

# NEWSLETTER

## BLUEPRINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR TOWN: YOUR VISION: YOUR PLAN

**Tell us what you think**

**Six Week consultation – 10<sup>th</sup> February to 24th March 2020**

It is important that as many residents and businesses in the unparished part of Horsham let Blueprint know what you think about the draft Neighbourhood Plan and whether you support the visions. The document can be found at <http://www.horshamblueprint.org/> or hard copies of the document can be found will be in The Library or Horsham District Council's Offices.

Supported by the 3 Neighbourhood Councils, Blueprint sought community and business views to understand how the unparished area of Horsham might develop over the next 10-15 years in a sustainable way. The draft plan preserves the Town's character and identity, sets out the types of homes we need, protects green spaces and continues to support local business and the Town Centre.

There are 15 planning policies and associated actions in the Plan. Briefly;

**New homes:** The plan does **not** allocate development sites; rather the focus is to ensure that any development coming forward is directed to the places that have the lowest impact on our landscape, environment and infrastructure. Development should provide the types of houses people need.

**Horsham Town Centre and the wider economy:** We aim to ensure that Horsham Town Centre remains an attractive and prosperous market town, where people want to spend time shopping and socialising. We encourage a mix of activities to take place within a safe and welcoming public realm. We seek to provide the infrastructure required to retain existing businesses while also attracting new ones.

**Environment and green space:** Horsham is fortunate to have many green spaces within our urban area including Horsham Park, Warnham Nature Reserve and Chesworth Farm to name a few. We plan to safeguard smaller pockets of green space that are particularly valued, and green corridors for future generations. We also want to mitigate our impact on climate change and include a range of policies to help achieve this, such as promoting sustainable design, encouraging allotments and self-sufficiency.

**Transport and movement:** Whilst we are supporting additional public car parking, we want to make it easier for residents and visitors to walk and cycle to and within the town and wider area. Our policies will ensure that our rights of way are well-maintained and accessible to all. This includes our ancient network of twittens.

**Community assets and infrastructure:** The community facilities we have provide an important lifeline not only for our community but for those in neighbouring villages and it is vital that they are safeguarded, improved and, where necessary, expanded to meet the changing needs of our residents. We support additional facilities for children and teenagers and the provision of community halls and cultural venues.

**Character, heritage and design:** We want to make sure that new development is in-keeping with the local character and is designed to the highest standards – including ensuring it is environmentally friendly and reduces energy-consumption. We also want to celebrate our heritage.

**Age Friendly:** Horsham has both an expanding younger and older population. We want to support initiatives and steps for Horsham to be designated an Age-Friendly Neighbourhood.

**YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT.** Please complete the online survey. Alternatively the paper consultation response form survey can be sent to you by post, if you phone 07561 395448 and leave your details.



# Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council

## NEWSLETTER

### Special Edition - February 2020

Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC) is a non-political body that aims to represent the interests of the Trafalgar area and its residents. We liaise with Horsham District Councillors and West Sussex County Councillors to ensure that both Councils' activities benefit local people as far as possible. More information is available on our website at [www.horshamtrafalgarnc.com](http://www.horshamtrafalgarnc.com) and if we can be of any assistance please contact the HTNC Clerk: [trafalgarnc@hotmail.com](mailto:trafalgarnc@hotmail.com)

This is a special edition of the HTNC newsletter to coincide with the release of the **Horsham Blueprint Draft Neighbourhood Plan** for public consultation. HTNC participated in the development of this plan via membership of the Horsham Blueprint Steering Committee, and we urge you to give the plan your consideration and to provide feedback so that your voice is heard. You can find more information about the plan on the reverse of this letter.

#### Horsham District Council Local Plan Review

In addition to the publication of the draft Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan, February also sees the publication of the draft Horsham District Council (HDC) Local Plan 2019-36 for public consultation, commencing on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and closing on 30<sup>th</sup> March. It is important not to confuse these two consultations. Although both form part of the National Planning Policy Framework, they have entirely separate statutory approval processes. For example, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to both a residents' referendum and a business referendum within Horsham Town, whereas the Local Plan covers the whole District and will be decided by HDC Full Council.

The inclusion within the draft Local Plan of Rookwood Golf Course as a potential site for the development of around 1,000 new homes will be of particular interest to Trafalgar residents. This will undoubtedly be an emotive issue for many of you and we urge you to both make your own submissions to the consultation and to provide us with your comments so that we can make representations on your behalf. Not all sites in the draft plan will be allocated in the final version, so don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard. Find out more at: [www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan)

#### Trafalgar Traffic Issues

HTNC has been contacted by several residents concerned about speeding and antisocial driving in the neighbourhood, particularly the North end of Rushams Road. There have also been reports of road rage incidents around Trafalgar Community Infants School. We plan to consult with residents in the Spring about options for a Community Highways Scheme in the area for submission to West Sussex County Council.

#### Cootes Farm Community Summer Fayre 2020

Cootes Farm Community have announced that their 2020 Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June on Cootes Green. This is a wonderful community event for everyone to enjoy, and if you would like to lend a hand please visit [www.cooteesfarmcommunity.org.uk](http://www.cooteesfarmcommunity.org.uk) or contact Steve Swain on 01403 756804.

#### Victory Road Recreation Ground

We have been contacted by a resident who would like to show the Victory Road Rec a little more love than it perhaps receives at present. Whilst Horsham District Council is responsible for maintaining the Rec, HTNC would welcome the re-establishment of the "Friends of the Rec" group that existed some years ago to support their work. If this is of interest to you, drop us a line and we can put you in touch with each other and help you 'Dig for Victory' together!

#### Cheers David!

After many years of service to HTNC, David Dufton has chosen to step down as a Councillor. The Council presented Mr Dufton with a couple of small gifts as tokens of our appreciation. Thank you so much for all you have done David, and we wish you long and happy retirement.

#### More Neighbourhood Councillors Wanted

HTNC now has several vacancies for Councillors and would welcome enquiries about the role from Trafalgar neighbourhood residents. If you are interested and would like to know more, drop us an e-mail - or better still, come along to our next meeting at Trafalgar Community Infant School on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7:30pm. Our meetings are open to the public and are held in the staff room.