

1. Letter to all Rushmoor head teachers/ Governors (as well as the LEA) raising concern about neutrality of bi-annual Farnborough Airshow for pupils. As well as asking for reasons for justification for school half day closure during Airshow week.
2. Public campaign for local parents about which defence companies donate school funding and understanding the influence gained in return.
3. Ask Wavell Campus for reason GRAW were declined to hire community room.
4. Ask all Rushmoor schools for disclosure of all funds received directly / indirectly from BAE systems, Airfield businesses as well as from the Airshow 2016, 2018.
5. Asking Schools for information about the arrangements for students invited to the 2020 Farnborough Friday Airshow- what is the content of this contact?
6. Write to LEA informing them with an update of the Airshow proposals to 'inspire local students' by inviting them to Farnborough Friday (given freebies, branded merchandise, caps, bags etc....clarification requested from the LEA relating to duty of neutrality and asking for Hampshire County Policy / guidance available for schools and parents on external defence business access to pupils.)

Any ideas are welcome in the GRAW campaign for peacebuilding at the grassroots of community. Please contact us at greaterrushmooragainstar@gmail.com