



TRAFAVGAR

Autumn 2024

Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC)

Your Neighbourhood Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Residents are always welcome to attend.

Contact clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com
for more information.

Our website is www.horshamtrafalgarnc.com

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**MP for Horsham**

We welcome our new Horsham MP, John Milne and look forward to a productive and supportive relationship.

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Annual General Meeting AGM

Chair's Report

Our AGM was held on May 2024 and this is a short updated version. (The full report appears online).

We can't operate as a council without our hardworking members, and we are delighted that Colin, Olive, Mark, Ed and our newest member Joe remain with us as we thank outgoing councillor Adam, which leaves us with one spare seat if you'd like to join us!



Unlike most parish councils, we have no buildings, so our focus this year has been very much on restoring nature and we've made efforts to plant trees, support a reduction in poison use (so that

our swifts and other insect eating birds will have food), and we're investigating a '20's Plenty' traffic calming scheme which would help with air pollution among other things.

We're delighted to be supporting HDC with their Wildways plans to link nature corridors through the town. Most similar projects in the UK go around the towns, but with continued building we now need to bring nature back through the town centres too, so we have

supported residents with planters and allotment groups with water capture, removal of pesticides, and are similarly offering support to our schools to create healthier environments for nature and the children to live happily together. We have sponsored a Pollination Education Station for Trafalgar Infant school in partnership with the Horsham Wildways Project and Sussex Green Living charity.

I very much want to thank everyone for giving up so much of their precious free time to attend so many meetings and events. Between us, we continue to liaise with local groups for the youth, for the elderly, the police, planning, and many other groups.

There are also four pubs which host an increasing number of community activities and our two local churches which support the community in so many ways.

Our District/Ward Councillors for HDC are Tony Frankland who has been newly appointed to the role of Cabinet Member for Performance, Customer Service and Communications, and the leader of Horsham District Council, Martin Boffey. We are very lucky that he manages to juggle all his many responsibilities to fit us in!

We have organised a memorial bench for a local resident at the Rec and two new noticeboards. Some of the bins were replaced, but sadly they're not fox proof so the problems with littering and fouling continue.

There's certainly a lot to do, but what a team!

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**HELP!**

We have one space available on our small friendly council and we would love to have your help if you're able to support our volunteer work for the neighbourhood.

**OnePlanet:** We use the OnePlanet platform to share our projects on line, so all parish councils can support each other with ideas, and there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Worthing Council have an excellent interactive site and we'd love to have someone to help us update ours. Delivering this newsletter is another job we'd like support with, so if you enjoy walking, our twice yearly newsletter is one of our main ways of communicating with residents.

**In line with HDC and central government, HTNC has declared a CLIMATE and ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY**

**Autumn 2024**

## AWARDS

As a community we like to celebrate all the good in Trafalgar and residents were invited to make nominations for the Leonard Crosbie Community Awards which were approved by Mrs Mary Crosbie. This year's winners are:-

### • INDIVIDUAL AWARD •

Ann Turner – for instigating and leading The Friends of the Rec group (FREC), since spring 2020 and helping acquire several new trees, bulbs and a picnic table installed in 2023. Ann also helps with Holy Trinity Church Gardening Club; with the Holy Trinity Church Cleaning and organises the social group Trinity Ladies. She is the prompt and makes the tea each week for the Trinity Church Players; she helps with Trinity Tots and knits items for premature babies.

Ann has only lived in the area for a few years but has thrown herself into community projects with contagious enthusiasm and resilience, embracing others with her kindness, chuckles and chat.

### • GROUP AWARD •

Second Horsham Scouts on Swindon Road - for providing so many young people with a healthy, fun and positive focus for all age groups.

### • BUSINESS AWARD •

Tony Kneale runs a unique reliable highly recommended local car mechanic business of at least 30 years standing in Victory Rd.

### • INDIVIDUAL CLIMATE & ECOLOGY AWARD •

Hannah Urpeth as a parent, was hugely helpful in renovating the small allotment patches at Trafalgar Infant School and working (sometimes with the children) on a weekly basis in summer 2023. She also cleared, planted, watered and weeded the central courtyard area, almost single-handedly, and is now a learning support assistant and helping the school towards its green goals.

### • GROUP CLIMATE & ECOLOGY AWARD •

Boldings Brook Conservation Group was founded in 1997 by a small band of interested Redford Avenue neighbours who take responsibility, in conjunction with Horsham District Council, for maintaining the free flow of water in the Brook and preserving the wildlife corridor from Warnham Nature Reserve along the Red River to Onion Island near Irwin Drive.

Regular work over almost 30 years has involved cutting back and composting overgrown vegetation from the brook and its banks, litter picking and wildlife surveys. One-off projects include the securing of a grant for the construction of the Millennium Bridge on the Riverside Walk in 2000.

