

DISCUSSION GROUP

JANUARY 2020

Despite our meeting being the day it became widespread knowledge that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex wished to step down as senior royals, we did not discuss this issue. However, our next meeting will see us discussing the monarchy.

Much of our interest was local – riots at Deerbolt; rates in Startforth; section 106 money from new developments in Startforth; weather patterns; the fires in Australia (not all of us knew that the Aborigines used to burn the forest floor regularly to prevent the build up of dry undergrowth); Zara Tindall being treated like anyone else when caught speeding; and the ever-present irritant of background noise.

Our discussion about equality covered various aspects of the subject including gender, disability, education etc. We did not approve of positive discrimination (except perhaps in respect to employment of people with disabilities where efforts should be made by employers to accommodate their needs) and felt that jobs should be awarded on merit.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 14th February 2020 when our main topic will be **The Monarchy**. New members are always welcome so do get in touch if you would like to join our group..

Glen Howard
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