Meeting once a month from September to March, work parties usually comprise around a dozen helpers. The group is led by Daphne Mitchell 01403 263640.

## Twenty is Plenty

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our survey to understand the views of residents for a 20mph speed limit in the Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC) area. The result was a resounding yes with 96% of just over 500 residents wanting to reduce the speed of traffic where they live.

As a result of this we have now applied to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for a Community Highway Scheme. HTNC has pledged £1,200 towards the cost of the installation in support of the application. We await the outcome from WSCC which hopefully will be in November this year. If successful, the project will be put into the WSCC budget for completion in 2025/6.

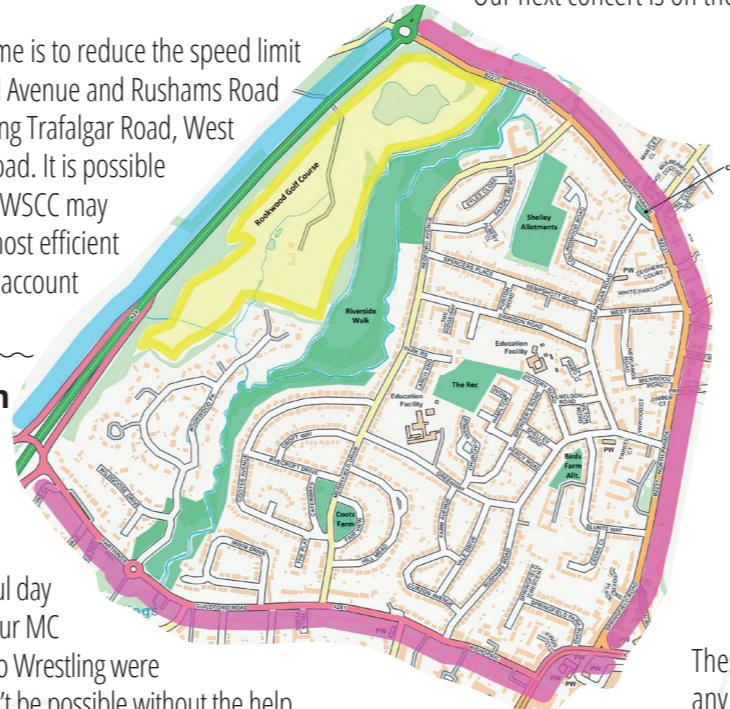
Just to remind you the proposed scheme is to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in Merryfield Drive, Redford Avenue and Rushams Road along with all associated roads including Trafalgar Road, West Parade, Blunts Way, and Milnwood Road. It is possible that after considering our application, WSCC may modify our proposals to provide the most efficient and effective scheme which takes into account current bus routes.

## Report from Cootes Farm Community Fayre Team

This year's summer fayre was a very successful event, raising £1500 for our charity partner HOPE. It was a wonderful day with great music, organised by Brent. Our MC Tony did an amazing job and Kapow Pro Wrestling were fantastic! This community event wouldn't be possible without the help and support of our volunteers, both those that help organise the fayre throughout the year and those that give up their time to help set up in the morning, run the stalls and activities and clear away everything in the evening. A really big thank you to them all.

We would also like to thank 2nd Horsham Scout Group for running the coconut shy. Also, to all the individuals and companies for donating the raffle prizes. Thank you to Len for organising the classic cars and to West Sussex Fire Service for coming with one of their fire engines. Thanks to The Coot for all the great food and drink, and to everyone who came and made it such a lovely event.

We are already planning for next year's fayre, so please put Saturday 7th June 2025 in your diaries!



## Wildways and duck food at the Coot

A resident has kindly donated some sacks of floating duck food which is available at the Coot café-pub, which marks the end of the Horsham Wildways Trail from Horsham Park pond to Cootes Farm pond. Obviously the ducks and pond environment is healthier when avoiding plastic-wrapped bread which contains yeast and emulsifiers, so pick up a free bag from the café!

## One Accord

Do you love to sing? We are looking for new members for our ladies' choir.

Come and join us on Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm at Trinity Church, Rushams Road.

Our next concert is on the 24th November at 3pm with tea and cake.

Phone Chris (01403) 258790.

## Volunteers and charities

At our September HTNC meeting, we decided to donate money to the following :-

- the annual Riverside Walk which is now being organised by the Scouting movement.
- the local Swindon Road Scout group. To help our busy and popular group with essential updating of their lighting system.
- the Cootes Farm Community and their annual summer fayre community fun day.

These excellent groups are always grateful for any help which residents can offer.

## Horsham District Older People's Forum (HDOPF)

Two HTNC councillors attended the September HDOPF event, which is held at Age UK at Lavinia House in Denne Road. After interesting talks about the NHS and local fire services, everyone was treated to a choice of lunch from Meals on Wheels. (0330 2000 103 or www.hils-uk.org for meals).

The next HDOPF meeting is at Brighton Rd Baptist Church on Friday 6th December 2024, 10-12, to meet new MP John Milne.



Installation of the Pollination Station at Trafalgar Infant School

<https://www.hdopforum.org.uk/>  
<https://horsham@ageukwsbh.org.uk>  
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/support-in-your-own-home/meals-on-wheels/>

## Update on Gatwick Expansion

HTNC supports maintaining Gatwick as it is, rather than building a second runway to enlarge it to become the size of Heathrow as is currently planned. Air pollution in Trafalgar already breaks two World Health Limits. (see addresspollution.org) The consultation has now closed and the findings will be sent to Louise Haigh, the Secretary of State for Transport, by the end of November. We wait to hear what her decision will be.

## Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council-Comment on new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The new government's proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) aims to increase local authority housing targets and reduce impediments to development.

The algorithms mean that in areas where house prices are more than four times the average earnings (like ours), more housebuilding will be required than elsewhere, so the Horsham District numbers would rise by around 40%.

Horsham needs to prove a five year supply of potential sites as well as finding extra offerings because there must be choice for the developers who want to buy land. If this doesn't happen, there's a penalty - having to identify even more land for development. In addition, Horsham District is required to build out extra houses for Crawley, Arun, and Adur and Worthing Districts, because of their protected National Landscapes.

No mention is made of those developers who have already bought land but who have 'banked it' to keep prices high. Neither has any reference to water neutrality been made. Development on green belt will become easier and sadly, the 2021 government's Dasgupta Report conclusion, "...nature, and the biodiversity that underpins it, ultimately sustains our economies, livelihoods and well-being" has no mention. Previous references to creating "beautiful places" have been removed, while another new rule requires authorities to identify places where "laboratories, giga factories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics" can be built.

Thankfully because HDC managed to get the Local Plan agreed swiftly, we are hopefully spared these new rules for a few years.

So how will all this affect Trafalgar going ahead? It is likely that taller buildings will be necessary, and the pressure to build on Rookwood Golf Course may arise again.

### **Primary and Junior School Places**

Applications are now open for children who start in reception at primary and infant schools across West Sussex in September 2025.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online via School places - West Sussex County Council and the deadline for applications is 15 January 2025. Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 are eligible to start school next September.

Children who are currently in Year 2 at an infant school will also need to apply for a place to start a junior school in September next year.

All of the information about applying can be found on the county council website here: School places - West Sussex County Council.

**The Youth Work Team** no longer run as a service through Horsham Matters, but if you require any support with food, budget guidance, debt advice or benefit support please contact them on [support@horsham-matters.org.uk](mailto:support@horsham-matters.org.uk) or 0300 124 0204.

### **The Wall at Springfield Park**

Because of the nature of the old stones, a specific type of mortar must be used, but this can't be applied in cold, wet conditions, so restoring the wall will unfortunately not be possible before the spring. Our ward Councillor Anthony Frankland is in touch with the agent and he is also in discussions with Springfield Park residents and WSCC who are responsible for the path whilst the work is on hold. Sadly, with their backlog of potholes and other work, progress is slow.

## **Antisocial behaviour**

There have been some reports of antisocial behaviour in certain areas. Do feel free to drop us an email if you see incidents or have concerns, or else contact our police community support officer (PCSO) Kyle Berriman via [Kyle.Berriman1@sussex.police.uk](mailto:Kyle.Berriman1@sussex.police.uk).

## **Contacting HTNC**

### **Councillors**

Neighbourhood: Morag Warrack, Colin Bush, Ed Coulson, Olive Hobbs, Mark Francis, Joe Carpenter

All the above can be contacted through our clerk, Rhoda Hatton: [clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com](mailto:clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com)

Horsham District: Martin Boffey (Leader, Lib Dem): [martin.boffey@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:martin.boffey@horsham.gov.uk)

Anthony Frankland (Lib Dem): [anthony.frankland@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.frankland@horsham.gov.uk)

Horsham Hurst (WSCC): Nigel Dennis (Lib Dem): [nigel.dennis@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.dennis@westsussex.gov.uk)

### **Quality of Life**

Wardens: [Horsham.NeighbourhoodWardens@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Horsham.NeighbourhoodWardens@horsham.gov.uk)

• Maria Colenso – 07795051561 • Oscar Johnson – 07795051555

### *Other Services*

[support@horsham-matters.org.uk](mailto:support@horsham-matters.org.uk) OR 0300 124 0204

[info@horsham-matters.org.uk](mailto:info@horsham-matters.org.uk) for Youth Work teams

### *Roads / Out & About*

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel> to report potholes

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex> - Time to get walking again!

**HDC App:** There is a new council app which is very handy for bin dates, booking collections or tip drop-offs of unwanted items.

Vapes in particular can be collected as 'broken electricals' because they can easily cause fires in general recycling. [www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp)